



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 10:00 AM

Issued On: 1/8/2026

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary of the Board.

26-0001

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S BUSSE FOREST NATURE PRESERVE FOR RECEIVING A CHICAGO WILDERNESS EXCELLENCE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ACCREDITATION, AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S POWDERHORN LAKE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT FOR RECEIVING A CHICAGO WILDERNESS FORCE OF NATURE AWARD**

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2025, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Busse Forest Nature Preserve was honored with a Platinum Accreditation, the highest level possible, from the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Accreditation Program, and the Forest Preserves' Powderhorn Lake Habitat Restoration project was honored with a Chicago Wilderness George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award at a ceremony at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Accreditation Program recognizes the organization's management of the largest and highest-quality natural areas in the Chicago region and highlights projects that set an example of best practices in natural resource management and ecological restoration; and

WHEREAS, the 1,213-acre Busse Forest Nature Preserve is the seventh largest nature preserve in the State of Illinois and is part of the 3,558-acre Ned Brown Preserve, popularly known as Busse Woods in northwest Cook County near Elk Grove Village, Illinois and receives tens of thousands of visitors each year who seek out the preserve for outdoor recreation and nature exploration; and

WHEREAS, Busse Forest Nature Preserve protects a mosaic of habitats including woodlands, a sedge meadow, shrub swamp, and freshwater marsh, and the subtle changes in the site's topography and soils foster an intermingling of natural communities and create a hot spot of biological diversity, including over two hundred seventy (270) native plant species, including several state-listed species; and

WHEREAS, the George B. Rabb Force of Nature Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose conservation, restoration, advocacy or educational activities in the region are inspirational examples for others; and

WHEREAS, the Powderhorn Lake Habitat Restoration project was completed in 2023 and restored more than 100 acres of wetlands by reconnecting the Forest Preserves' 50-acre Powderhorn Lake to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 950-acre Wolf Lake; and

WHEREAS, Powderhorn Lake is located within Powderhorn Forest Preserve on the southeast side of Chicago, an area that has been shaped by significant urban and industrial development and yet still harbors a globally rare dune and swale habitat and is considered one of the most biodiverse natural areas in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Program supported the development of a hydrology plan for Powderhorn Lake that the Forest Preserves did not anticipate being able to implement due to cost and complexity; and

WHEREAS, Audubon Great Lakes, a long-time Forest Preserves conservation and community engagement partner, secured funding from the Great Lakes Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct this visionary and ambitious project leading to the successful hydrologic reconnection between Powderhorn Lake and Wolf Lake, reestablishing vital marsh habitat for migratory birds, thriving fish nursery, and reducing flooding and erosion in neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, the Powderhorn Lake Habitat Restoration project also benefitted from the support of numerous other partner organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Park District, The Wetlands Initiative and others and demonstrates what is possible through the collective expertise, coordination, and collaboration of dedicated partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves Cook County, congratulate the staff and partners involved in both the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Accreditation and George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the awardees as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered, with the Secretary, to speak 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>, or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Collaborative Room 1, Chicago, Illinois. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

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.

26-0010

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 (POLICE OFFICER 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 (Police Officer Unit) is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 covering Police Officers in the Law Enforcement Department of the Forest Preserves (Board Item Nos. 23-0523 and 24-0309); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Police Officer 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 (Police Officer 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 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 (Police Officer 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 Police Officer 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 Police Officer 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

Police Officer 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 Police Officer shall be increased by 4%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Police Officer 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 Police Officer position included in the extended Collective Bargaining Agreement, as negotiated between the Forest Preserves and Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (Police Officer 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.

26-0011

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 SHEET METAL, AIR, RAIL & TRANSPORTATION WORKERS (SMART), LOCAL NO. 73

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 Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers (SMART), Local No. 73 is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 (Board Item Nos. 22-0128, 22-0497 and 24-0249); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers (SMART), Local No. 73 have negotiated an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers (SMART), Local No. 73 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 as follows:

- (a) Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail & Transportation Workers (SMART), Local No. 73 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 active status on December 31, 2025; and
- (c) Salary adjustments and prevailing wage increases will be approved pursuant to state law for the extended term.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves' Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the prevailing rates and salary adjustments pursuant to state statute, 820 ILCS 130 et seq.

26-0012

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 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 134

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 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134 is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 (Board Item Nos. 22-0131, 22-0497 and 24-0248); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134 have negotiated an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of

Cook County and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134 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 as follows:

- (a) Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134 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 active status on December 31, 2025; and
- (c) Salary adjustments and prevailing wage increases will be approved pursuant to state law for the extended term.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves' Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the prevailing rates and salary adjustments pursuant to state statute, 820 ILCS 130 et seq.

26-0013

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 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL #14

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 International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #14 is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 (Board Item Nos. 22-0130,

22-0497 and 24-0247); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #14 have negotiated an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #14 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 as follows:

- (a) Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades District Council #14 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 active status on December 31, 2025; and
- (c) Salary adjustments and prevailing wage increases will be approved pursuant to state law for the extended term.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves' Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the prevailing rates and salary adjustments pursuant to state statute, 820 ILCS 130 et seq.

26-0014

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 CHICAGO JOURNEYMEN PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 130, U.A.

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 Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130, U.A. is currently in effect for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 (Board Item Nos. 22-0129, 22-0497 and 24-0246); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves and the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130, U.A. have negotiated an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130, U.A. 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 as follows:

- (a) Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130, U.A. 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 active status on December 31, 2025; and
- (c) Salary adjustments and prevailing wage increases will be approved pursuant to state law for the extended term.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves’ Interim Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the prevailing rates and salary adjustments pursuant to state statute, 820 ILCS 130 et seq.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

26-0015

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS ITEM OF BUSINESS

Department: Office of the General Superintendent

Good(s) or Service(s): Advertising and Promotional Services

Fiscal Impact: \$300,000.00 per year for up to two (2) years, for a total of \$600,000.00

Accounts: Advertising and Promotional Services 51001.520610

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is requesting authorization for the General Superintendent or a designee to have discretionary spending up to \$300,000.00 per year for up to two (2) years, totaling up to \$600,000.00, beginning March 1, 2026, and ending February 29, 2028, for advertising and promotional services with a variety of media vendors to promote and showcase the amenities, programs and natural areas of the Forest Preserves. The media vendors would be engaged for periods of one (1) year or less. Media purchases would align with the communications goals of the Forest Preserves, which include focused geographic and demographic outreach to communities in Cook County that have been identified by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning as Economically Disconnected Areas.

The advertising and promotional spending packages would be suggested by the Forest Preserves’ Communications Division as part of an integrated marketing plan that may include electronic, print, broadcast and out-of-home (billboard) advertising and vetted based on the desired audience, frequency, reach and budget offered by local media. The marketing strategy also complements the short- and long-term goals of the Forest Preserves.

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

District(s): Districtwide

26-0005

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED LICENSE REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to grant a License to Nicor Gas Company, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain a 4-inch gas main, the total length of which is 2,728 linear feet of pipe on Forest Preserves land, including 2,112 feet on land designated for the operation of a zoo by the Chicago Zoological Society (“Zoo-designated land”) and the remaining 616 feet outside Zoo-designated land. At the standard license width of 15 feet, the license area is 0.21 acre(s) outside Zoo-designated land and 0.73 acre(s) inside Zoo-designated land. Historically, the Zoo has had the autonomy to allow utility infrastructure installation deemed essential to its operation and maintenance without going through the Forest Preserves’ license approval process. Due to part of the licensed area being outside Zoo-designated land, this license request is being submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. License fees are only being charged for the portion of the gas main which will be located outside Zoo-designated land. The Zoo’s risk management staff have indicated this secondary gas line is needed as backup service in case of emergencies to avoid disruption in natural gas service. One (1) tree (a callery pear) will need to be removed. The new line will be located substantially within existing rights-of-way and a large portion will be under an existing shared use path.

Term: Ten (10) years

License Fee: \$20,787.88

License Application Fee: \$1,500.00

License Review Fee: \$3,000.00

YELAR Fee: \$7,350.00

Total one-time upfront fee of \$32,637.88 for the term of the License (Sec. 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4)

Tree Mitigation Fee: \$323.87

The area of the License is: 0.94 acre(s), of which 0.21 acre(s) is outside Zoo-designated land.

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): 16

26-0004

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED AGREEMENT

Vendor: Memory Lane Stables, Inc., Willow Springs, Illinois

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a parking and trail connection use agreement

Reason: The Forest Preserves currently owns Buffalo Woods, a forest preserve on the east side of Willow Springs. Buffalo Woods surrounds the property owned by Memory Lane Stables, Inc. (“Memory Lane”), a small business that provides primarily equestrian services in the area, including horse rides through Buffalo Woods. Memory Lane is seeking authorization to utilize a small gravel lot, just west of Kean Avenue on Forest Preserves property, for patron parking, as well as a small trail connection directly to the west of its property to stage its horses and access the designated equestrian trail (approximately 3,660 square feet for both areas). The proposed agreement would allow for nonexclusive parking on and access to the small parking area and use of the trail connection by Memory Lane after the payment of the permit fees below. It would also require Memory Lane to maintain the parking area and trail connection throughout the agreement term. The agreement would not be assignable, and Memory Lane would indemnify the Forest Preserves and maintain proper insurance throughout the agreement’s term.

Contract Period: 1/1/2026 (retroactive) - 12/31/2030, with two (2) five-year renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A (Revenue Generating). \$2,520.00 per year for the Initial Term; \$2,680.00 per year for the First Renewal Term; and \$2,970.00 per year for the Second Renewal Term. Payment for the 2026 calendar year will be due March 1, 2026. All subsequent payments will be due by December 1st of the prior year for the upcoming calendar year (e.g. 12/1/2026 for the payment to cover calendar year 2027 etc.)

Account(s): Miscellaneous Income 51001.411467

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

District(s): 17

26-0003

Presented by: ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Landscape Maintenance

Vendor: Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC, Rosemont, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Provide Refuse and Recycling Disposal Sites Districtwide

Contract Value: \$900,000.00

Contract Period: 3/1/2026 - 2/28/2029, with one (1) two-year extension option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2026 \$140,000.00, FY 2027 \$171,000.00, FY 2028 \$178,000.00, FY 2029 \$185,000.00, FY 2030 \$193,000.00 (Optional), FY 2031 \$33,000.00 (Optional)

Accounts: Scavenger and Material 51001.520050

Contract Number(s): #74000017429 issued under RFP 26-52-0001

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

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves would like to contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC to provide disposal sites for both refuse and recycling generated throughout the Forest Preserves. The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for refuse and recycling services at the four regions throughout the Forest Preserves and received two (2) responses. Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC submitted a proposal for regions 1, 2, 3, and 4, and Allied Waste Transportation submitted a proposal regarding regions 1, 3, and 4 only. After a comprehensive review of the proposals, an evaluation committee determined that Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC presented the most qualified and cost-effective option for the disposal of refuse Districtwide.

26-0007

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - November 2025

Report Period: 11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of November 2025. Payments total \$75,789.39 for November 2025.

26-0008

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: 11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of November 2025. This report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

26-0115

Presented by: HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: Fiscal Year 2026 Audit Plan for Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Report Period: Fiscal Year 2026

Summary: Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Audit Plan for Forest Preserve District of Cook County

26-0002

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
1/13/2026-2/2/2026

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

Wednesday, 1/14; 11am—2pm

Crafternoon: Snow Inspired Art, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Drop-in and let the winter landscape inspire you. Participants can create different arts and crafts. *This program is suitable for people of all abilities. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Wednesday, 1/14; 4:30pm—6:30pm

Winter Waterland, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest

Drop-in and learn about the water cycle and freshwater ecology through water quality testing and activities. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Thursdays, 1/15 - 2/26; 4pm—8pm

Winter Open Climb, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Patrons can scale Camp Sullivan's indoor climbing wall. *Registration required. Participants must weigh over 40 pounds and sign a waiver. Participants 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible equipment will be available. For more information, please visit the website.*

Thursday, 1/15; 5:30pm—7:30pm**Crafting Circle, Caldwell Woods, Chicago**

Drop in and unwind while sharing tips, techniques and inspiration with fellow crafters of all skill levels. *Participants should bring their own materials because available supplies are limited. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Friday, 1/16; 9:30am—12pm**Bird Painting Workshop Step-by-Step: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Participants can sketch and paint a 9"x 12" canvas using acrylic paints. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. The cost is \$5 per person. All materials will be provided. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 1/17; 8am—10am**Winter Brr-ding, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for an early morning walk to see our brave winter residents followed by hot chocolate. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Sunday, 1/11; 9am—11am**Winter Photography, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

An outdoor workshop focusing on amazing winter scenes. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Saturday, 1/17; 10am—12pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Day, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Patrons can give back and join the community for a litter clean up to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. *For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/17; 10am—2pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Brush Pile Burn, Eggers Grove, Chicago**

Patrons can learn what it takes to keep our forest healthy and remove invasive plant species. *S'mores will be provided. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/17; 12:30pm—2:30pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Stewardship, Evans Field, River Grove**

Patrons can give back by joining a litter clean up and restoration workday by stewarding your preserve. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Sunday, 1/18; 1pm**Winter Trees, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join a nature expert as we discover several ways to identify trees in winter. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 1/18; 1:30pm**Where in Winter, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Life in our forest preserves doesn't hibernate when the cold weather begins because our wildest residents have clever tricks to make it through the winter. Patrons can discover and learn their survival secrets. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Sunday, 1/18; 1pm**Winter Insects, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Believe it or not, some insects are active through the winter. Participants can search for these cold-hardy survivors. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Monday, 1/19; 9am–2pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Patrons can participate in a self-led litter pick-up. *Garbage bags and disposable gloves are available. Students can earn service-learning hours. For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

Monday, 1/19; 10am–1pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Join us for an afternoon of crafts, cocoa, and a clothing drive. *Registration is required for groups of 10 or more participants. For more information, please visit the website.*

Monday, 1/19; 12pm–2pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: Teen Day of Restoration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Participants can put on some gloves and join us to remove invasive species. *Registration required. Ages 13-17. Tools and equipment will be provided. Students can earn service-learning hours. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Monday, 1/19; 1pm–3pm**Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Patrons can make River Trail better on this official day of community service. *Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-17 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Monday, 1/19; 1pm–3pm**Martin Luther King Jr. Service Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Patrons can unwind and relax after your day of service by enjoying hot cocoa and refreshments in a cozy setting. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

Tuesday, 1/20; 10:30am–12:30pm

Cozy Campground Book Club, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Join this camping themed book club. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

Wednesday, 1/21; 10am—12pm

Do It Yourself Weather Station, Bemis Woods-South, Oak Brook

Patrons can learn about the importance of weather and climate data, and how to set up a weather station. *Ages 18 and up. This program will meet at Grove 7. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Friday, 1/23; 2pm—4pm

Nature Photography, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights

Enjoy the winter landscapes and bring a camera to capture the beauty along our trail. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Friday, 1/23; 6pm

Saving Dark Skies, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Discover how light pollution dims our view of the night sky with an indoor presentation and a view through telescopes! *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Saturday, 1/24; 10:30am—12:30pm

Winter Trails and Camp Fire Details, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Enjoy a short hike, watch a campfire building demo, and relax by the fireside with hot beverages and s'mores. *For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 1/24; 10:30am—1:30pm

All About Fire, Thatcher Woods Pavilion, River Forest

Patrons can learn safe practices for fire building and containment, make fire inspired art, build your own fire, and roast marshmallows. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Sunday, 1/25; 1:30pm

Conservation at Home: Winter Seed Sowing, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Participants can use native seeds to make a winter sowing milk jug and take it home. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Supplies will be provided. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Thursday, 1/29; 1pm

Animal Enrichment Studio, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

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

Thursday, 1/29; 5:30pm—7:30pm

Dungeons and Dragons, Caldwell Woods, Chicago

Join us for a nature-themed Dungeons and Dragons one-shot campaign. *Participants must bring their own dice. All experience levels are welcomed. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or*

visit the website.

Saturday, 1/31; 9am—12pm

Build a Birdhouse, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Patrons can learn the basics of backyard avian husbandry, build and paint a birdhouse and participate in a Q and A session. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 1/31; 10am—12pm

Fire Mosaics, Swallow Cliff Woods Pavilion, Palos Park

Join us for an indoor fire and create your own mosaic piece. *Supplies will be provided. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Sunday, 2/1-2/8; 9 am—4pm

Black History Month Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Learn about the impacts Black environmentalists have on the natural world on a self-guided trail exhibit. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Sunday, 2/1-2/28; 9am—4pm

Underground Railroad Walks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us for self-guided walks throughout February for Black History Month. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

Sunday, 2/1; 1pm—3pm

Bluegrass Jam, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join the jam! Participants can bring their own guitar, fiddle, etc. All participants are welcome to play or enjoy the music. *Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Sunday, 2/1; 1:30pm

Groundhog Day, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Patrons can learn the story behind this peculiar holiday. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

Monday, 2/2; 6pm

Full Moon Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Patrons can discover the Crabtree Nature Center at night by the light of the Snow Moon. *Registration required. Ages 8 and up. Please call (847)381-6592.*

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

**REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

25-0423 PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Eugene S. Pike House Foundation, Inc. (the “Foundation”) and the Beverly Area Arts Alliance (the “Alliance”); preservation, restoration, operation and long-term maintenance of the Eugene S. Pike House; 1826 W. 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois (the “Pike House”).

25-0424 EASEMENT REQUEST Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) at Forestway Drive for 0.13 acre or 5,445 square feet for road improvements

**RULES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

26-0122 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS regular meeting held on 12/16/2025

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

26-0006 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION) Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 1/13/2026

26-0009 REPORT Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures, Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 11/30/2025

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

25-0418 REPORT Report Title: Model Policing, Report Period: 7/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

25-0400 REPORT Report Title: 2026 Update to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Report Period: Five (5) Years, 2026-2030
