



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Board of Commissioners**

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

**Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, South
Western Ave & West 87th St, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

CONSENT CALENDAR

26-0260

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, FRANK AGUILAR, SCOTT BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA MCCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN MORRISON, SEAN MORRISON, MICHEAL SCOTT JR., TARA STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR, and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, International Workers' Day, also known as May Day and celebrated annually on May 1st, has its roots in Chicago and commemorates the historic struggle of workers who have organized for fair wages, safe working conditions, and the eight-hour workday; and

WHEREAS, although May Day began in industrial spaces, labor rights movements have since grown to account for workers in the fields of agriculture, land preservation, environmental education, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Forests Preserves of Cook County is a great source of pride for the county, standing as a pillar of ecological restoration, environmental education, recreation, and protection of wildlife and nature; and

WHEREAS, the Preserves would not be able to maintain its 70,000 acres of land without its dedicated 1,600 annual employees - including policy experts, ecologists, administrative workers, programming and education specialists, maintenance workers, restorationists, on the field workers, first responders, and a myriad of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Preserves sits on the lands of the Council of Three Fires - the Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi - as well as the Miami, HoChunk, Menominee, Sauk, and Meskwaki peoples who for decades preserved, cultivated, and managed the land we know today. As stewards of their land, the Preserves honors and uplifts Indigenous labor; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have also formed an important part of the Preserve's labor movement history, such as the African American Civilian Conservation Corp who were instrumental in engineering the Skokie Lagoons; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Illinois also play an important role in the history of public lands by protecting habitats, restoring ecosystems, and leveraging agricultural techniques to improve soil health; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County has land currently utilized by farmers to grow crops that prevent the growth of invasive species while conservationists create restoration plans and cultivate resources for the area; and

WHEREAS, as the preserves grow, the role of workers and volunteers also grows, both in responsibility and in numbers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Forest Preserves of Cook County honors the role the labor movement has played in the history of public lands and will continue to celebrate the contributions of workers for the greater good of our environment and human life.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, celebrate the past and present workers whose contributions are invaluable for the conservation of our natural lands.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0260. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

1. Bill Jankovich, Concerned Citizen

PRESIDENT

26-0118

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Office of the General Superintendent

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Conservation and Policy Council Monthly Report

Summary: Created in 2014, the Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board and the General Superintendent about conservation policies and practices, including the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan's vision of vibrant, ecologically healthy and welcoming forest preserves system.

Each month, a member of the Conservation and Policy Council will provide a verbal report detailing the work that the Conservation and Policy Council is doing as well as their recommendations to the Board regarding policies, practices, and other strategic initiatives of the Forest Preserves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to defer 26-0118. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0246

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Adam Bianchi, General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Position: Public Building Commissioner

Department/Board/Commission: Public Building Commission

Effective date: 7/1/2026

Expiration date: 9/30/2027

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0246 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0243

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR ORLAND GRASSLAND

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 21, Township 36 North, Range 12, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Orland Grassland in District 17.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the “District”), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof; and

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made a part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

Common Address: 9750 167th St, Orland Hills, Cook County, Illinois

PIN: 27-21-402-008-0000

THE EAST ½ OF THE EAST ½ OF THE EAST ½ OF THE SOUTHWEST ¼ OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 217,800 SQUARE FEET, OR 5.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the parcel(s) of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 17

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0243 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0244

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): Marquette Bank, As Trustee Under Trust #30971, Dated 12/7/22 (Owner of Record)

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

Description of Real Estate: 9750 167th St, Orland Hills, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): 27-21-402-008-0000

THE EAST ½ OF THE EAST ½ OF THE EAST ½ OF THE SOUTHWEST ¼ OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 217,800 SQUARE FEET, OR 5.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$600,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$610,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

District(s): 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified a parcel of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Orland Grassland (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 9750 167th St, Orland Hills, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 5.00 ± acres. The Property contains a portion of Marley Creek and wetlands.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$600,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$610,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0244 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

26-0234

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Planning and Development Department

Other Part(ies): Barrington Hills Park District, Barrington Hills, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) with the Barrington Hills Park District (“BHPD”)

Goods or Services: Maintenance of Trails and Equestrian Facilities in the Spring Lake Preserve by BHPD; Conveyance of access easement from BHPD to the Forest Preserves

Agreement Number(s): IGA #26-0234

Agreement Period: 7/11/2026-7/10/2031, with three (3) options to extend for five (5) years each to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: N/A

District(s): 15

Summary: The Barrington Hills Park District and the Forest Preserves have overlapping constituencies and wish to provide valuable recreational facilities and programs to others in the most efficient and cost-effective manner as possible. The BHPD has been maintaining trails and equestrian event facilities (event jumps and horse trailer parking) in the Spring Lake Preserve for the last twenty (20) years and is seeking a new agreement to continue to maintain these trails and facilities in the Spring Lake Preserve. The proposed IGA will replace the IGA that was entered into on July 11, 2006, by the BHPD and the Forest Preserves expiring July 10, 2026. The Forest Preserves is recommending approval for another five (5) years with three (3) additional options to renew for five (5) years each in exchange for continued maintenance of certain trails and facilities in the Spring Lake Preserve, subject to updated terms and conditions, including cooperation on a planning process for future improvements. The new IGA will also retain and renew access easement provisions for the Forest Preserves' non-exclusive use of BHPD's driveway at the Riding Center located at 361 Bateman Road. Final agreement subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0234 to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0236

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Refer to Contract Compliance Committee

Report Title: Forest Preserves of Cook County Annual Business Diversity Report FY 2025

Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

Summary: In July 2012, state legislation authorized the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to establish provisions to address the underuse of Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses with respect to procurement contracts. An ordinance establishing the program’s parameters and guidelines was passed in 2012 and amended in subsequent years by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners. To remedy historic inequity and to facilitate greater inclusion, the Forest Preserves established aspirational contract goals for the participation of Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses as set forth under the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0236 to the Contract Compliance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0230

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED LICENSE REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to grant a License to Nicor Gas Company (“Nicor”), Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain approximately 754 feet of existing gas main with new main along the east side of Rand Road from the Des Plaines River to the southeast for approximately 700 feet. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is re-building Rand Road, and Nicor’s gas lines need to be relocated to accommodate that construction. The existing mains are licensed under License #837. An original relocation plan was approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2024 (Board Item No. 24-0299 for License #1806), but the

license agreement was never signed due to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restrictions on impacts to an existing and nearby levee (Levee #50). The original plan was subsequently revised to shorten the main and shift the proposed bore pit approximately 150 feet to the west to avoid the levee. The shift would impact fourteen (14) trees, requiring payment of mitigation fees. In practice, more trees may need to be removed than originally estimated. Any increase in the tree mitigation fee will be in accordance with the Tree Mitigation Plan (see Board Item No. 20-0279), and if such increase is more than 20% of the original estimate, then approval will be sought from the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners. The new gas main will be installed via underground boring, and a construction access

permit will be needed for a temporary staging area outside the road right-of-way.

Term: Ten (10) years

License Fee: \$24,925.62

License Application Fee: \$1,500.00

Review Fee: \$3,000.00

YELAR Fee: \$7,200.00

Additional Fee: \$3,000.00. This fee will be used to support restoration work in the Des Plaines River corridor.

Total one-time upfront fee of \$39,625.62 for the term of the License

Tree Mitigation Fee: \$146,328.53

The area of the License is: 0.26 Acres

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final license agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

Grantee will be required to meet the insurance requirements under the License Agreement.

The Forest Preserves staff have reviewed this license application and plans and have found them to be acceptable; therefore, it is recommended that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of this license.

District(s): 17

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to refer 26-0230 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0210

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Finance and Administration

Vendor: ODP Business Solutions, LLC, Boca Raton, Florida

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Purchase of Districtwide Office Supplies and Products

Contract Value: \$500,000.00

Contract Period: 5/5/2026 - 8/12/2027 with two (2), two-year renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent and renewal of the underlying contract.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$75,000.00, FY 2027 \$75,000.00, FY 2028 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2029 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2030 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY 2031 \$50,000.00 (optional)

Accounts: Office Supplies 51001.530605, 51001.530600, and all future Office Supplies accounts, Supplies and Materials 51001.530252, 51001.530607, 510001.530267, and all future Supplies and Materials accounts, Institutional Supplies 51001.530188, 51001.530170, and all future Institutional Supplies accounts, Special or Coops Programs, 51001.521312, Mighty Acorns (YELAR) 51001.521441.

Contract Number(s): #74000018014

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Finance Department is seeking approval to purchase office supplies Districtwide from ODP Business Solutions, LLC based on Omnia Partners Contract #PUR-05407. The contract term extends through August 12, 2027, with two (2) available two-year renewal options. Establishing this contract will provide all departments with access to a single, competitively sourced vendor for office supply needs, streamlining procurement process and reducing the need to generate multiple purchase orders across various vendors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0210. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0242

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Departments of Legal and Finance

Vendor: Aon Risk Services Central, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Insurance Brokerage Services (Property)

Contract Value: Not to Exceed \$1,500,000.00

Contract Period: 5/5/2026 - 2/28/2031 with two (2), two-year renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent pending extension of the underlying Cook County contract

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$150,000.00, FY 2027 \$150,000.00, FY 2028 \$150,000.00, FY 2029 \$150,000.00, FY 2030 \$150,000.00, FY 2031 \$175,000.00 (optional), FY 2032 \$175,000.00 (optional), FY 2033 \$200,000.00 (optional), FY 2034 \$200,000.00 (optional)

Accounts: Self-Insurance, Other Expense 51011.700005

Contract Number(s): #74000018151 (Cook County Contract No. 2523-02063)

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year for the actual brokerage services being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: On February 5, 2026, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the proposed vendor for insurance brokerage services across various lines of commercial insurance coverage, including property insurance on behalf of Cook County and the George W. Dunne Administration Building (the “County Contract”). The County Contract was awarded through a publicly advertised Request for Proposals (RFP) in accordance with the Cook County Procurement Code. The RFP also included a request for insurance brokerage services for property insurance for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Pursuant to the RFP referenced above, the Forest Preserves would like to piggyback off the County Contract for property insurance at select locations. The value is a not-to-exceed amount inclusive of annual broker fees and estimated insurance premiums based on current exposure and loss information. The Forest Preserves is self-insured against all other types of losses, including general liability and workers compensation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0242. The motion carried by the following vote:

Commissioner Gainer voted "present".

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0223

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Fabex Technologies, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (“Forest Preserves”) to extend contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction services at Forest Preserves General Headquarters

Original Contract Period: 5/23/2024 - 5/18/2025; 5/19/2025 - 5/18/2026 (Administrative Extension)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 5/19/2026-5/18/2027

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$2,096,816.56

Original Approval: 4/16/2024, \$2,096,816.56

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105, 51032.560105, 51033.560105 and 51034.560105, 51036.560105, 51037.560105 and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000013938 issued under Project #23-80-13, Solicitation 24-80-100224

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance goals are not applicable for this amendment as there is no increased fiscal impact.

District(s): 9

Summary: Contract #74000013938, Project #23-80-13, provides for construction services at the Forest Preserves' General Headquarters building, including replacement of all windows, improvements to the building envelope, and comprehensive restroom renovations. A contract amendment is being requested to allow for completion of the ongoing construction work. The need for this amendment is primarily due to delays in the procurement and delivery of window materials. Work is expected to be substantially complete this spring, but additional time is needed for final inspections, blower door testing, and contract closeout.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0223. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0237

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: MYS, Incorporated, Palos Heights, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase and extend contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction contract for bridge repairs at various locations across the Forest Preserves

Original Contract Period: 11/7/2024 - 12/6/2025; 12/7/2025 - 6/6/2026 (Administrative Extension)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 6/7/2026 - 12/7/2026

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$1,541,331.22

Original Approval: 9/19/2024, \$1,282,358.10

Previous Increase(s): 7/1/2025, \$258,973.12

This Increase Requested: \$182,652.70

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$182,652.70

Accounts: Land Improvement 51009.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019, 51036.560019, 51037.560019 and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): Contract #74000014798 issued under Project #22-80-06-24C1R

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: A contract increase and time extension are needed due to unforeseen construction issues at a bridge located at Edgebrook Golf Course (structure ID FP #339). The construction drawings in the bid documents were based on the original design plans. During construction, the Vendor discovered existing bridge conditions that did not reflect the original design (missing anchor rods and concrete variances). This led to formal plan changes, cost increases and Construction Revision #2 being issued by the design engineer. This item was originally approved on September 19, 2024 (Board Item No. 24-0294), and the board subsequently approved a contract increase on July 1, 2025 (Board Item No. 25-0255).

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0237. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0029

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

Report Period: 3/1/2026 - 3/31/2026

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of March 2026. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0029. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0191

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Report Period: FY 2024

Summary: The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a local government. The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) upon its review of the Forest Preserves' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for FY 2024 (the most recent fiscal year evaluated by the GFOA).

The GFOA has awarded the Forest Preserves of Cook County the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eighteen (18) consecutive years. In order to receive the certificate, a governmental body must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. The report must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and applicable legal requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0191. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0241

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - March 2026

Report Period: 3/1/2026 - 3/31/2026

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of March 2026. Payments total \$222,871.28 for March 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0241. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0238

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 5/5/2026 - 6/8/2026

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.

Thursday, 5/7; 10am & 2 pm

Spring Tree ID Walk, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Patrons can enjoy a guided walk and learn how to identify trees in spring. *For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Friday, 5/8; 9am—11am

Conservation at Home: Native Plant Gardening 101, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

Participants can learn how to grow and maintain their native plant garden. *Native plants and seeds will be available. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Friday, 5/8; 7pm

America's 250th History Hike, Swallow Cliff Pavilion, Palos Park

Join us on a hike that explores the stories that shaped our land, people and nation. *This event is presented with the Department of Recreation and Parks for the Village of Palos Park. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/9; 8am—12pm

World Migratory Bird Day: Walk and Big Sit, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Patrons can spot birds on a guided walk or sit from a fixed location. *This program is for all birding levels. Binoculars are available for use during the program and must be returned. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 5/9; 8am—11am

World Migratory Bird Day: The Big Sit, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Patrons can identify and count wild birds in a relaxing way while learning how to use eBird or iNaturalist to record sightings. *Binoculars are available for use during the program and must be returned. For more information, please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 5/9; 8am—4pm

World Migratory Bird Day: Migration Madness, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Enjoy a day of fun activities focused on our avian friends. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/9; 9am

World Migratory Bird Day: Birding Basics, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can learn the basics of bird watching. *Ages 8 and up. For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Saturday, 5/9; 9am—11:30am

All About Birds, Twenty-Sixth Street Woods-West, La Grange Park

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with bird walks and other bird-related activities. *Binoculars are available for use during the program and must be returned. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 5/9; 9am—2pm

World Migratory Bird Day: Community Science and Bird Conservation, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us for bird walks, bird banding, special exhibits, presentations and activities to celebrate migratory birds. *For more information, please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/9, 10am-2pm

Heart & Mind Family Wellness Day, Richton Park Community Center, Richton Park

The Forest Preserves is joining Birth to 5 Illinois to celebrate and support families who live in southern Cook County with information and fun activities. This is part of a new Live Healthy Discover Nature on the road series.

Saturday, 5/9; 10am—12pm

Kite Fest, Carl R. Hansen Woods, Hoffman Estates

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by enjoying fun activities related to kites. This program will have timed flying demonstrations, crafts and much more. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/9; 1:30pm

World Migratory Bird Day: Raptor Encounter, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Get up close with live birds of prey. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 5/10; 8am

Mother's Day Fun Run and Walk, Dan Ryan Woods-Central, Chicago

Join us for a joyful Mother's Day Fun Run and Walk! Celebrate with family-friendly activities, treats and laughter. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 5/10; 10:30am

Mother's Day Spring Nature Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for a casual walk and take in the sights, sounds, and scents of spring. *Registration required. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Sunday, 5/10; 1pm

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Patrons can discover the blooming wildflowers on a nature walk. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Wednesday, 5/13; 2pm—6pm

Open Pond Paddle, Thatcher Glen Pond, River Forest

Join us for an open paddle day. *Ages 5 and up. Ages 5-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Kayaks are available on a first come and first served basis. Instructions and equipment will be provided. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 5/14; 10am

Sound Therapy for Seniors, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Participants can enjoy a peaceful walk with soothing sounds along the trail. *Registration required. Ages 55 and up. This program is led by certified instructor Gail Morales. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 5/14; 3pm—6pm

I Spy with My Five Senses, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Enjoy a scavenger hunt that uses all five senses. *Ages 2-8 and must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 5/14; 3pm—6pm

Nature Block Party, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Join us for a day of celebration, exploration, and outdoor fun. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 5/14; 5:30pm

Camping 101, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Join us for a workshop to learn basic camping skills like how to set up a tent, build a fire, dress for the weather, and more. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Friday, 5/15; 7:30pm

Night Walk, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for an evening walk to learn about nocturnal animals. *The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Saturday, 5/16; 9am—12pm

Trash Bash, LaBagh Woods, Chicago

Patrons can make spring cleaning more sustainable by bringing in recyclable materials. *This event is presented with the National Recreation and Park Association, Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability and more. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/16; 11am

Asian American Pacific Islander Month Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Patrons can enjoy the rhythms and movements of Pan-Asian music and dance. *Registration required. This program is performed by and presented with the Mandela Arts Group. Please call (708)839-6897 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/16; 2pm

Asian American Pacific Islander Month Performance, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Patrons can enjoy the vibrant rhythms and graceful movements of Pan-Asian music and dance. *This program is performed by and presented with the Mandela Arts Group. For more information, please visit the website.*

Sunday, 5/17; 1pm—3pm

Bird Banding, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Drop-in and observe the scientific process of bird banding. *For more information, please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 5/17; 1:30pm

Asian American Heritage Month Performance, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can enjoy Pan-Asian music and dance, while being inspired by stories of kinship with the forest. *This program is performed by and presented with the Mandela Arts Group. For more information, please call (847)824-8360 or visit the website.*

Wednesday, 5/20; 10am—1pm

Nature Play Day, Bemis Woods-South, Western Springs

Bring your little ones for open nature play. Participants can enjoy the play space while helping your children connect with nature. *The program will be held at Grove 7. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Friday, 5/22; 4:30pm—6pm

Minecraft Geology, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Participants can learn about the rocks showcased in the Minecraft video games. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/23; 10am

Flipping Logs, Looking for Frogs and Bugs, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Patrons can discover worms and bugs that live under logs in the woods. *Registration required. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 5/23; 1pm

Spring Bees, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us for a short walk as we observe the unique bees that pollinate spring wildflowers. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/23 through Sunday, 5/24; 3pm—12pm

Family Campout, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland

Join us for an introduction to camping for families. *Registration required. Equipment and meals will be provided. The cost is \$75 per family of 6 or less people. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/23, 10am-6 pm

Free! Opening Day at the Forest Preserves Aquatic Centers!

Our three Aquatic Centers open for the season! Check the website for times and dates.

Cermak, Family Aquatic Center, 7600 W Ogden Ave., Lyons

Green Lake Family Aquatic Center, 1100 River Oaks Drive, Calumet City

Whealan Family Pool & Aquatic Center, 6200 W Devon Ave., Chicago

Thursday, 5/28; 7pm

Adult Night Hike, Wolf Road Woods, Willow Springs

Participants can learn about nocturnal animals and the night sky before taking part in a 1.5-mile guided hike. *Ages 21 and up. Bring your own bottle, but it cannot be in glass. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 5/28; 7pm—8pm

Cheers to Nature, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

Participants can enjoy a relaxing evening with a lecture about current topics in the environmental field.

Ages 21 and up. Bring your own bottle, but it cannot be in glass. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.

Friday, 5/29 through Sunday, 5/31; 11am

Outdoor Asian Campout, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland

Enjoy the weekend by building confidence and finding comfort in community. *Registration required. There are limited spots available. This program is presented with Outdoor Asian Chicago. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/30; 9am—12pm

Trash Bash, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Patrons can make spring cleaning more sustainable by bringing in recyclable materials. *This event is presented with the National Recreation and Park Association, Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability and more. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 5/30; 10am—2pm

Nature is Accessible, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Celebrate nature with inclusive and accessible experiences for all individuals. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Sunday, 5/31; 11am—3pm

Explore the Forest, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Celebrate everything the Forest Preserves has to offer and learn about nature with animal encounters, tree climbing, touch-a-truck and more! *Food concessions are available for purchase. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Sunday, 5/31; 12pm—2pm

Pride in the Preserves: Flag Raising and Celebration, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for a celebratory flag-raising, honoring the start of a month dedicated to inclusion, visibility, and community. The raised flags connect to a special exhibit highlighting the contributions of LGBTQIA conservation leaders whose work has shaped and inspired the conservation movement. *For more information, please call (708) 366-6530.*

Thursday, 6/4; 10am—12pm

Senior Forest Therapy Walk and Sound Bath, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Participants can experience forest bathing. *Registration required. Ages 55 and up. This program is presented with Gayle Byck from InTune with Nature. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Friday, 6/5; 10am—12pm

Senior Nature Collaging, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join local artist Phyllis Frick in making collages of plants, animals and landscapes. *Registration required. Ages 55 and up. All materials and supplies will be provided. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 6/6; 11am—2pm

Family Pride Day, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Families are invited to celebrate love and inclusion. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 6/6; 11am—2pm

Community Book Swap, Swallow Cliff Woods-North, Palos Park

Patrons can bring in their gently used books and leave with some new-to-you books! *Books can be any genre and reading level. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 6/6; 5:30pm

Evening Stroll, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Participants can enjoy the extended daylight of summer on a 1-mile guided walk during the evening. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 6/7; 9am

Smart Cycling Workshop, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Participants can learn skills to become confident and competent bicyclists. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. The course is certified through the League of American Bicyclists and pre-course work with minimal fees are required. Please visit the website.*

Sunday, 6/7; 1pm—2:30pm

Build a Pollinator Hotel, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can learn about local pollinators and build an insect hotel. *Registration required. Please call (847)824-8360.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0238. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

26-0195

Presented by: HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: OCA - Forest Preserve District of Cook County Law Enforcement Time and Attendance Internal Audit Report

Report Period: April 21, 2025 - September 17, 2025

Summary: This audit was designed to determine if the time and attendance processes in FPDCC's Law Enforcement Department had adequate controls to ensure information was captured correctly and working as intended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner s. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0195. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0222

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a construction contract with Denler, Inc., primary place of business Joliet, Illinois, for striping of trails and road crossings throughout the Forest Preserves.

Reason: Contract #74000018112 issued under Solicitation #26-80-013927 for Project #26-80-01 Districtwide Trail Striping for striping of paved trails and road crossings within the Forest Preserves.

Bid Opening Date: 3/25/2026

Bid Results:

1. Denler, Inc.	\$372,963.72
2. Saify Traders LLC	\$435,965.50
3. Marking Specialist Corporation	\$598,988.04
4. Snowscape Chicago, Inc. dba Maven Pavement Solutions	\$727,479.60

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$372,963.72

Contract Period: Three (3) years from issuance of the Notice to Proceed, with two (2) one-year extension options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Account Name/Number: Site Amenities 51009.560060, 51034.560060, 51036.560060, 51037.560060, and future Construction & Development accounts.

District: Districtwide

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0222. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0239

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 5/5/2026

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2026 to Present:	\$0.00
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved:	\$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2026 to Present:	\$200,100.82
Legal Fees for 5/5/2026 to Be Approved:	\$56,144.65

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to approve 26-0239. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent:None (0)

26-0240

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 5/5/2026

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2026 to present:	\$113,676.00
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:	\$250,069.23

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to approve 26-0240. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent:None (0)

26-0103

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2026 - 3/31/2026

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for March 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to receive and file 26-0103. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0250

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 04/14/2026 .

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 26-0250. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

26-0140

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

EASEMENT REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to grant two small permanent easements to the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) at Whistler Woods in Riverdale, Illinois totaling 0.26 acres (11,326 square feet) for storm sewer improvements. Staff recommends that the easements be donated without easement fees because the storm sewer improvements will benefit the Forest Preserves by reducing flooding of the Forest Preserves’ property and nearby streets. Construction is expected to require removal of four (4) trees; however, additional trees may need to be removed than originally estimated. IDOT has agreed to pay tree mitigation fees. Any increase in the tree mitigation fee will be in accordance with the Tree Mitigation Plan (see Board Item No. 20-0279), and if such increase is more than 20% of the original estimate, then approval will be sought from the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Reason: IDOT is proposing to replace existing storm sewer pipes located on the east side of IL 1 (Halsted Street) at the Little Calumet River to address chronic flooding on the west side of IL 1 at an access drive for the Forest Preserves’ Joe Louis Golf Course. The proposed improvements require 0.26 acres (11,326 square feet) of permanent easement area at the Whistler Woods forest preserve and include replacement and ongoing maintenance of the storm sewer system originally installed in 1980 under License #1179. To expedite an initial phase of drainage improvements within the road right-of-way, Forest Preserves staff agreed to support the donation of the two permanent easements to replace License #1179, subject to future approval by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners. The initial phase of right-of-way work was completed in 2025, and IDOT now seeks donation of permanent easements for the next phase of improvements, which will replace the existing storm sewer system outside the right-of-way.

The area for the permanent easements is 0.26 acres (11,326 square feet). IDOT indicates that four (4) trees are expected to be removed for this project.

Easement Fee: \$0.00 (appraised value of donated easements is approximately \$1,000.00.)

Tree Mitigation Fee: \$21,990.66

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final easement is subject to legal review and approval.

District(s): 5

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 26-0140. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (17)

Absent: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman

Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.