



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

**Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners**

**10:00 AM**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

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

**Present:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**26-0229**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF THERESA ODUM**

**WHEREAS**, on February 17, 1991, Theresa Odum was sworn in as a Patrol Officer for the Chicago Police Department and over the next 26 years moved up the ranks from Patrol Officer to Sergeant; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, Theresa Odum worked as a State's Attorney Investigator, assigned to Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's Security Detail; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, Theresa Odum worked as Chief of the Security Detail for Toni Preckwinkle, President of Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, Theresa Odum also became Interim Chief of Police of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Department of Law Enforcement, and in 2021 was appointed to the position of Chief of Police; and

**WHEREAS**, as Chief of Police, Theresa Odum was responsible for a staff of over 120 members of all ranks for sworn and civilian employees, including President Preckwinkle's Security Detail; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Odum led years-long effort to implement initiatives to move the department closer to becoming a Model Forest Preserves Police Agency. These initiatives included, but were not limited to, updated Forest Preserves Police policies and procedures, and mandatory training. Under Chief Odum's leadership, the department placed renewed emphasis on policy development, data-driven decision-making, transparency, and the organizational structures necessary to support best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Odum was instrumental in modernizing departmental resources and advancing community-focused initiatives. She led efforts to acquire unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), new ATVs, UTVs, bicycles, and police vehicles, significantly enhancing operational capabilities. Additionally, she initiated the implementation of a records management system (RMS) to improve efficiency and data management; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond equipment and technology, Chief Odum championed officer wellness by establishing a Peer Support Program to promote mental health awareness and coordinating debriefings following traumatic incidents. She also fostered collaboration with the Cook County Sheriff's Office to implement the Treatment Response Team (TRT), addressing mental health needs within the preserves, and supported outreach efforts such as providing care packages for unhoused individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her tenure, Chief Odum helped build a culture of trust between the Forest Preserves Police, internal employees and patrons visiting the preserves. In an annual survey conducted by Penn & Associates, visitors to the preserves are asked to rate police based on their knowledge, professionalism, and whether they are easy to approach, helpful and friendly. Customers consistently give very positive ratings to the Forest Preserves Police; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the Forest Preserves' mission to protect natural resources, Chief Odum supported the unique role of Forest Preserves police to safeguard nature, wildlife, habitats, and sensitive ecological areas. Her leadership supported the department's unique role as both a public-safety agency and a steward of the Forest Preserves' natural landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, after thirty-five (35) years of honorable public service, on April 30, 2026, Theresa Odum will retire as the Chief of Police for the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President Toni Preckwinkle, along with the members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby thank Theresa Odum on a long career of public service and thank her for her many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Theresa Odum in recognition of her career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and her commitment to public service.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0229. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 22, 2026 AS EARTH DAY FOR THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day was first established in 1970 as a way to recognize the environmental disasters faced by communities throughout the United States, including oil spills, power plants, toxic dumps, pesticides, the extinction of wildlife, and the loss of wilderness; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the 1960's and 1970's, environmental awareness increased due to declining air and water quality, increased knowledge about Earth's finite resources, and increasing popularity in environmental publications showcasing the consequences of environmental disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Gaylord Nelson, a junior Senator from Wisconsin, was concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Nelson, together with a young activist named Denis Hayes, organized a series of teach-ins on April 22, 1970, on college campuses, which utilized economics, science, community organizing, ethics, and spirituality to promote environmental education; and

**WHEREAS**, the teach-ins inspired 20 million Americans at the time (about 10% of the population) to take to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to rally against the impacts of 150 years of industrial petroleum and electricity development, large-scale manufacturing of goods, and increased urbanization, which left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, following the momentum of Earth Day on April 22, 1970, President Richard Nixon delivered a presentation on the environment, created the Council of Environmental Quality, and consequently sent Congress a plan to consolidate many environmental responsibilities of the federal government under the newly created Environmental Protection Agency, established on December 2, 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, in the following years, under guidance of the Environmental Protection Agency, Congress passed several landmark pieces of environmental legislation, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Education Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and

**WHEREAS**, these laws have protected millions of people from disease and death and have protected hundreds of species from extinction; and

**WHEREAS**, while legislative and societal progress has been successful, low-income communities and communities of color continue to bear the disproportionate impact of environmental harms, impacting health, safety, and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color have contributed greatly to the environmental movement, as activists have propelled forward environmental justice initiatives, including the creation of new sustainable agriculture techniques, fighting for clean air and water, and shaping our relationship with nature through shared tradition and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County hosts free programming on Earth Day and year-round to encourage the celebration and protection of nature, including the annual Trash Bash, Plant Appreciation Day, and seven upcoming Earth Day celebrations across the preserves, including a bike ride, tapestry making, litter clean up, restoration, and more.

**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, recognizes Monday, April 22, 2026, as Earth Day and uses this opportunity to promote sustainability through conversation, action, and commitment in making our world a better place.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0235. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

#### **26-0245**

**Sponsored by:** FRANK J. AGUILAR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND VOLUNTEERS**

**WHEREAS**, Brookfield Zoo Chicago is the largest zoo in the Chicago metropolitan area, spanning over 235 acres and housing over 500 different species of animals; and

**WHEREAS**, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, founded in 1934, is located on land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Zoo is to inspire conservation leadership by connecting people to wildlife and nature; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1972, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Adult Volunteer Program has aimed to build a strong community of conservation leaders and advocates for wildlife and nature; and

**WHEREAS**, every day, the Zoo's more than 260 volunteers provide critical programmatic support across the following areas: interpretation, special events, animal observations, archival projects, and office and administrative work; and

**WHEREAS**, in a typical year, Zoo volunteers provide more than \$780,000 of in-kind support; and

**WHEREAS**, some members of the Zoo's Adult Volunteer Program have remained active for over 40 years, with volunteer Joan Canchola reaching a milestone anniversary of 50 years in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2026, Brookfield Zoo Chicago will welcome more than 50 new volunteers to the program, further strengthening this community of conservation leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoo's volunteer opportunities begin at the high school level with the King Conservation Science Scholars Program, providing an interactive college and career readiness experience; This adaptable, skill-building program prepares high school students to be change-makers through conservation workshops, immersive experiences, and public engagement opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Brookfield Zoo Chicago strives to offer accessible volunteer opportunities to people of all backgrounds and abilities, providing accommodations to ensure broad community participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Brookfield Zoo Chicago has made a tremendous impact to Cook County and has provided a place for residents and visitors to explore and learn about animals, wildlife, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of Brookfield Zoo Chicago's leadership, employees, and volunteers should be recognized; and

**WHEREAS**, April 19-25, 2026 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, do hereby recognize Brookfield Zoo Chicago and its volunteer program in April of 2026.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0245. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

#### **1. George Blakemore**

**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 K. Morrison, to defer 26-0118. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**COMMISSIONERS**

**26-0197**

**Sponsored by:** JOSINA MORITA, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

**Department:** Department of Landscape Maintenance

**Other Part(ies):** City of Evanston, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") with the City of Evanston.

**Goods or Services:** Refuse collection services at Perkins Woods by the City of Evanston's Public Works Department.

**Agreement Number(s):** N/A

**Agreement Period:** Five (5) years from the date of execution with an option to extend at the discretion of the General Superintendent for one (1) additional five-year renewal term.

**Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$4,073.68, FY 2027 \$4,236.63, FY 2028 \$4,406.10, FY 2029 \$4,582.34, FY 2030 \$4,765.63. Optional years - FY 2031 \$4,956.25, FY 2032 \$5,154.50, FY 2033 \$5,360.68, FY 2034 \$5,575.11, FY 2035 5,798.11

**Accounts:** Refuse and Disposal 51001.520050

**District(s):** 13

**Summary:** Under this proposed IGA, the City of Evanston's Public Works Department would provide refuse collection services at Perkins Woods in exchange for a small annual fee to be paid by the Forest Preserves. The Forest Preserves would remain responsible for the purchase, installation, and supervision of the waste receptacles, which would be similar to those receptacles used throughout Evanston. However, eliminating Perkins Woods from the waste collection route for North Branch Landscape Maintenance staff would substantially reduce the amount of travel time and labor for two (2) to three (3) employees per month, saving the district money and reducing fuel emissions.

The cumulative contract value is \$22,064.36 for the initial five-year term, and \$48,909.04 over ten (10) years, if the Forest Preserves exercises the optional five-year renewal. The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. The final IGA is subject to legal review and approval.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0197. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

### **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

**26-0195**

**Presented by:** HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

### **REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the County Auditor

**Request:** Refer to Audit Committee

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

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

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

as intended.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to refer 26-0195 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

## **26-0140**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

### **EASEMENT REQUEST**

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

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

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

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

**Tree Mitigation Fee:** \$21,990.66



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

**District(s):** 5

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to refer 26-0140 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0142**

**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 easement to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) at Willow Road and Hibbard Road in Winnetka, Illinois of 0.073 acres (3,172 square feet) for road improvements. Construction is expected to require removal of only one (1) smaller tree. IDOT has agreed to pay easement fees. Staff recommends that the tree mitigation fee be waived due to minimal tree impact.

**Reason:** IDOT is seeking a small permanent easement for a road improvement project at the intersection of Willow Road and Hibbard Road. An existing sidewalk on the south side of Willow Road has been located on Forest Preserve land for many years and will be reconstructed as part of this project. There are no records of license or easement allowing the existing sidewalk, traffic light or mechanical box to be located on Forest Preserve land. IDOT, in coordination with the Village of Winnetka, is seeking to formalize the right to locate such improvements on Forest Preserves’ land through the grant of a permanent easement. The planned improvements include a new right-turn lane for southbound Hibbard Road, updated traffic signals, and ADA-compliant sidewalk ramp upgrades. The area for the proposed easement is already impacted by the existing sidewalk and traffic signal equipment. The Department of Resource Management has reviewed and has no concerns.

The area for the permanent easement is 0.073 acres (3,172 square feet). Although staff initially believed that two trees might be impacted, IDOT clarified that only one small tree is expected to be removed for this project.

**Easement Fee:** \$113,000.00

**Tree Mitigation Fee:** \$1,064.30 (waived). Smaller existing trees at the corner of the intersection that may need to be removed would be within the road right-of-way following transfer of the easement.

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

**District(s):** 14

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0142. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0194**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

### **PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to amend its Partnership Agreement with the Chicago Horticultural Society, Glencoe, Illinois.

**Reason:** The Forest Preserves seeks to increase the spending authority under its Partnership Agreement with the Chicago Horticultural Society, which operates the Chicago Botanic Garden (the “Garden”), in order to staff native plant Nursery Manager and Nursery Technician positions through the Garden for an additional year. These positions were recruited, hired, and trained by the Garden to assist with the launch of the Forest Preserves’ in-house seed amplification program through the development of seed beds, greenhouse infrastructure, and protocol for seed collection and propagation. These positions were originally funded for an initial two-year period beginning in mid-2024. The Forest Preserves now requests an additional year of financial support (not to exceed \$191,360) to ensure continuity in nursery operations during peak growing season while permanent Forest Preserves staff are hired and trained.

Cultivating native seeds and plants from local populations is critical to the resilience of ecological restoration efforts throughout the preserves by ensuring that native plants are genetically adapted to our local habitats. With the support of these positions, native seed production among the Forest Preserves’ central nursery and a network of raised seed beds and wild seed gardens has quadrupled, and over one hundred (100) species are presently in cultivation. To date, over 33,000 plant plugs have been installed in Forest Preserve restoration sites. The Garden is a recognized global leader at the forefront of research on floristic genetics and species diversity for landscape restoration efforts throughout the upper Midwest.

The original Partnership Agreement (Board Item 24-0132), allocated funding to support the Nursery Manager and Technician positions as well as the Garden’s Stewardship and Ecology of Natural Areas (“SENA”) internship program. The total costs of the Partnership Agreement, including funding under this proposed amendment, are not to exceed \$624,160.00.

**Contract Period:** 3/21/2024 - 12/31/2027

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** Not to exceed \$432,800.00 (\$332,800.00 for the seed amplification program and \$100,000.00 for SENA internship program).

**This Increase Requested:** Not to exceed \$191,360.00.

**Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$203,880.00, FY 2027 \$120,680.00 (totals include unexpended SENA internship program costs, other previously approved but unspent costs, and the requested additional funding).

**Account(s):** Professional Services 51030.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 1010.521444; and all future Professional Services accounts.

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0194. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0019**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (“CCDOTH”)

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant

**Purpose:** Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept and enter into an agreement with CCDOTH for Invest in Cook grant funding for Phase II Design Engineering for the South Connections of the Des Plaines / Salt Creek Trail that runs through Lyons, Brookfield, Riverside, and North Riverside, Illinois in Cook County.

**Grant Amount:** \$217,900.00

**Grant Period:** 4/14/2026 - 11/30/2029

**Fiscal Impact:** \$217,900 required match (2026)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830, 51036.520830, 51037.520830 and future Construction and Development accounts

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

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has been awarded an Invest in Cook grant from CCDOTH that will support the development of phase II design engineering that will address gaps in the Des Plaines/Salt Creek Trail system. These gaps include: (1) a 0.85-mile segment between Parkview Road and Ogden Avenue, and (2) a 0.59-mile segment between Millbridge Road and Ogden Avenue. (*See map exhibit*). Addressing these gaps will improve user safety and enjoyment, enhance alternative transportation experiences, ensure that trail users can experience natural surroundings, and strengthen connections with the Village of Brookfield, Lyons, Riverside, and North Riverside.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0200**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

## **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Landscape Maintenance

**Vendor:** Arlington Power Equipment, Inc., Palatine, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Purchase of Exmark wide-area mowers, outdoor power equipment, parts, and supplies

**Contract Value:** Not to Exceed \$600,000.00

**Contract Period:** 4/14/2026 - 5/14/2027

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$276,880.00, FY 2027 \$323,120.00

**Accounts:** Operations and Maintenance 51037.540350

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017997

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to

legal  
review and approval.

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves seeks authority to purchase mowers, power equipment, parts, and supplies from Arlington Power, based on Omnia Partners Contract #20469 with Exmark Manufacturing Company, Inc. The Landscape Maintenance Department would like to purchase four (4) Exmark 144-inch-wide zero-turn mowers, power equipment, and parts in 2026, with the ability to purchase more in 2027 as the budget allows. These highly maneuverable, wide-area mowers will significantly increase operational efficiency by allowing staff to maintain large open grassy areas across the Forest Preserves in substantially less time. Arlington Power Equipment, Inc., a local authorized Exmark dealer, supplies tractors, mowers, outdoor equipment, parts, and supplies.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0200. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

#### **26-0201**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Landscape Maintenance

**Vendor:** Mowerworks, Ltd., D/B/A Gravely of Chicago (“Mowerworks”), Barrington, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Purchase of Stihl electric mowers, power equipment, and parts

**Contract Value:** Not To Exceed \$1,500,000.00

**Contract Period:** 4/14/2026 - 1/31/2029 with three (3) one-year renewal options at the discretion of the General Superintendent and subject to extension of the underlying contract

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$446,400.00, FY 2027 \$175,600.00, FY 2028 \$175,600.00, FY 2029 \$175,600.00, FY 2030 \$175,600.00, FY 2031 \$175,600.00, FY 2032 \$175,600.00

**Accounts:** Operations and Maintenance 51037.540350 and all future Operations and Maintenance accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017998

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval. Piggyback contract based on a Sourcewell Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves seeks authority to contract with Mowerworks, based on Sourcewell Contract #112624-STIHL with Stihl, Inc., for the purchase of Stihl electric mowers, power equipment, parts, and supplies. The Landscape Maintenance Department would like to purchase eighteen (18) Stihl battery-powered electric riding mowers, power equipment, and parts in 2026, with the ability to purchase additional electric mowers in 2027 and 2028 as the budget allows. The purchase of these zero-emission mowers will enhance mowing operations while reducing operational emissions and supporting progress toward the emissions-reduction targets articulated in the Forest Preserves' Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan. Mowerworks is an authorized local dealer of Stihl Inc., selling grounds maintenance equipment and related attachments...end

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0201. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0188**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Resource Management

**Vendor:** Friends of the Forest Preserves, Inc. Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Forest Preserves Experience Program

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024; 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2026 (Board Approved)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** N/A

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$1,355,894.00

**Original Approval:** 12/13/2022, \$1,170,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** 11/19/2024, \$185,894.00 (fully funded by additional ARPA grant funding)

**This Increase Requested:** Not to exceed \$180,000.00 (anticipated to be fully funded by additional ARPA grant funding)

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$50,000.00 (unexpended contingency, per original approval)

**Accounts:** ARPA Conservation Corps 51032.521444; Professional Services 51037.520840; and all future Professional Services accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000011530 issued under RFP #22-31-116

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

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On December 13, 2022, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved the award of contracts for Conservation Corps service providers (Board Item Nos. 22-0524, 22-0525, and 22-0526) to provide job training and employment programs using grant funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”). The contracts were subsequently amended in 2024 per Board Item No. 24-0472 to extend each contract and increase the authority awarded to each vendor due to the allocation of additional ARPA funds. These programs were solicited via a public Request for Proposal (RFP) process in 2022.

The Forest Preserves Experience program is a summer youth employment program that provides conservation and job skills training to high-school youth, ages fifteen (15) to nineteen (19), from south and west suburban Cook County whose families are clients of the Housing Authority of Cook County. In 2026, the program is expected to engage approximately ninety-six (96) youth participants in hands-on conservation activities, such as invasive species removal, shoreline clean-up along the Forest Preserves’ many lakes and waterways, and other stewardship projects throughout the Forest Preserves. Participants will gain environmental awareness and basic job skills training supplemented by hands-on nature-based enrichment activities. The program promotes enjoyment and appreciation for nature and teaches participants how healthy forest preserves contribute to their community and quality of life.

Total program costs, including this additional allocation of ARPA funds, are not to exceed \$1,535,894.00, of which the Forest Preserves previously requested and was granted authority to add up to \$50,000.00 of direct match to allow for additional flexibility, if needed. The Forest Preserves has a separate non-ARPA funded agreement for the same program (Board Item No. 23-0603). Conservation Corps programs advance the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan by mobilizing people to heal and nurture the lands through a paid conservation corps model.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0188. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0202**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Office of the General Superintendent

**Vendor:** Various Vendors in Facilitation and Management Coaching Pool

**Contract No. Vendor Name**

#74000012813 Critical Thinking Partners, LLC, Chicago, IL

#74000012814 Daylight L3C, Chicago, IL

#74000012815 KS Goins and Associates, LLC, Plainfield, IL

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend all three (3) of these contracts

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Facilitation and management coaching

**Original Contract Period:** 6/1/2023 - 5/31/2026

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 6/1/2026 - 5/31/2027

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** Not to Exceed a combined total of \$450,000.00 (\$150,000.00 for each vendor in pool).

**Original Approval:** 6/1/2023, \$450,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** N/A

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$189,534.00, FY 2027 \$189,534.00 (using funds remaining on contracts)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000012813, #74000012814, #74000012815

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendments are subject to legal review and approval.



The Minority- and Women-Owned Business goals are not applicable to these amendments because no goals were set on the original agreements and the amendments have no increased fiscal impact.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Authorization is requested to extend the contract time period for Critical Thinking Partners, LLC, Daylight L3C, and KS Goins and Associates, LLC, to allow for the continued use of their services, including, without limitation, meeting and workshop facilitation, executive coaching, and management training for staff. The proposed amendments do not increase the contract amounts. The contracts were originally awarded through the Forest Preserves' Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. In its review and evaluation of all qualifications received, the Forest Preserves selected these vendors and one additional vendor. The vendors were each awarded a thirty-six (36) month contract not to exceed \$150,000.00. The Forest Preserves requests a one-year extension of these contracts for three (3) of the four (4) vendors. A new request for proposals/qualifications for similar services may be issued in early 2027.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0202. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0207**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

### **PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Landscape Maintenance

**Vendor:** Red Wing Brands of America, Inc., Red Wing, Minnesota

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Protective footwear

**Original Contract Period:** 2/21/2023 - 2/20/2026

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 2/21/2026 (retroactive) - 9/28/2027; with one (1) five-year renewal option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent pending extension of the underlying GSA contract

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$75,000.00

**Original Approval:** \$75,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** \$350,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$50,000.00, FY 2027 \$50,000.00, FY 2028 \$50,000.00, FY 2029 \$50,000.00, FY 2030 \$50,000.00, FY 2031 \$50,000.00, FY 2032 \$50,000.00

**Accounts:** Wearing Apparel 51001.530110; Institutional Supplies 51001.530252

**Contract Number(s):** #74000011938 (GSA Contract No. 47QSWA22D00AB)

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

Piggyback contract based on Cooperative/Comparative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Per applicable collective bargaining agreements, the Forest Preserves covers all or part of the cost of safety footwear for full-time and seasonal employees. The Forest Preserves seeks to extend its current agreement with the vendor for the provision of safety footwear for employees. The current agreement is based on GSA Contract #47QSWA22D00AB with Red Wing Brands of America, Inc. The Forest Preserves has used this vendor since at least 2018.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0207. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0028**

**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:** 2/1/2026 - 2/28/2026

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of February 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 K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0028. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0187**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Vehicle Steering Committee Annual Report

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

**Summary:** This report is required per Section 1-14-1 (Districtwide Vehicle Steering Committee) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances. The report addresses changes to the District owned vehicle inventory for fiscal year 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0187. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0205**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Workers' Compensation Report - February 2026

**Report Period:** 2/1/2026 - 2/28/2026

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of February 2026. Payments total \$107,459.69 for February 2026.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0205. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0208**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

## **REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Land Use Request Report 2025

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

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves' Code of Ordinances (Section 2-5-11.B.) requires the Forest Preserves' General Superintendent to submit a list of rejected proposals for conveyance, license or easement to the Forest Preserves' Board of Commissioners. The enclosed report is the annual report.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0208. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0196**

**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 4/14/2026 - 5/4/2026

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

**Tuesday, 4/14; 10am—12pm**

**Sensory Play Day, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can engage in activities that stimulate all five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Tuesday, 4/14; 7pm**

**Woodcocks at Dusk, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Patrons can enjoy the spectacle of woodcocks' courtship behavior. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

**Tuesday, 4/14; 8:30pm**

**Look up at the Sky Day, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us and celebrate International Dark Sky Week. Participants can pause, admire the beauty of the sky, and reconnect with nature's quiet wonder. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Tuesday, 4/14; 10am—2pm**

**Earth Day Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Patrons can celebrate Earth's biodiversity through stewardship, art, and educational activities. *There will be a free plant giveaway. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Tuesday, 4/14; 12pm—3pm**

**Earth Day Nature Play, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can celebrate Earth Day with fun nature activities which include designing an upcycled toy planter, creating art using natural materials, and enjoying outdoor exploration. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Thursday, 4/16; 10am—12pm**

**Wellness Practice 101, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Participants can calm their senses and de-stress their body to ease yourself into a state of pure relaxation. *Registration required. Ages 16 and up. This program is led by Kim Eisendrath, yoga and wellness instructor. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 4/16; 5:30pm**

**Camping 101, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

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.*

**Thursday, 4/16; 7pm**

**Women's Night Out: New Moon Empowerment, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for an evening designed to empower, connect and inspire. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. The cost is \$10 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Saturday, 4/18; 8am**

**Earth Day Bike Ride, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights**

Join us for a 5-mile bike ride around Sauk Trail Woods followed by snacks. *Patrons must bring their own bike and helmet. For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 4/18; 10am—12pm**

**Earth Day: Trashy Tapestries, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Patrons can learn about circular art and participate in hand-weaving rubbish ribbons on a four-sided Loom360. *This program is presented with Nowhere Collective. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 4/18; 10am—12pm**

**Earth Day, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Celebrate the Earth with the kids, family, and Scout Troops! Participants can help us pick up litter, make bird feeders, take home a tree to plant, pick up litter, enjoy a wildflower walk and create art with recycled materials. *Students can earn service-learning hours. For more information, please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Saturday, 4/18; 10am—12pm**

**Earth Day: Day of Stewardship, Evans Field, River Grove**

Join us for a litter clean-up and restoration workday. *Ages 13 and up. Ages 13-14 must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies and equipment will be provided. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 4/18; 10am—1pm**

**Earth Day Celebration, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights**

Participants can enjoy a vibrant celebration of planet Earth. This event is designed to inspire a love for nature and a sense of environmental stewardship in people of all ages. The activities include craftmaking using eco-friendly materials and interactive educational games that teach about wildlife. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 4/19; 12pm—2pm**

**Earth Day Craft, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Celebrate the 55th anniversary of Earth Day by creating water-color inspired craft using coffee filters and markers. *Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Wednesday, 4/22; 9:30am—11:30am**

**Earth Day of Service, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Patrons can improve the ecosystem and health of Forest Preserves by participating in ecological restoration. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Individuals and groups are welcomed. Please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

**Wednesday, 4/22; 3pm—5pm**

**Earth Day Cleanup, Jerome Huppert Woods, River Grove**

Patrons can celebrate Earth Day by helping clean up litter in the Forest Preserves. *Supplies and equipment will be provided. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Wednesday, 4/22; 7pm**

**Nature at Night, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us for a special Earth Day evening program to explore the world of nature after sunset. *Registration required. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Thursday, 4/23; 5pm**

**Spring Wildflower Walk, St. Mihiel Woods-East, Tinley Park**

Participants can enjoy a guided walk and discover the blooming Spring wildflowers, learn about their species, and relax within nature. For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.

**Thursday, 4/23; 6:15pm**

**Beautiful Sounds at Sunset, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Participants can spend time outdoors with the sounds of nature and soothing instruments around a fire. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program is led by Gail Morales, certified healing qigong, yoga instructor and sound practitioner. Participants must bring a cushion. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Saturday, 4/25: 9 am-12 pm**

**Trash Bash!, Dan Ryan Woods-Central, Chicago**

Make spring cleaning more sustainable! Our event partners will be collecting electronics, prescription drugs, household recyclables, bikes, clothing, plastic bags and much more. The Forest Preserves will be also be collecting books in good, clean condition. The first 25 donors receive a free, "Don't be Trashy" t-shirt. Grove 1.

**Saturday, 4/25; 10am**

**Kinder-explorers, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

This program will inspire children to do outdoor inquiries through stories and activities. *Ages 5-7 must be accompanied by an adult. Siblings are also welcomed. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 4/25; 11:30am-2pm**

**Day Hiking Leadership Training, Bemis Woods-North, Oak Brook**

This program provides free training and tools to take groups out to the Forest Preserves for the day. *Registration required. This program is for teachers and youth educators. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 4/25; 12pm—3pm**

**Spring Nature Camp, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Patron can learn the significance of Native American culture while participating in various activities. *Registration required. This program is presented with Trickster Cultural Center. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 4/25; 1pm—3pm**

**Green Lake Gardening, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Patrons can help us restore the pollinator garden at Green Lake. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Supplies and equipment will be provided. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Sunday, 4/26; 10:30am**

**Spring Wildflower Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Participants can enjoy a guided walk and learn about spring ephemeral wildflowers and the insects that depend on them. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Sunday, 4/26; 1pm—3pm**

**Earth-a-palooza, Linne Woods, Morton Grove**

Participants can enjoy guided walks, touch-a-truck, tree climbs, crafts, and a visit from the Brookfield Zoo Chicago during this eco-friendly family fun fest. *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 4/30; 10am—1pm**

**Tiny Tot Day, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Join us and celebrate children's day in nature through movement, stories, and artmaking. *Patrons must bring their own bike and helmet. For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 5/2; 8am**

**Major Taylor Trail Bike Ride, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Patrons can enjoy a 16-mile bike ride that is round trip with flexible turning points. *This program is for bike riders of all skill levels. For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 5/2; 10am—1pm**

**Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Trivia Walk, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Patrons can enjoy a guided walk while learning about the contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders within the environmental and conservation movement. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 5/2; 12pm—3pm**

**Annual Spring Festival, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Patrons can enjoy interactive programs which include kids tree climb, guided wildflower walks, kid's nature crafts, gardening information and more. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 5/2; 1pm**

**Bienvenidos Birds, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join us for an indoor presentation and a walk to learn about the bird migratory journey from Mexico to Chicagoland area. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 5/2 through Sunday, 5/3; 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, 5/3; 12pm—2pm**

**Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Craft Series: Japanese Cherry Blossom Fan, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Patrons can celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by creating crafts inspired by different cultures. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

**Sunday, 5/3; 12pm—3pm**

**Wellness in the Woods Expo, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can discover the health benefits of nature through forest therapy, guided nature walks, yoga, music, art, and more. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 5/3; 1:30pm**

**Frog Frenzy, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Participants can learn how to dress, act, and live like a frog. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*



**Sunday, 5/3; 1:30pm**

**Insect Inspired Innovation, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Throughout history, nature has inspired all facets of human advancement. This program will focus on insects and their impact on the development of some of our latest technologies. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0196. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**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 Stamps, to approve 26-0144. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0216**

# **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 03/10/2026.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 26-0216. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0206**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a construction contract with Fabex Technologies, LLC, Chicago, Illinois for improvements at Sand Ridge Nature Center located in South Holland, Illinois.

**Reason:** Contract #7400018002 issued under Solicitation #26-80-013850 for Project # 25-80-12 Sand Ridge Nature Center Building Improvements. The work primarily includes repairs to the animal kitchen, laundry, and exterior entry. Work includes, but is not limited to: selective demolition of existing animal food prep kitchen millwork and associated fixtures; installation of custom stainless steel kitchen system, associated fixtures and epoxy flooring; installation of connections and exhaust for washer/dryer; replacement and repair of select entry canopy components, masonry restoration and replacement of existing entry doors to accommodate automatic push plate entry for accessibility; and other related work as specified in the plans and specifications.

**Bid Opening Date:** 3/4/2026

**Bid Results:**

1. Fabex Technologies, LLC, \$232,222.00\*
2. Garfield Building Maintenance, \$375,000.00

\*The cost proposal submitted was \$232,722.00, but there was a clerical error and the correct amount is \$232,222.00.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$232,222.00

**Contract Period:** Three hundred sixty (360) days from the issuance of the notice to proceed.

**Account Name/Number:** Property Maintenance & Operations 51009.560105, 51033.560105, 51034.560105, 51036.560105, 51037.560105 and any future Construction & Development accounts

**District:** 4

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

The vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0206. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0203**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 4/14/2026

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: | \$97,222.96  |
| Legal Fees for 4/14/2026 to Be Approved:         | \$102,877.86 |

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0203. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0204**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 4/14/2026

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: | \$17,450.00 |
| Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:                       | \$96,226.00 |

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 26-0204. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**26-0102**

**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 - 2/28/2026

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0102. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**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 Degnen, seconded by Commissioner S. Morrison, to receive and file 26-0161. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

**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 Moore, to approve 26-0167. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (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 Moore, to approve 26-0168. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (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 Moore, to approve 26-0169. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

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

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

**Absent:** Gainer (1)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne M. Turner". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Lynne" and last name "Turner" clearly legible, and "M." as a middle initial.

Secretary

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