



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building**

BOARD AGENDA

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 10:00 AM

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code Section 1-4-30 *Public Testimony*, public testimony will be permitted at regular and special meetings of the Board. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon at this time to deliver testimony germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes. The names of duly authorized speakers shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and the Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary to the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code Section 1-4-7 *Consent Calendar*, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Resolutions for your consideration. Any Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary to the Board.

PRESIDENT

14-0087

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2014

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County:

Section 1. That this Ordinance is and the same is hereby termed the “Ordinance for the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2014.”

Section 2. That the Committee on Finance of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Illinois, has considered the subject of the Annual Tax Levy for the year 2014, and the several sums necessary to be levied to meet the needs and requirements of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for said year and has recommended that this ordinance for the levy of taxes be adopted.

Section 3. That the Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County heretofore having approved and adopted the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the year commencing January 1, 2014, at its meeting held December 3, 2013, which ordinance was published by authority of said Board as provided by law, and which portion of said Appropriation Ordinance pertaining to Fund and Departmental Appropriations, together with marginal columns captioned “ Payable from the Tax Levy” and “Payable from sources other than the Tax Levy” where applicable, is hereinafter set forth.

Section 4. That the sum of Eighty-Six Million, Five Hundred Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy Three Dollars and No Cents (\$86,508,573), being the sum of Appropriations heretofore legally made which are to be paid from the collection of the Annual Tax Levy of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois for the Levy Year 2014 A.D. for the corporate purposes, for the construction of improvements and development of the forests and lands, for real estate acquisition, for payment for principal and interest on bonded debt, for payment for contributions to Employees’ Annuity and Benefit Fund, and for the payment of amounts to the Chicago Zoological Society and the Chicago Horticultural Society, all as adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve

District of Cook County at its meeting held December 3, 2013 and published by the authority of said Board according to law, is hereby levied on all the taxable property within said Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois for the Levy Year 2014 being composed of the specific amounts for the various purposes herein before named.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois

ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2014

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND SOURCES THEREOF ALL FUNDS

	Amount of Appropriation	Payable From the Tax Levy	Payable From Sources Other Than Tax Levy
Corporate	57,577,147	47,809,540	9,767,607
Self-Insurance	3,000,000		3,000,000
Const. & Development	2,913,540	3,000,000	(86,460)
Capital Improvements	4,000,000		4,000,000
Bond & Interest	19,932,213	15,935,863	3,996,350
PPRT Bond & Interest Abatement	(3,996,350)	(3,996,350)	
Bond & Interest Abatement	(3,312,489)	(3,312,489)	
Empl. Annuity & Benefit	3,154,808	2,839,012	315,796
Zoological	64,206,586	14,884,927	49,321,659
Botanic Garden	31,590,461	9,348,070	22,242,391
Total	179,065,916	86,508,573	92,557,343

Section 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

14-0091

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN ADOPTION OF THE NEXT CENTURY CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, one hundred years ago, visionary leaders had the foresight to create the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (hereafter the “Preserves”) in 1914 with the mission”...to acquire...and hold lands containing one or more natural forests” for the purpose of restoring and preserving these lands and for the education and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the need to refresh the 100-year old vision in honor of the Preserves’ centennial anniversary, a blue-ribbon commission of civic leaders was appointed to develop the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Preserves are one of the most important assets of Cook County and ensuring that they thrive in the coming century is critical to the success of our entire region; and

WHEREAS, the Next Century Plan Commission was assisted by Metropolis Strategies and Openlands, and working closely with, key stakeholders, content experts, conservation advisors, and Preserves staff, created the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Next Century Conservation Plan's vision states that the people of Cook County will celebrate and nurture our thriving woodlands, prairies and waters as world-class treasures that sustain our great metropolis; and

WHEREAS, the Next Century Conservation Plan sets goals and priorities to be implemented over the next 25-years; and

WHEREAS, the Next Century Conservation Plan calls for transforming the Preserves to places that foster a variety of plants, animals, and habitats and welcome diverse people; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of implementing the Next Century Conservation Plan include a healthy, diverse and beautiful natural environment; cleaner air and water; opportunities for nature-related businesses, jobs and tourism; healthy and active communities; educational enrichment and research opportunities, and an enhanced quality of life for everyone in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners will have the continued support and advice of conservation experts to advance the goals and priorities outlined in the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 25 years, because of the successful implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan, the Preserves will be home to thousands of acres of healthy woodlands, wetlands, and prairies filled with thriving native plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, millions of people will enjoy the many recreational and educational opportunities the Preserves offer and will reflect the diverse population of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County communities will prosper from the economic benefits the Preserves provide; and

WHEREAS, visionary and innovative leadership will successfully manage one of the world's largest and healthiest metropolitan nature preserves.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby adopt the Next Century Conservation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners extend their appreciation and thanks to Next Century Plan Commission co-chairs John McCarter, Wendy Paulson, Arthur Velasquez and Eric Whitaker, the Commission members, and to Metropolis Strategies and Openlands for their contributions to the plan

COMMISSIONERS

14-0099

Presented by: TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioner

REPORT

Department: Commissioner Timothy O. Schneider

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Water Quality Index Report

Report Period: One time report

Summary: Busse Lake and Salt Creek Water Quality

COMMITTEE REPORTS

14-0070

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Finance

Committee Date: 2/18/2014

14-0071

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Rules

Committee Date: 2/18/2014

14-0096

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Real Estate

Committee Date: 2/18/2014

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

14-0074

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Planning and Development

Vendor: Hey & Associates, Volo, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “Preserves”) to enter into and execute a contract for architectural and engineering design services.

Good(s) or Service(s): This contract (Task Order) between Hey & Associates, Volo, Illinois, and the Preserves is for architectural & engineering design services to assist the Preserves in the design of certain dam repairs and new canoe launches as part of its landscape and civil engineering program.

Contract Value: \$128,525.00

Contract period: 2/18/2014 - 8/15/2015 (17 Months from Notice to Proceed)

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$128,525.00

Accounts: General Consulting Services Accounts (25-6740, 51-6740, 52-6740 and 60-6740)

Contract Number(s): 13-80-02-10D

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The Vendor has met the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance Provisions.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: Contract (Task Order) #13-80-02-10D is for architectural and engineering design, bidding and construction administration for the repair of thirteen (13) dams and four (4) new canoe launches at various locations Districtwide with an estimated construction budget of \$710,000.00.

On 12/5/2012, the Board of Commissioners approved a pre-qualified pool of 85 firms for architectural and engineering design services for the Preserve’s capital improvement programs. A professional services agreement was subsequently executed with each pre-qualified firm which provided for engagement of services for specific projects via a Task Order. The Preserves issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on 8/2/2013, to six pre-qualified firms and received proposals from two firms. A selection committee determined that Hey & Associates, Volo, Illinois, and its team of sub-consultants was most qualified to provide design services for the landscape and civil engineering program.

14-0076

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Planning and Development

Vendor: Upland Design Ltd., Plainfield, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “Preserves”) to enter into and execute a contract for architectural and engineering design services.

Good(s) or Service(s): Design, bidding and construction administration for the paved loop trail identified in the master planning of Miller Meadow.

Contract Value: \$30,449.00

Contract period: 2/18/2014 -8/15/2015 (17 Months from Notice to Proceed)

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$30,449.00

Accounts: General Consulting Services Accounts - (25-6740, 51-6740, 52-6740 & 60-6740) and Miller Meadow account # 10-5820.

Contract Number(s): 13-80-02-06Db

Concurrences:

The Chief Attorney and Chief Financial Officer have approved this item.

The Vendor has met the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance Provisions.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary:

Contract (Task Order) #13-80-02-06Db is for architectural and engineering design services for the Preserve’s landscape and civil engineering capital improvement program. The project scope includes design, bidding and construction administration for the paved loop trail identified in the master plan for Miller Meadow. The estimated construction budget is \$560,000.00.

On 12/5/2012, the Board of Commissioners approved a pre-qualified pool of 85 firms for architectural & engineering design services for the Preserve’s capital improvement programs. A professional services agreement was subsequently executed with each pre-qualified firm which provided for engagement of services for specific projects via a Task Order. A Task Order (#13-80-02-06D) was previously issued to Upland Design Ltd. on 5/1/2013, in the amount of \$99,866.00 for master plans or design of improvements at Thatcher Woods, Trailside Museum, GHQ, and Miller Meadow. A Task Order (#13-80-02-06Da) was previously issued to Upland Design Ltd. on 11/12/2013 in the amount of \$83,360.00 for design, bidding and construction administration of improvements at Thatcher Woods, Trailside Museum, GHQ, and Miller Meadow. The Preserves now desires to issue a new Task Order to Upland Design Ltd for up to \$30,449.00. This new Task Order requires Board approval as the total combined award equals \$231,675.00.

14-0078

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Resource Management

Vendor: Audubon Chicago Region, Evanston, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Internship program focused on ecological restoration throughout the Preserves. The internship provides hands-on experience in the fields of ecological restoration and forestry.

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$900,000.00 over three years

Contract period: Date of execution to 12/31/2016

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$300,000.00 per year

Accounts: Intern Programs 09-6758, Habitat Restoration 09-6750

Contract Number(s): 13-31-118

Concurrences:

The Chief Attorney and Chief Financial Officer have approved this item.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: Contract 13-31-118 consists of an internship program focused on ecological restoration throughout the Preserves. The Preserve received nine (9) proposals for this project Audubon Chicago Region and their team, including Citizens for Conservation, was determined to have submitted one of the most responsive and responsible proposals submitted.

The Preserves assembled a review panel which consisted of various Preserve staff that considered Audubon Chicago Regions’ proposal one of the most responsive including particular strengths in experience, expertise and performance capacity as it relates to the work as requested in the proposal. The internship will provide support to the Volunteer Stewardship Program through implementation of ecological restoration at the many stewardship sites throughout the Preserve’s holdings. Additionally, the interns will work directly with Preserve Resource Management and Trails crews to provide further experience in forestry work and prescribed fire.

14-0079

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Resource Management

Vendor: City of Chicago, Department of Transportation, Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Green industry job training program, GreenCorps Chicago, focused on ecological restoration and forestry work.

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 over three years

Contract period: Date of execution to 12/31/2017

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$400,000.00 in a fiscal year

Accounts: Intern Program 09-6758, Habitat Restoration 09-6750

Contract Number(s): 13-31-118

Concurrences:

The Chief Attorney and Chief Financial Officer have approved this item.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: Contract 13-31-118 consists of a green industry jobs training program called GreenCorps Chicago. The Preserve received nine (9) proposals for this project. Audubon Chicago Region and their team, including Citizens for Conservation, was determined to have submitted one of the most responsive and responsible proposals submitted.

The Preserves assembled a review panel which consisted of various Preserve staff that considered the City of Chicago, Department of Transportation’s proposal one of the most responsive including particular strengths in experience, expertise and performance capacity as it relates to the work as requested in the proposal. GreenCorps Chicago provides re-entry opportunities and skills to unemployed individuals in landscaping, horticulture, tree care, ecological restoration and prescribed burning. GreenCorps Chicago will undertake assigned ecological restoration and habitat enhancement projects. Additionally, GreenCorps Chicago will work directly with Preserve Resource Management and Trails crews to provide further experience in forestry work and prescribed fire

14-0080

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Resource Management

Vendor: Friends of the Forest Preserves, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "Preserves") to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): The Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps internship program will engage high school students and adult leaders in hands-on ecological restoration work at sites throughout the Preserves

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$900,000.00 over three years

Contract period: Date of execution to 12/31/2016

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$300,000.00 in a calendar year

Accounts: Interns Programs 09-6758, Habitat Restoration 09-6750

Contract Number(s): 13-31-118

Concurrences:

The Chief Attorney and Chief Financial Officer have approved this item.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: Contract 13-31-118 consists of an internship program focused on ecological restoration throughout the Preserves. The Preserve received nine (9) proposals for this project. Friends of the Forest Preserves and their team, including the Student Conservation Association, was determined to have submitted one of the most responsive and responsible proposals submitted.

The Preserves assembled a review panel which consisted of various Preserve staff that considered Friends of the Forest Preserves proposal one of the most responsive including particular strengths in experience, expertise and performance capacity as it relates to the work as requested in the proposal. The Chicago Conservation Leadership Corp internship program will engage approximately forty (40) high school students and nine (9) adult leaders in hands-on ecological restoration activities including invasive species control through various removal methods. The program is an intensive six week paid internship over the summer that will promote stewardship of natural lands by the next generation of conservation leaders through ecologically based educational activities, conservation awareness, hands-on restoration and enjoyment of the forest preserves.

14-0088

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and file

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursements Report

Report Period: 12/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

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

14-0092

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Finance & Administration

Vendor: Ralph G. Moore & Associates, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to extend the current contract.

Good(s) or Service(s): Development of a Comprehensive MBE/WBE Program

Original Contract Period: 9/11/2012 - 9/10/2013

Proposed Contract Period Extension: From 11/10/2013 - 7/1/2014

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$87,500.00

Original Approval: 9/11/2012

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: None

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Contractual Services 01-6200

Contract Number(s): 12-20-110

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The Vendor has met the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance Provisions.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: This item provides for additional time necessary to finalize the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy, including but not limited to policies and procedures, to increase MBE/WBE utilization in all feasible contracts.

14-0093

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Finance & Administration

Vendor: Harris Computer Systems, Libertyville, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to extend this contract.

Good(s) or Service(s): Municipal and financial software upgrades

Original Contract Period: 7/11/2012 - 6/30/2013

Proposed Contract Period Extension: From 8/30/2013 - 9/30/2015

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$100,000.00

Original Approval: 7/11/2012

Previous Increase(s): 4/29/2013, \$10,000.00

This Increase Requested: \$60,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2014 \$35,000.00, FY 2015, \$25,000.00

Accounts: Other Professional Services 01-6217

Contract Number(s): 13-20-2001

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The Vendor has met the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance Provisions.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: This contract increase and extension provides for Phase 2 which includes completing the software upgrade and implementation of the remaining necessary modules, training and licenses fees that were initiated in 2012.

14-0097

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Permits, Concessions & Volunteer Resources

Vendor: Clarity Partners, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to extend and increase this contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Services to facilitate the enhancement of the electronic permitting process.

Original Contract Period: 8/13/2013 - 1/31/2014

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 2/1/2014 - 12/31/2015

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$50,000.00

Original Approval: 8/13/2013

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$100,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2014 \$60,000.00, FY 2015 \$40,000.00

Accounts: Permit Contractual Services 01-6250

Contract Number(s): 13-53-404A

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

The Vendor has met the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Ordinance Provisions.

The Vendor is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

Summary: This proposed contract extension is to provide website engineering for Phase 2 of the implementation of online reservations and permitting enhancements.

14-0104

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal

Other Part(ies): Village of Elmwood Park, Illinois

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

Description of Real Estate:

SURPLUS PARCEL 1

0.49403 ± acres described as follows:

That part of Lots 10 and 11 in Assessor's Division of Northeast ¼ of Section 35, Township 40 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian, lying northeasterly of Thatcher Road in Cook County, Illinois.

Part of PINs 12-35-200-008-0000 and 12-35-200-009-000

SURPLUS PARCEL E

0.350 ± acres described as follows:

That portion of the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 35, Township 40 North, Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian lying northeasterly of the northeasterly right of way line of Thatcher Avenue in Cook County, Illinois.

Part of PIN 12-35-400-003-0000

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): Surplus Parcel 1 and Surplus Parcel E

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$250,000 in Revenue.

Accounts: 06-5500 Anticipated Land Sales/Surplus

Summary: The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") recently concluded negotiations for the sale of two Surplus Parcels that have been approved for sale by the State Legislature, Surplus Parcel 1, consisting of approximately 0.49403 acres, and Surplus Parcel E, consisting of approximately 0.350 acres (the "Surplus Parcels"). The Surplus Parcels are not contiguous with or connected to any other Preserves property. The Surplus Parcels are in close proximity to each other and are both immediately adjacent to the Oak Park Country Club in River Grove, Illinois.

During the mid-80's, Preserves staff undertook a comprehensive study of all Preserves holdings, resulting in a list of 30 parcels being considered for disposal. Subsequently, the Preserves sought and obtained permission, on 9/23/1985 via Public Act 84-867, from the State Legislature to offer 27 of the 30 aforementioned parcels for sale, including Surplus Parcel 1, with the monies to accrue to the Preserves' Real Estate Acquisition Fund. On 8/16/2001, via Public Act 92-0403, the State Legislature authorized the sale of an additional 5 surplus parcels including Surplus Parcel E.

The Village of Elmwood Park (the “Buyer”), has agreed to buy the Surplus Parcels from the Preserves for the sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$250,000.00). The Preserves has obtained M.A.I. certified appraisals for each of the Surplus Parcels. The purchase price reflects the combined purchase price of the Surplus Parcels and is consistent with the appraisals received for those individual parcels.

District(s): 9

14-0086

Presented by: ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

Calendar of Events February 2014

Wednesday, 2/12, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Darwin Days, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Celebrate Charles Darwin's Birthday! We will be exploring adaptation, fitness, selection and survival through activities and displays.

Drop-in program for all ages; free.

Saturday and Sunday, 2/15 & 2/16, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Surf the White Winter Wave, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center,

Join us for a Polynesian take on winter. After skiing the “frozen wave,” relax and enjoy surfing videos and live updates on surf conditions from Oahu’s North Shore. Dress Hawaiian and win a prize.

Saturday, 2/15 - Sunday, 3/16 , 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Orchid Show, Chicago Botanic Garden

This exquisite exhibition, and the only one of its kind in the Chicago area, showcases more than 10,000 brilliantly beautiful and unusual orchids from around the world.

Admission free.

Monday, 2/17, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Program: Wild Dogs, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Learn about the canine cousins of the Forest Preserves. Touch the skins and skulls of foxes, coyotes and even wolves.

Friday, 2/ 21, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Nightlife Winter Hike, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for a winter night hike to learn about nocturnal animals that live at River Trail. Afterwards, warm up inside with snacks and hot chocolate.

Registration required by February 19; Cost: \$2 /person.

Sunday, 2/ 23, 1:00 p.m.

This Old Birdhouse, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Prepare for the upcoming nesting season by building a birdhouse. One per family.

Registration required. \$5 per birdhouse.

Sunday, 2/23, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seed Swap, Chicago Botanic Garden

Share and swap your saved or extra vegetable, flower, and herb seed packets with other gardeners. Participants will enjoy demonstrations on how to start seeds indoors, test germination, and save seeds.

Saturday, 3/1, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Winter Exploration Day, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion (Grove 5), 87th & Western, Chicago

Bring the whole family outside for winter fun! Try a variety of outdoor activities for all ages, including sledding and snowshoes (depending on conditions), fire, nature hikes, crafts, snacks and more

Saturday, 3/1, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Weekend Family Class: Homemade Ice Cream, Chicago Botanic Garden

Get an up-close look at one of the world's tiniest seeds from the vanilla orchid, make a batch of ice cream, and pot up a plant that can flavor ice cream.

Registration and fee.

Thursday, 3/6, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

S.E.N.I.O.R.S. IN NATURE, Little Red School House, Willow Springs

Seniors Enjoying Nature Inside/Outside Rain or Shine! Seniors, are you looking for a new way to stay active that involves nature? If so, you are invited to have fun and get some fresh air with friends. Different activities will be featured each week. Seniors 55 years and up

Saturday, 3/8, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

One Earth Film Festival: Green Gold

Cummings Square, 536 N. Harlem, River Forest

The Forest Preserves will host a screening of Green Gold (2012, 53 min), a film about healing large-scale landscapes-and with them life, livelihoods, security and the future. For festival details, visit www.oneearthfilmfest.org.