



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

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

10:00 AM

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

CONSENT CALENDAR

26-0143

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING IRENE FLEBBE, FORMER NATURALIST II AT TRAILSIDE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Irene Flebbe retired from public service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) on December 30, 2025, after a distinguished career as a naturalist and in nonformal environmental educator role, including thirty-two (32) years of service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Flebbe graduated from Northeastern Illinois University in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and began her Forest Preserves career as a seasonal employee in December 1995 before moving into full-time naturalist roles; and

WHEREAS, for the past nineteen (19) years and nine (9) months, Mrs. Flebbe served as Naturalist II of the Trailside Museum of Natural History, the oldest nature education facility of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, succeeding previous Museum leadership and contributing to the Museum’s mission of connecting the public with local flora and fauna through education and engagement; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as a naturalist, Mrs. Flebbe played a leading role in delivering and expanding public nature programs, guided hikes, and community events that brought nature education to visitors of all ages, from school groups to lifelong learners and surrounding suburban communities; and Mrs. Flebbe helped maintain the Museum’s historic Victorian mansion and interpretive exhibits that reflect more than ninety (90) years of the Forest Preserves’ commitment to environmental education; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Flebbe’s leadership and naturalist expertise, the Trailside Museum continued to offer hallmark community programming, including seasonal celebrations like the *Migrating Monarchs* event and volunteer restoration workdays that fostered stewardship of native habitats within the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Flebbe consistently represented the Forest Preserves as a public voice for nature education, sharing her expertise with local partners and in community outreach about trails, nature resources, and environmental appreciation throughout Cook County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Trailside Museum of Natural History, established in 1931 as the first natural history museum of its kind in the Midwest and housed in a historic Victorian Italianate mansion, remains a beloved educational and cultural resource in River Forest thanks in great part to Mrs. Flebbe’s stewardship and long-tenured service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle, along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, General Superintendent Adam Bianchi, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby extend heartfelt thanks to Irene Flebbe for her dedication, leadership, and outstanding service and wish her continued success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Irene Flebbe in recognition of her significant contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0143. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0184

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE TENURE AND RETIREMENT OF JEAN FRANCYK

WHEREAS, Jean M. Franczyk has led the Chicago Botanic Garden since 2016, with a keen awareness that individuals turn to the natural world for restoration and respite; and

WHEREAS, a native Chicagoan, Jean Franczyk spent her childhood gardening alongside her mother, planting an early seed for her interest in the natural world; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, followed by her master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk worked as a part of the Mayor Richard M. Daley administration as well as the Chicago Board of Education as chief of staff; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk joined the Garden after living in London for 11 years, where she was deputy director of the Science Museum with the United Kingdom's Science Museum Group (SMG); and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk holds a firm belief that connecting with nature leads to a happier, healthier life; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk goes to the natural world for renewal and reflection, and believes that the Garden provides visitors a place to decompress and explore; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk was key in the passage of the Forest Preserve District’s 2022 referendum, noting how transformative the additional dollars would be for the health and wellness of the region; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk remained dedicated to ensuring the Chicago Botanic Garden is a space of scientific exploration by expanding plant science conservation work; and

WHEREAS, during Jean Franczyk’s tenure, the Chicago Botanic Garden celebrated their 50th anniversary “Flourish: The Garden at 50” where visitors were invited to connect with nature through interactive experiences within the Garden; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk illuminated the Garden with the inception of *Lightscape*, an enchanting 1.3-mile trail of lights, sound, and imagination during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Jean Franczyk oversaw the completion of major projects that are now cornerstones of the Chicago Botanic Garden campus, including the Regenstein Learning Campus, the Welcome Plaza, and the Stone Family Picnic Glade; and

WHEREAS, Windy City Harvest, Chicago Botanic Garden’s urban agricultural program, blossomed with Jean Franczyk’s stewardship; and

WHEREAS, under Jean Franczyk’s expert guidance, the Chicago Botanic Garden solidified its world-class reputation as one of the world’s largest and most popular botanic gardens, hosting 1.2 million visits a year and fostering an atmosphere of belonging for all visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and celebrate Jean Franczyk upon her retirement for her decade of exceptional leadership and dedication to the Chicago Botanic Garden and its patrons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to Jean Franczyk as a means of conveying our gratitude and appreciation for her years of committed service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0184. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

SECOND CONSENT AGENDA

26-0185

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION DURING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, National Women’s History Month is a month-long celebration from March 1st through March 31st meant to honor and highlight the contributions of women throughout United States’ past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, women have made invaluable contributions to the fields of conservation, environmental justice, and science, propelling sustainability forward by leading their communities in advocacy for clean air, water, and land, protecting the natural habitats of animals, plants, and biodiverse ecosystems, and maintaining their historical status as stewards and environmental educators; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County has honored and celebrated Women’s History Month through informational nature walks and newsletters which detail prominent women in conservation throughout history; and

WHEREAS, activist Hazel M Johnson, often referred to as the “Mother of Environmental Justice” from Altgeld Gardens on the far South Side of Chicago, founded People for Community Recovery in the 1970’s to educate residents on how to fight against harmful toxic waste, and advocated for cleaner air and water for low-income communities of color on a global scale; and

WHEREAS, activist Marian Byrnes, after learning the natural prairie located behind her home in Jeffrey Manor, Chicago, was set to become a bus garage, led her community to save the land, and later advocated for the conservation of Lake Calumet, fighting against environmentally hazardous industrialization along the lakefront; and

WHEREAS, activist Kimberly Waserman, director of Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, successfully led local residents in the closure of two power plants in Little Village, Chicago, in 2012, which caused disproportionately high rates of respiratory illnesses, and continues to advocate for the creation of green spaces in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County counts on the support of various women restorationists, maintenance workers, educators and policy experts who work and volunteer for the Preserves. These women continue to champion the protection of natural resources and native species, and maintain the land for generations to come in a uniquely placed metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County acknowledges that we are on the lands of the Council of Three Fires-the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi-as well as the Miami, Peoria, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sauk and Meskwaki peoples, and the women of these communities have been and continue to be pillars of sustainability and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, there are countless other women in Cook County and beyond who have championed the fight towards a more sustainable environment for the health, safety, and enrichment of their families, communities, and natural lands all around us.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, honor National Women's History Month by celebrating the women of Cook County who have been leaders of environmental change, conservation, and sustainability...end

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0185. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

1. Syntycha (Syn) Barnes, Juiced by Shic, LLC

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 Britton, that this Report be defer. The motion carried by the following vote.

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0144

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

APPROVING EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY AND THE ILLINOIS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL (SERGEANT UNIT)

WHEREAS, the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/1 et seq.) has established regulations regarding collective bargaining with a union; and

WHEREAS, a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit) is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 covering Sergeants in the Law Enforcement Department of the Forest Preserves (Board Item No. 24-0310); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit) have negotiated an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit) through December 31, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby approves, with respect to such above-referenced Collective Bargaining Agreement, the proposed time extension, a one-time lump sum payment, salary adjustments and general wage increases, and procedural changes as follows:

- (a) Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit) for the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027;
- (b) Effective upon board approval of the extension, a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00 will be paid on the payroll date closest to forty-five (45) days after board approval, to bargaining unit members in the classification of Sergeant in active status on December 31, 2025;

- (c) Effective the first full pay period on or after January 1, 2026, the pay rates for the classification of Sergeant shall be increased by 2%;
- (d) Effective the first full pay period on or after July 1, 2026, the pay rates for the classification of Sergeant shall be increased by 2%;
- (e) Effective the first full pay period on or after January 1, 2027, the pay rates for the classification of Sergeant shall be increased by 4%;
- (f) Procedural updates to the vacation bidding, shift bidding and notice provisions in accordance with the attached Tentative Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit) members who retired from the Forest Preserves on or after January 1, 2026 are eligible for retroactive pay from January 1, 2026 for hours worked in the Sergeant position included in the extended Collective Bargaining Agreement, as negotiated between the Forest Preserves and Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Sergeant Unit).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves' Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer, and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the salary adjustments and general wage increases as negotiated and otherwise outlined above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves' Comptroller is hereby directed to make all payments consistent with this resolution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 26-0144 to the Labor Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

26-0161

Presented by: HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: OCA - Open Recommendations Report for Forest Preserve District of Cook County to Board of Commissioners

Report Period: August 2025 - January 2026

Summary: This report was designed to communicate the status of Open Recommendations regarding the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 26-0161 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0167

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 ComEd, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain 1,806 feet of new 4” conduit and cable, directional bored within the 95th Street/Archer Avenue intersection right-of-way (ROW), in the vicinity of Red Gate Woods. This new line is to replace an existing overhead line of similar length with the same end points that needs to be moved for the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) intersection reconstruction project that is scheduled to start in the spring. There was no existing license for the existing line which is entirely within IDOT road right-of-way.

Term: Ten (10) years

License Fee: \$60,946.28

License Application Fee: \$1,500.00

Review Fee: \$3,000.00

YELAR Fee: \$7,350.00

Total one-time upfront fee of \$72,796.28 for the term of the License (Sec. 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4)

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

The area of the License is: 0.6219 Acre(s)

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 Britton, to refer 26-0167 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0168

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 ComEd, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain approximately 482 feet of existing electric line overhead on newly installed power poles on the north side of Dundee Road in Palatine, to accommodate an Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) road improvement project. The road improvement project includes reconstruction of the road over a culvert and a new 8-foot-wide shared use path and retaining wall on the south side of Dundee Road within the existing road right of way (ROW). The proposed location of the overhead electric line would require removal of eight (8) trees, resulting in tree 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.

Term: Ten (10) years

License Fee: \$16,265.84

License Application Fee: \$1,500.00

Review Fee: \$3,000.00

YELAR Fee: \$7,350.00

Total one-time upfront fee of \$28,115.84 for the term of the License (Sec. 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4)

Tree Mitigation Fee: \$18,547.94

The area of the License is: 0.166 acre(s)

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): 14

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 26-0168 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0169

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

EASEMENT REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to grant a permanent and a temporary easement to the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) at Des Plaines River Road north of Foster Avenue in Schiller Park for 0.501 acres or 21,823 square feet.

Reason: IDOT is seeking to address safety and the potential collapse of the road into the Des Plaines River and improve pedestrian safety. The permanent easement is for construction and maintenance of a retaining wall, rip rap, a new sidewalk and other related improvements described in the plans and specifications. The temporary easement will be used for construction access. The work would require removal of sixteen (16) living trees and one (1) dead tree, resulting in tree 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. Staff is recommending waiver of easement compensation in light of safety and environmental benefits of riverbank stabilization. IDOT has agreed to pay tree mitigation fees. The term of the temporary easement is five (5) years, or completion of construction, whichever comes first.

The area for the permanent easement is 0.298 acres, and the area for the temporary easement is 0.203 acres. IDOT indicates that seventeen (17) trees are expected to be removed for this project.

Easement Fee: \$3,650.00 waived

Tree Mitigation Fee: \$148,295.73

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

District(s): 9

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 26-0169 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0020

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

Grantee: Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”)

Grantor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DCEO"), Springfield, Illinois

Request: Authorization to accept grant

Purpose: Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept grant and enter into a grant agreement with DCEO for Conservation Corps programming.

Grant Amount: \$709,500.00

Grant Period: 1/1/2026 (retroactive) - 6/30/2027

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Professional Services 51036.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444; and all future Professional Services accounts

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded \$709,500.00 in grant funding from the DCEO to support the participation of one hundred twenty-nine (129) participants in adult and high school-aged summer youth programs, including but not limited to the Greencorps Chicago and Forest Preserve Experience programs (Board Item No. 23-0603). Funding is intended to cover 2026 program expenses, however, DCEO may, in its discretion, reimburse 2025 program expenses as well. Participants receive job skills training, environmental education, and professional networking experiences as they contribute hands-on conservation service to the land that benefits people, plants, and wildlife.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0020. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0138

PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to renew a License to Laurence A. and Kathryn L. Smith, 1045 Forest Hills Avenue, Calumet City, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain an existing brick two (2) car detached garage and driveway. The garage was constructed around 1936 and encroaches on Forest Preserves property by 7 feet, the driveway by 10.9 feet. The Smiths acquired their property in 1978 and continue to occupy and maintain the structures. A 10-year residential hardship license (License #1748) was approved by the Board of Commissioners on 9/8/2015 (Board Item No. 15-0414).

In 2014, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance amendment authorizing residential hardship licenses via Title 2, Section 2-3-1(D) of the Forest Preserves Code of Ordinances. As described in some detail in the Forest Preserves Land Use Code (see Title 2, Section 2-5-1), the Forest Preserves’ authority to issue licenses as a non-home rule entity is limited to mission related and other purposes specifically authorized by its Enabling Statute. Residential hardship licenses are an equitable way to resolve long-standing encroachments that meet the requirements under Code Section 2-3-1(D) without litigation. In the interim, the licenses are recorded on the Licensee’s Chain of Title and the land is maintained by the Licensee.

Term: Ten (10) Years

License Fee: \$2,500.00

License Application Fee: N/A

YELAR Fee: Waived

Total fee of \$2,500.00 payable in one lump sum or in annual installments of \$250.00 for the ten-year term of the License Renewal (Sec. 2-3-1(D), 5-2A-4 and 5-2A-6)

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

The area of the License is: 0.01 Acre

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

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

The Forest Preserves staff previously reviewed the license application and plans and 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 Renewal.

District(s): 4

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0138. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0139

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to renew a License to Sophia Tarka, 315 Mason Street, Calumet City, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain an existing detached single car garage structure and driveway. The garage was constructed around 1954 and encroaches on Forest Preserves property by 4.6 feet, the driveway by 8 feet. Ms. Tarka acquired her property in 2008 and continues to occupy and maintain the garage and driveway. A 10-year residential hardship license (License #1747) was approved by the Board of Commissioners on 9/8/2015 (Board Item No. 15-0413).

In 2014, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance amendment authorizing residential hardship licenses via Title 2, Section 2-3-1(D) of the Forest Preserves Code of Ordinances. As described in some detail in the Forest Preserves Land Use Code (see Title 2, Section 2-5-1), the Forest Preserves’ authority to issue licenses as a non-home rule entity is limited to mission related and other purposes specifically authorized by its Enabling Statute. Residential hardship licenses are an equitable way to resolve long-standing encroachments that meet the requirements under Code Section 2-3-1(D) without litigation. In the interim, the licenses are recorded on the Licensee’s Chain of Title and the land is maintained by the Licensee.

Term: Ten (10) Years

License Fee: \$2,500.00

License Application Fee: N/A

YELAR Fee: Waived

Total fee of \$2,500.00 payable in one lump sum or in annual installments of \$250.00 for the ten-year term of the License Renewal (Sec. 2-3-1(D), 5-2A-4 and 5-2A-6)

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

The area of the License is: 0.02 Acre

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

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

The Forest Preserves staff previously reviewed the license application and plans and 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 Renewal.

District(s): 4

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0139. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0172

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Facilities and Fleet

Other Part(ies): Illinois Finance Authority, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Finance Authority (the “Authority”).

Goods or Services: Installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at five (5) locations within the Forest Preserves.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: 3/10/2026- 10/1/2032

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed 20% cost share or \$90,000.00 for the installation expenses.

Accounts: 51033.540250 Automotive Operations

District(s): 4, 6, 14, 16

Summary: This proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Authority would allow for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at five locations: Cermak Aquatic Center (Lyons), George Dunne Golf Course (Oak Forest), Green Lake Aquatic Center (Calumet City), Camp Reinberg (Palatine), and River Trail Nature Center (Northbrook) via the Authority’s Community Charging Program. The total program cost is estimated to be \$450,000.00, which includes a 38% contingency due to anticipated market conditions. The Authority will cover up to 80% of the total estimated cost (not to exceed \$360,000.00) and the Forest Preserves would cover the remaining 20% (not to exceed \$90,000.00). These five (5) EV chargers are in addition to the five (5) EV chargers currently being installed throughout the Forest Preserves with ARPA funds (Board Item Nos. 22-0289 and 24-0245). It is anticipated that once installed, a total of ten (10) EV chargers will be available as an amenity for Forest Preserves patrons. Final intergovernmental agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0172. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0152

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Ferrellgas, L.P., Melrose Park, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Supply and delivery of liquid propane

Contract Value: \$1,425,000.00

Contract Period: 5/1/2026 - 4/30/2031

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$166,155.00, FY 2027 \$285,000.00, FY 2028 \$285,000.00, FY 2029 \$285,000.00, FY 2030 \$285,000.00, FY 2031 \$118,845.00

Accounts: Propane Gas and Heating 51001.530261

Contract Number(s): #74000017751 issued under Project 25-53-013042

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

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The proposed contract is to supply and deliver liquid propane to the Forest Preserves for facilities and vehicle use, for a period of five (5) years. Propane is domestically produced. Propane has low carbon and low oil contamination, which may result in a longer engine life and produce lower amounts of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals and received one (1) response. The Forest Preserves determined that the responding contractor, Ferrellgas, L.P., was highly qualified and would be able to meet the required services requested.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0152. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0160

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Smits Farms, Inc., Chicago Heights, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Agricultural row crop farming at 290 E. Glenwood-Dyer Road, Glenwood, IL 60425 and 21695 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, IL 60411

Contract Value: N/A

Contract Period: 3/10/2026 - 12/31/2026, with one (1) one-year extension option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent or their designee

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Revenue generation of up to \$20,381.40 over two (2) years

Accounts: Corporate Land Use Fees 51001.411366 (revenue generating)

Contract Number(s): #74000017750 issued under Project #25RM 121

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

District(s): 5, 6

Summary: The Forest Preserves has solicited a contract for row crop production at 290 E. Glenwood-Dyer Road in Glenwood and 21695 Torrence Avenue in Sauk Village. These sites were historically used for agriculture prior to acquisition by the Forest Preserves, and as such, do not exist in an ecologically natural state. Farmers will have use of the properties for seeding one or more row crops including wheat, oats, soybeans, and/or other crops subject to the review and written approval of the Forest Preserves' Director of the Department of Resource Management. This practice allows the Forest Preserves to generate revenue, while at the same time preventing invasive plant species from overtaking fallow land. It is the Forest Preserves' intention to restore fallow land as capacity and funding allows. These interim farming practices are a proven method to keep lands in a more manageable condition until restoration can take place, thereby reducing future restoration costs. The contract term for the row crop farming is through the end of calendar year 2026, with one (1) one-year mutual renewal option to be exercised by the General Superintendent or their designee, which allows the Forest Preserves the option to discontinue farming practices at our discretion in order to restore these lands to a natural condition.

A single bid was received for both sites in response to Solicitation #26-31-013716. Smits Farms, Inc. was found to be responsive to the terms of the solicitation, and their proposal will result in a total potential revenue generation over the next approximately two (2) years of \$20,381.40, or \$10,190.70 per year.

Site	Acres	Revenue
290 E. Glenwood-Dyer Road	2.2	\$8,924.40
21695 Torrence Avenue	28.5	\$11,457.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0160. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0170

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Commonwealth Edison Company (“ComEd”), Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Electric facilities and equipment to serve the Forest Preserves premises located at Camp Reinberg, 1801 N. Quentin Road in Palatine, Illinois

Contract Value: N/A

Contract Period: 3/10/2026 - Until Terminated

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: N/A

Contract Number(s): N/A

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

District(s):14

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been working on updating the electricity at Camp Reinberg’s main dining hall building. The project was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 7/1/2025 (Board Item No. 25-0214). ComEd requires the Forest Preserves to enter into an Electric Facilities Service Acknowledgment agreement, along with ancillary agreements (collectively, the “Agreements”).

Under the Agreements, the installed equipment will be owned by ComEd and the Forest Preserves would be responsible for a monthly rental and other ancillary fees. Payment of such fees would be pursuant to electricity service contracts with ComEd. The Forest Preserves is authorized to pay energy service bills via Board Item No. 25-0296. The continuous term of the Agreements requires board approval; however, the Agreements are terminable by the Forest Preserves if electrical service is discontinued.

The Agreements are form agreements that include rates and non-standard provisions and riders, that can be unilaterally changed by ComEd subject to regulatory approval. The terms of the Agreements are generally non-negotiable. Due to time sensitivities, the Forest Preserves respectfully requests authorization to have the General Superintendent execute the Agreements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0170. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0171

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Interface Engineering, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Professional Services to provide architectural and engineering design and construction administration services for a new heating and air conditioning system for the Forest Preserves’ General Headquarters in River Forest.

Original Contract Period: 12/15/2021 - 3/14/2025; 3/15/2025 - 3/14/2026 (Administrative Extension)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 3/15/2026 - 12/15/2026

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$390,238.00

Original Approval: 12/14/2021, \$184,846.00

Previous Increase(s): 3/25/2022, \$17,450.00 (Administrative Increase); 4/5/2022, \$55,215.00 (Board Approval); 2/7/2023, \$74,989.00 (Board Approval); 8/27/2025, \$19,128.00 (Administrative Increase); and 9/9/2025, \$38,610.00 (Board Approval)

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Professional Services 51009.520830, 51031.520830, 51033.520830, 51036.520830, 51037.520830 and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000009962 issued under RFP #21-80-44

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

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

District(s): 9

Summary: The original scope of services was for design, construction administration and commissioning of a new Very High Efficiency (VHE), all-electric heating and cooling (HVAC) system at the Forest Preserves' General Headquarters. Additional time is needed for the continuation of commissioning services following unforeseen damage to outside ground-mounted HVAC pipes from falling rooftop ice and by a delay in completion of the windows due to a delay in approval and procurement of the specified materials. As the Engineer of Record for the new HVAC system and the envelope design, Interface Engineering is uniquely qualified to complete the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0171. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0174

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Permits, Rentals and Concessions

Vendor: JBS Swallow Cliff, LLC, formerly known as (f/k/a) Juiced by Shic, Midlothian, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to extend and amend contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Management of the Swallow Cliff concession facility

Original Contract Period: 5/8/2023 - 5/8/2026

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 5/9/2026 - 5/8/2028

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: N/A (Revenue Generating)

Original Approval: N/A

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact:(Revenue Generating) Base fee of \$4,400.00 and 16% of gross sales for the 2026 term and a Base fee of \$5,000.00 with 18% of gross sales for the 2027 term.

Accounts: 51001.411316

Contract Number(s): #74000012170

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

District(s): 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves entered into an agreement with Juiced by Shic, LLC (“Juiced by Shic”) on May 8, 2023, following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to provide food, beverage, and retail concession services at the Swallow Cliff facility near Palos Park. Juiced by Shic was selected as the more responsive and responsible proposer among two (2) submissions.

The initial agreement term runs from May 8, 2023, through May 8, 2026. Based on Juiced by Shic’s successful performance that was demonstrated through consistent revenue generation and positive customer feedback on its healthy food, beverage, and retail offerings, the Forest Preserves recommends exercising the agreement’s two (2) year optional extension. This extension will allow Juiced by Shic to continue operating the seasonal concession at Swallow Cliff, ensuring continuity of service and maintaining a valued amenity for visitors.

As part of the proposed extension, the payment schedule for the Base Fee has been revised to provide greater flexibility. The previous requirement, which stipulated 50% of the Base Fee be paid by January 1 and the remaining 50% by July 1, will be removed and replaced in its entirety. Under the new terms, the first 50% installment will be due no later than July 15, and the remaining 50% installment will be due no later than November 15. This adjustment to payment deadlines supports improved cash flow management while maintaining the existing agreed-upon revenue structure.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0174. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0159

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: This item amends a previously approved resolution to allow the General Superintendent to extend a grant agreement with IDNR in order for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to receive final grant payments.

Item Number: 24-0372

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Account(s): Revenue 51010.411437

District(s): 15

Original Text of Item: RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, on 1/26/2021, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of \$750,000.00 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Museum Capital Grant program (Board Item No. 21-0101) to improve the Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County’s (“Forest Preserves”) Department of Planning and Development successfully completed this grant project in 2023, improving the nature center’s accessibility and energy efficiency and updating its exhibits and signage; and

WHEREAS, due to various factors including supply chain issues during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, the actual project construction cost was significantly higher than the estimated total project cost of \$1,000,000.00 at the time of the original IDNR Museum grant award; and

WHEREAS, the IDNR consequently intends to award the Forest Preserves an additional \$300,000.00 towards this grant project’s expenses at no cost to the Forest Preserves, increasing the original grant award from \$750,000.00 to \$1,050,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves’ General Superintendent or their designee to accept any additional grant funds from IDNR towards the grant-funded renovation project of the Crabtree Nature Center located in Barrington Hills and to extend the related grant agreement with IDNR (Board Item No. 21-0101) through the end of calendar year 2027.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0159. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0025

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: 1/1/2026 - 1/31/2026

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of January 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 Britton, to receive and file 26-0025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0158

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - January 2026

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

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of January 2026. Payments total \$156,027.26 for January 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 26-0158. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0166

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Additional ARPA funding

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

Summary: Per Board Item No. 25-0317, the Forest Preserves of Cook County hereby reports that in 2025 it received additional ARPA funding as sub-awarded from Cook County in the amount of \$5,180,000.00 for land acquisition, to supplement prior award as authorized by the Board of Commissioners pursuant to Board Item No. 22-0289.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 26-0166. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0173

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Permits, Rentals and Concessions

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: 2025 Concessions Annual Report

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

Summary: On 3/15/2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) Concessions Ordinance (Board Item No. 22-0126) (the “Ordinance”). Under the Ordinance, the Forest Preserves is authorized to grant certain concession-related permits and contracts. To assist with this process, the Forest Preserves implemented a Concessions Policy (Policy Number: 05.00.00) establishing the criteria by which the Forest Preserves will issue permits and contracts for concession opportunities to increase and improve visitor engagement by providing the public with access to complementary recreational activities, amenities and services while also generating revenue to support the mission of the Forest Preserves.

The Ordinance requires an annual report to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on concession-related permits and contracts awarded by the Forest Preserves for part or all of the prior fiscal year and any concession opportunities currently available or anticipated to be made available by the Forest Preserves for the current year. The Concession Report describes the specific concessionaire permits and contracts that generated revenue in 2025 along with opportunities anticipated for 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 26-0173. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0175

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Office of the General Superintendent

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Resident Watchman Annual Report

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

Summary: This report is required per Section 1-9-3 (Fees and Occupancy of District Lands) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances. The report provides names, job titles, and salaries of employees who occupied property within the Resident Watchman Program for fiscal year 2025 and includes other program-related information.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 26-0175. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0154

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 3/10/2026 - 4/13/2026

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

Wednesday, 3/11; 1pm

Everyone in Nature, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join a sensory class where individuals with disabilities and homeschoolers can learn about nature. *Participants must be with an adult. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Saturday, 3/14; 1pm

Nature Walk: Women's History Month, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Patrons can enjoy a spring walk while learning about women who made an impact in nature conservation. *For more information, please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 3/15; 11am–3pm

Maple Syrup Festival, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a special day of activities including crafts, games, tree tapping and maple syrup history. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Wednesday, 3/18; 10am

Waterfowl Watch, McGinnis Slough, Orland Park

Join us as we peer through a spotting scope to watch and identify waterfowl. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Wednesday, 3/18; 10am

Sun and Moon Share the Sky, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join us for story time and crafts while learning about the spring equinox. *Registration required. Ages 2-6. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is presented with La Grange Park Public Library. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 3/19; 10am–12pm

Forest Bathing: Celebrate the Spring Season, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Participants can experience the health benefits of being in nature. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program is presented with Gayle Byck of In Tune with Nature. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Thursday, 3/19; 5pm–7:30pm

Restore the Night, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Remove invasive shrubs, then join our season wrap-up celebration. *Registration required. Ages 8 and up. Ages 8-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment will be provided. Students can earn service-learning hours. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 3/21; 10am–2pm

Women in the Wilds, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Celebrate women in conservation and the natural sciences with presentations, hands-on activities and information promoting job and volunteer opportunities. *Please call (708)868-0606.*

Sunday, 3/22; 1pm

World Water Day, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Celebrate World Water Day with an indoor presentation and discussion on water rights and ethics. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 3/22; 1:30pm

Bucket Bug Hunt, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can walk through our sugar bush to find out who has fallen into the sap buckets. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Monday, 3/23 through Wednesday, 3/25; 10am–11:30am & 1 pm -2:30 pm

Spring Break Boredom Busters, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Young naturalists can enjoy jam-packed fun exploring nature, playing games, creating art, and spending time outdoors. *Registration required. 10 am -Ages 5-8; 1 pm-Ages 8-12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Wednesday, 3/25; 10am

Waterfowl Watch, McGinnis Slough, Orland Park

Join us as we peer through a spotting scope to watch and identify waterfowl. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Thursday, 3/26; 5:30pm

Camping 101, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs

Patrons can learn basic camping skills through this workshop, which includes how to set up a tent, build a fire, dress for the weather and more. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Friday, 3/27; 8am

Amphibian Outing, Bemis Woods-South, Western Springs

Participants can search for amphibians while enjoying a walk during amphibians' most active time of year. *The program will begin at Grove 7. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 3/28; 9am—3pm

IDNR ENTICE Workshop: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Participants can learn about the science behind climate, weather, and climate change and how to incorporate it into your classroom. *Registration required. Participants can earn professional development hours. Please visit the website.*

Saturday, 3/28; 10am—2pm

Conservation at Home: Seed and Plant Exchange, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Plant lovers unite! Enjoy a presentation on native plants followed by seed and plant sharing. *Participants should bring a mug because warm beverages will be provided. For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

Saturday, 3/28; 1pm

Animal Enrichment Studio, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Participants can create new items for our ambassador animals then watch how enrichment is used as an important part of their care. *This program is suitable for people of all abilities. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Sunday, 3/29; 1:30pm

Tree Faces, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can make faces on our trees with natural materials. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 3/29; 1:30pm

Worst Case Scenario Hike, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Patrons can learn about safety while hiking. This program will teach safety tips and simple first aid through hands-on demonstrations while hiking. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Tuesday, 3/31; 1:30pm

Space Celebration: Storytime and Craft, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for an outer space themed spring break program. Participants can enjoy story-time and make crafts. *Registration required. Ages 2-7. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Wednesday, 4/1; 10am—1pm

Spring Break Fun Fest, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

Enjoy time out of school! Youth and families can try archery, build and play with natural materials, learn orienteering, paint a bird house and more. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Thursday, 4/2; 6:30pm

Battle of the Birds, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for a good-natured discussion and debate about the finalists in Crabtree's Annual Tournament of Winter Birds. Participants can advocate for their favorites and may the best bird win. *Registration required. Ages 16 and up. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Friday, 4/3; 8am

Amphibian Outing, Spears Woods, Willow Springs

Patrons can enjoy a walk and search for amphibians during their most active time of year. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Friday, 4/3; 4pm—8pm

Celebrate Jane Goodall's Birthday with 'GoodAllDay', Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland

Enjoy a day of service honoring the legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall. Then, join us for hotdogs and s'mores by the campfire. *This program is presented with 'GoodAllDay'. For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 4/4; 10am—12pm

Zoo Adventure Passport: Conservation Science Adventures, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Participants can explore through play-based learning, nature crafts and discovery. *This program is presented with Brookfield Zoo Chicago through their Zoo Adventure Passport program also known as ZAP. For more information, please call (708) 366-6530 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 4/4; 1pm

The Science of Clouds Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Patrons can learn about how water vapor forms clouds with an indoor presentation and a short walk. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 4/4; 1pm—3pm

Paper Making Workshop, Evans Field, River Grove

Participants can learn how to make paper with recycled materials. *Supplies will be provided. This program will be held outdoors around a fire. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Tuesday, 4/7; 6:30pm—8:30pm

Little Red Rocks, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join us for our open-mic night. Participants can share or enjoy music and poetry as the sunsets. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Wednesday, 4/8; 1pm

Everyone in Nature, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join a sensory class where individuals with disabilities and homeschoolers can learn about nature. *Participants must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 4/9; 11am & 2 pm

Spring Ephemerals, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Patrons can learn about spring's earliest blooms on a short, guided walk. *For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Friday, 4/10; 11am—1pm

Crafternoon, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Participants can be inspired by nature and create different arts and crafts. *This program is suitable for people of all abilities. For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

Friday, 4/10; 7pm

Woodcock Watch, Country Lane Woods, Willow Springs

Participants can witness the magical courtship display of the male woodcock. *Registration required. Participants must bring binoculars. Please call lease call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 4/11;10am—12pm

Woodworking with Invasives, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Patrons can learn about how to repurpose common European buckthorn into something new. *Registration required. Equipment will be provided. Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 4/11; 1pm

Signs of Spring Walk, Palos Park Woods-North, Palos Park

Participants can look for blooming wildflowers, listen to animals, and take in the smells of spring's arrival. *This walk will be 3.4-miles. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 4/11 through Sunday, 4/12; 5pm

Camping Leadership Immersion Course, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Participants can learn essential camping skills through this overnight training course. Once the course is completed, then patrons can bring groups of up to 30 people for overnight stays. *Registration required. Training will be required to access camping gear. The cost is \$25 per person. Please visit the website.*

Sunday, 4/12; 11am

GPS Scavenger Hunt, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Participants can learn about and participate in a technology-inspired scavenger hunt. *Registration required. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 4/12; 11am—2pm

Arab American Heritage Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Patrons can experience art making, cultural showcases, and more while honoring Arab American culture and contributions. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Sunday, 4/12; 12:30pm & 2 pm

GPS Scavenger Hunt, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Participants can learn about and participate in a technology-inspired scavenger hunt. *Registration required. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Sunday, 4/12; 1pm

Plant Appreciation Day: The Under-appreciated Plants, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Participants can investigate some of the underappreciated gems that call Sagawau home on a short walk. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 4/12; 1pm—3pm

Trailside Bluegrass Jam, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Patrons are welcome to play an instrument or listen to music. You can build a simple instrument with us or bring your own guitar, fiddle, etc. *For more information, please call (708) 366-6530.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and file 26-0154. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

26-0129

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SPRING LAKE

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 16, Township 42 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Poplar Creek Land and Water Reserve in District 15.

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: 324 Sutton Road #A, Barrington Hills, Cook County, Illinois

PIN: 01-16-100-008-0000

PARCEL 1:

THE WEST ½ OF THE SOUTH 330 FEET OF THE NORTH 346.50 FEET OF THE WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL 1 AS CREATED BY DEED FROM THE KIMBERLY CORPORATION, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS, TO EGBERT S. MARSH AND HARRIET L. MARSH, HIS WIFE, DATED APRIL 30, 1955, AND RECORDED MAY 4, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16 225 025 AND CONTAINED IN AGREEMENT RECORDED DECEMBER 3, 1956, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16 770 031 FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER:

THE SOUTH 19 FEET OF THE NORTH 355.50 FEET OF THE EAST 750 FEET OF SAID WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ ALSO OVER THAT PART OF SAID WEST ½ WHICH FALLS WITHIN A CIRCLE HAVING A RADIUS OF 50 FEET THE CENTER POINT OF WHICH IS 750 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST ½ AND 346.50 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF SAID WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ OF SECTION 16 (EXCEPT THAT PART FALLING IN PARCEL 1) IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 219,542 SQUARE FEET, OR 5.04 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 15

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve 26-0129. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0130

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): John R. Napolitano (Owner of Record)

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase, subject to retention of a life estate by the Owner of Record, be approved.

Description of Real Estate: 324 Sutton Road #A, Barrington Hills, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): 01-16-100-008-0000

PARCEL 1:

THE WEST ½ OF THE SOUTH 330 FEET OF THE NORTH 346.50 FEET OF THE WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 42 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL 1 AS CREATED BY DEED FROM THE KIMBERLY CORPORATION, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS, TO EGBERT S. MARSH AND HARRIET L. MARSH, HIS WIFE, DATED APRIL 30, 1955, AND RECORDED MAY 4, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16 225 025 AND CONTAINED IN AGREEMENT RECORDED DECEMBER 3, 1956, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16 770 031 FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER:

THE SOUTH 19 FEET OF THE NORTH 355.50 FEET OF THE EAST 750 FEET OF SAID WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ ALSO OVER THAT PART OF SAID WEST ½ WHICH FALLS WITHIN A CIRCLE HAVING A RADIUS OF 50 FEET THE CENTER POINT OF WHICH IS 750 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST ½ AND 346.50 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF SAID WEST ½ OF THE NORTH WEST ¼ OF SECTION 16 (EXCEPT THAT PART FALLING IN PARCEL 1) IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 219,542 SQUARE FEET, OR 5.04 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$520,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$530,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

District(s): 15

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 Spring Lake (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 324 Sutton Road # A, Barrington Hills, Cook County, Illinois consists of approximately 5.04 ± acres. The Property is an infill parcel directly adjacent to current holdings in an 1007-acre section of Spring Creek forest preserve and will expand habitat and provide a buffer from impacts from neighboring properties. The Property will be acquired with a reserved life estate.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$520,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$530,000.00 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.

Seller shall retain a life estate in the Property for the duration of the Seller’s natural life and shall have the exclusive right to occupy, use and enjoy the Property for the Seller’s lifetime, as long as Seller resides on the Property. Seller shall remain responsible for routine maintenance, utilities, and property taxes during the life estate, as well as maintaining proper insurance. Seller shall not commit waste or make substantial alterations without the Forest Preserves’ consent. The life estate shall terminate automatically upon death or change of residence of Seller and the Forest Preserves shall obtain full possession and fee simple title without further consideration.

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 Moore, to approve 26-0130. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0131

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR POPLAR CREEK LAND AND WATER RESERVE

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Poplar Creek Land and Water Reserve in District 15.

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: 59 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood, Cook County, Illinois and 253 Sutton Road, Unincorporated Hanover Township, Cook County, Illinois

PINS: 06-15-300-021-0000, 06-15-300-011-0000, 06-15-301-017-0000

THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 15 AFORESAID THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 34 MINUTES EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 742.5 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 1316.5 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 44 MINUTES WEST, 14.50 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 660.0 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 44 MINUTES WEST 198.0 FEET, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20 MINUTES EAST 3.91 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREES 05 MINUTES WEST, 528.0 FEET TO A POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, THENCE WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 1975.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WEST OF THE CENTER LINE OF STATE ROUTE 59, BEING SITUATED IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

AND:

PARCEL 1:

THE SOUTH 3 ACRES OF THE NORTH 19 ACRES OF LOT 8 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED JULY 1, 1848 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207, IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144 AND DEPOSITED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

THAT PART OF LOT 6 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 1, 1848 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207 IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144, LYING EASTERLY OF THE EASTERLY LINE OF THE STATE ROUTE 59, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF DEDICATION THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 22, 1932, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 11143392, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 3:

THAT PART OF LOT 8 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED JULY 1, 1949 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207 IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144 AND DEPOSITED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, LYING SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 19 ACRES OF SAID LOT 8 AND LYING NORTH OF A STRAIGHT LINE DRAWN FROM THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF LOT 6 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, AFORESAID, TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 8, 742.56 FEET, AS MEASURED ALONG SAID EAST LINE, NORTH OF THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 8, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 1,218,808 SQUARE FEET, OR 27.98 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 15

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve 26-0131. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0132

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): 59 and Schaumburg Road, LLC (Owner of Record)

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

Description of Real Estate: 59 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood, Cook County, Illinois and 253 Sutton Road, Unincorporated Hanover Township, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): 06-15-300-021-0000, 06-15-300-011-0000, 06-15-301-017-0000

THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST ¼ OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 15 AFORESAID THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 34 MINUTES EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 742.5 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 1316.5 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 44 MINUTES WEST, 14.50 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 660.0 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 44 MINUTES WEST 198.0 FEET, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20 MINUTES EAST 3.91 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREES 05 MINUTES WEST, 528.0 FEET TO A POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, THENCE WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 1975.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WEST OF THE CENTER LINE OF STATE ROUTE 59, BEING SITUATED IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

AND:

PARCEL 1:

THE SOUTH 3 ACRES OF THE NORTH 19 ACRES OF LOT 8 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED JULY 1, 1848 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207, IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144 AND DEPOSITED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

THAT PART OF LOT 6 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 1, 1848 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207 IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144, LYING EASTERLY OF THE EASTERLY LINE OF THE STATE ROUTE 59, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF DEDICATION THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 22, 1932, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 11143392, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 3:

THAT PART OF LOT 8 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED JULY 1, 1949 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207 IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144 AND DEPOSITED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, LYING SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 19 ACRES OF SAID LOT 8 AND LYING NORTH OF A STRAIGHT LINE DRAWN FROM THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF LOT 6 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, AFORESAID, TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 8, 742.56 FEET, AS MEASURED ALONG SAID EAST LINE, NORTH OF THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 8, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 1,218,808 SQUARE FEET, OR 27.98 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$5,650,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$5,660,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

District(s): 15

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified several parcels of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Poplar Creek Land and Water Reserve (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 59 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood, Cook County, Illinois and 253 Sutton Road, Unincorporated Hanover Township, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 27.98 ± acres. The Property has remnant oak-hickory woodland. Protection of this parcel will keep habitat adjacent to 765-acre Schaumburg Road Grassland to the west.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,650,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$5,660,000.00 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 Moore, to approve 26-0132. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0156

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 3/10/2026

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:	\$62,793.31
Legal Fees for 3/10/2026 to Be Approved:	\$34,429.65

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0156. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0157

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 3/10/2026

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:	\$0.00
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:	\$17,450.00

26-0026

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 - 1/31/2026

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (14)

Nayes: Aguilar (1)

Absent: Miller and Morrison (2)

26-0163

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 02/03/2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 26-0163. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

NEW ITEMS AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to suspend the rules. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

26-0189

Presented by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT IDNR GRANT

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) applied for a Fiscal Year 2024 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”) requesting \$1,150,000 in federal funds to support the acquisition of three (3) properties totaling 25 acres at 338, 339 and 340 Old Sutton Road in Barrington Hills in northwest Cook County, Illinois; and WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves submitted its application in September 2023 along with a waiver of retroactivity, as the parcels were to be acquired before the anticipated 2025 grant announcement; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves acquired the properties in 2024, as authorized by the Board of Commissioners on January 23, 2024, via Board Item Nos. 23-0596, 23-0598, and 23-0600 for a total approved not-to-exceed amount of \$2,293,500; and

WHEREAS, the addition of these properties buffer and expand the Spring Creek Forest Preserve, a forest preserve system with more than 45 miles of winding unpaved trails that are visited and enjoyed by thousands of people each year and that provide important habitat for countless pollinators, birds, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS IDNR has notified the Forest Preserves its Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal has been approved and the Forest Preserves is eligible to receive reimbursement of up to \$1,150,000 in acquisition costs; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves requests authorization to enter into a grant agreement with IDNR to accept the Land and Water Conservation Fund award and associated reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, IDNR is expected to provide the Forest Preserves with the necessary grant agreement and require its expedited execution within the month of March 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves' will use its best judgment to negotiate the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, subject to the General Superintendent's approval of the final agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the President to execute the above-referenced grant agreement with IDNR to accept reimbursement of the above-referenced funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisitions totaling 25 acres.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves will report back to the Board of Commissioners by June 2026 regarding the terms and conditions of any such grant agreement if so executed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 26-0189. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Moore, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (15)

Absent: Miller (1)

Excused Absence: K. Morrison (1)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne M. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'M'.

Secretary

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