



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

**Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N Central Ave, Chicago, Illinois**

**BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 10:00 AM**

**Issued On: 7/2/2026**

**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.

**26-0313**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****RECOGNIZING SUE GORR AND ANNE STAKE FOR RECEIVING AN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION OFFICIALS**

**WHEREAS**, in May 2026, Sue Gorr and Anne Stake were honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, which recognizes excellence in parks and recreation and is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution of personal time and talent; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne have served as Site Stewards for more than two (2) decades at Jens Jensen and Deer Grove West, an 1800-acre forest preserve complex located in northwest Cook County, and through their stewardship they have helped restore this important habitat and protected critical migratory bird pathways and breeding sites; and

**WHEREAS**, for nearly thirty (30) years they have also served as co-leaders of the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, a group of dedicated volunteers working to restore native plant communities and foster community support for conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne organize, supervise and train new and experienced volunteers and lead weekly stewardship workdays, which collectively contribute thousands of hours of volunteer work to the Forest Preserves each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne volunteer not only as stewards but also as community scientists, monitoring rare plants and butterflies and contributing valuable data to the Plants of Concern program and the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network, with Sue also leading a successful pilot for a bumblebee monitoring program with the United States Geological Survey that led to the identification of the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee at Forest Preserve sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Anne developed and manages the Weed Watcher program, through which she trains volunteers to identify and map invasive plants to a database she manages, helping volunteers form a deeper connection to and mindfulness of the nature they are protecting; and

**WHEREAS**, through the native seed collection program Sue manages, volunteers collect seeds of more than one hundred (100) species of native plants, helping to protect and increase biodiversity at the sites Sue and Anne help care for; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne are committed to being welcoming, inclusive and engaging with all people and have successfully grown and retained their community of volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne are staunch advocates for the Forest Preserves, and as a member of the League of Women Voters, Sue organizes field trips for members to show them firsthand the importance of the forest preserves, while Anne acts as a Key Stewards Regional Representative, providing feedback, experience, and support of ecological restoration work being done at the Forest Preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with Openlands, Stantec, and the Forest Preserves, Sue and Anne led a volunteer team that assisted with an extensive multi-million-dollar restoration project of 220 acres of woods, prairie, and wetlands, which led to the Jens Jensen Grasslands and Woodlands receiving Land and Water Reserve recognition in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Sue and Anne are treasured members of the Chicagoland environmental community, leading by example, encouraging others to protect and care for nature, and inspiring a new generation of conservation leaders and advocates who will help care for the Forest Preserves for generations to come; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County congratulate Sue Gorr and Anne Stake and congratulate them on their Outstanding Volunteer 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 Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N Central Ave, 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, Conference Room D, Chicago, Illinois. Persons authorized to provide public testimony are encouraged to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting and 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.

**26-0224**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****REQUEST FOR GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE ELECTRIC FACILITIES AGREEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") from time-to-time desires to upgrade its electricity service at various facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, such upgrades may require the installation of transformers or other equipment from Commonwealth Edison ("ComEd"), regardless of whether electricity service is ultimately provided by ComEd or another electricity supplier; and

**WHEREAS**, ComEd retains ownership of such transformers and other equipment and requires the Forest Preserves, as the customer, to sign and execute various agreements that cover a monthly rental and other ancillary fees; and

**WHEREAS**, such agreements are form agreements that include rates and non-standard provisions and riders that can be unilaterally changed by ComEd subject to appropriate regulatory approval, including, without limitation, a perpetual agreement term length, provided, however, that the agreements may be terminated upon termination of service; and

**WHEREAS**, fees due under such rental agreements are either paid under the terms of the agreements or paid separately via the actual services agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, ComEd requires customers to return executed agreements promptly, typically within thirty (30) days, to secure an order for such equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Board Item No. 25-0296 (as updated via Board Item No. 26-0318 on July 2026 agenda), Forest Preserves' staff submit an annual report to the Board of Commissioners of energy-related expenses in the previous year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Forest Preserves' General Superintendent to approve and

execute all agreements for the rental and installation of transformers and other electric equipment from ComEd, provided the spend is subject to the aggregate \$1.75 million annual expense cap under Board Item No. 26-0318 or a successor resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall sunset when energy expenses incurred by the Forest Preserves are no longer required to be reported to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**26-0310**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“IDOT”) FOR DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND TO PAY IDOT THE LOCAL SHARE OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has sought and been awarded funds from the Transportation Alternatives Program (“TAP-L Grant”), a federally funded program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”), for reconstruction of a 1.3 mile section of the Des Plaines River Trail between Fullerton and North Avenue (hereafter the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, IDOT requires a resolution to reaffirm the Forest Preserves funding commitment for Phase III Engineering (construction management) and Construction costs associated with the Project as per the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Funding Agreement also provides for the division of Phase III and Construction costs for the Project and payment of 20% of the construction cost by the Forest Preserves as the Local Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, TAP-L provides 80% (or maximum of \$901,700.00) of Phase III Engineering costs for the Project estimated at \$1,127,125.00; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet deadlines for use of the funds provided via the TAP-L Grant, IDOT recommends that a consulting engineering firm be employed to perform Phase III Engineering construction management services: and

**WHEREAS**, in April of 2026, the Forest Preserves issued a Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) for Phase III Engineering Services and, based on qualifications, subsequently selected Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, Illinois (“CBBEL”) to serve as Consulting Engineers for Phase III

Engineering: and

**WHEREAS**, CBBEL's Phase III Engineering costs are \$1,127,125.00, TAP-L Grant funds will cover up to 80% (\$901,700.00) of the costs of Phase III Engineering Services to be provided in connection with the Project, and the Forest Preserves shall be responsible for 20% of the cost of Phase III Engineering or \$225,425.00 in connection with the Project plus a 10% contingency for total cost of \$338,137.50 (\$225,425.00 + \$112,712.50); and

**WHEREAS**, the TAP-L Grant provides 80% (or maximum of \$9,017,500.00) of Construction costs for the Project estimated at \$11,271,875.00, and the Forest Preserves 20% local share of the total construction cost is estimated at \$2,254,375.00, plus a 20% contingency of \$2,254,375.00 (\$2,254,375.00 + \$2,254,375.00 = \$4,508,750.00); and

**WHEREAS**, IDOT is responsible for the bid letting, the award of the construction contracts, and will accept the apparent low bid with approval from the Forest Preserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement with IDOT in connection with the Project, and to pay an amount not to exceed \$1,127,125.00 of which the Illinois Department of Transportation will reimburse 80% or up to \$901,700.00 and the Forest Preserves ultimately shall be responsible for 20% of the Phase III Engineering costs or a maximum of \$338,137.50 (20% match \$225,425.00 plus 10% contingency \$112,712.50) for Phase III Engineering Services and to pay the local share of construction cost not to exceed \$4,508,750.00 (20% match \$2,254,375.00 plus 20% contingency \$2,254,375.00).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the Forest Preserves to pay 20% of the construction cost to IDOT pursuant to the Joint Funding Agreement as described above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd, of Rosemont, Illinois ("CBBEL"), be employed to perform Phase III Engineering services in connection with the Project, and that the President of such Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to execute, on behalf of the Forest Preserves, an agreement by and between the Forest Preserves and CBBEL for Phase III Engineering services (the "Engineering Services Agreement").

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are, or will be available, pending annual appropriations, in the Forest Preserves capital funding or grant accounts to pay the local share of construction and Phase III Engineering services costs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement, when executed in their respective final form, shall be submitted to IDOT for approval and final processing.

**26-0325**

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“IDOT”) FOR DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND TO PAY IDOT THE LOCAL SHARE OF COSTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the ‘Forest Preserves’) is seeking to construct a new pedestrian bridge over active Union Pacific Railroad tracks in Des Plaines, Illinois (the “Project”) for the purpose of improving safety and connectivity in the Des Plaines River Trail in North Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (“CMAP”) approved a major federal grant through the local Transportation Alternatives (TAP-L) program for 80% of unfunded construction and construction engineering costs, estimated at \$3,500,000 and \$350,000.00, respectively, with such funds to be administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Forest Preserves became aware of Grade Crossing Protection Funds (“GCPF”) through the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”) and received a preliminary award of \$1,350,220.00 to cover 60% of the bridge structure portion of the Project, subject to agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad (hereafter “the Railroad”) to allow the Project and grant a ground and air rights easement; and

**WHEREAS**, after several years of detailed engineering, review by the Railroad and legal action before the ICC, the Railroad has tentatively agreed to grant a ground and/or air rights easement and allow the Project to proceed subject to reimbursement of the Railroad for certain costs described in an agreement that will be approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on July 1, 2025 (Board Item No. 25-0034); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, CMAP approved a request to increase federal TAP-L grant funds to \$4,493,000.00 for construction costs, including related utility relocation costs, railroad reimbursement and other related costs requiring separate board authorization (Board Items No. 25-0034 and 25-0266); and

**WHEREAS**, IDOT is responsible for the award of construction contracts, and the Forest Preserves is now seeking approval for IDOT to post the Project for construction bids; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOT requires a resolution to reaffirm the Forest Preserves funding commitment to enter

into a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and an Engineering Services Agreement to pay IDOT the local share of unfunded construction and construction engineering costs associated with the Project that will not be covered by other grants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on July 1, 2025 (Board Item No. 25-0032) previously approved a resolution authorizing the Forest Preserves to enter into a joint funding agreement and engineering services agreement with IDOT, but IDOT has not yet posted the Project for construction bidding; and

**WHEREAS**, due to additional funding that has been requested and/or secured as well as additional cost updates over the course of the last year, it is necessary to amend and replace the resolution approved on July 1, 2025 (Board Item No. 25-0032) with this resolution (Board Item No. 26-325); and

**WHEREAS**, the current estimated cost of construction is \$8,808,642.00 including related project costs but excluding construction engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, the ICC has awarded a total of \$3,863,704.00 in GCPF for construction and related costs (\$3,538,804.00, of which \$1,350,220.00 was approved in the interim order and \$2,188,584.00 for construction and related costs and \$324,900.00 for construction engineering costs in supplemental funds approved in the final order) to cover 60% of eligible project costs; and

**WHEREAS**, construction costs and related costs are estimated at \$8,808,642.00, ICC will cover 60% (\$3,538,804.00 maximum) of costs related to construction of the bridge structure over the railroad, TAP-L will fund up to 80% (\$4,215,870.40.00 maximum) and the Forest Preserves shall be responsible for the balance of \$1,053,967.60; and

**WHEREAS**, TAP-L funding is anticipated to cover up to 80% of Phase III construction engineering costs originally estimated at \$750,000.00 after deduction of GCPF funding; and

**WHEREAS**, IDOT recommends that a qualified consulting engineering firm be employed to perform Phase III construction engineering services prior to posting the Project for bid to meet deadlines for use of the funds provided via the TAP-L Grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves is recommending award of a construction engineering services contract separately (under Board Item No. 25-0033 as amended by Board Item No. 26-0326) to Bowman Consultant Group after issuing a Request for Qualifications "RFQ" for Phase III Engineering Services and based on qualifications with a total contract amount of \$775,716.00, ICC will cover up to \$324,900.00 of costs related to construction engineering of the bridge structure over the railroad, TAP-L will fund up to 80% (\$360,653.80) of remaining construction engineering cost and the Forest Preserves shall be responsible for the balance of \$90,163.20; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of

Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement and Engineering Services Agreement with IDOT in connection with the Project, and to pay an amount not to exceed \$853,287.60 (\$775,716.00 + \$77,571.60 contingency) for Phase III Construction Engineering services subject to reimbursement by IDOT, and to pay the remaining balance of total estimated unfunded construction cost after approved Grade Crossing Protection Funds and CMAP/TAP-L Funds, directly to IDOT in an amount not to exceed \$2,815,696.00 (\$1,053,967.60 local share + 20% contingency in the amount of \$1,761,728.40) of the total estimated construction cost; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Bowman Consultant Group, of Lisle, Illinois, be engaged to perform Phase III Engineering services in connection with the Project, and that the President of such Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to execute, on behalf of the Forest Preserves, an agreement by and between the Forest Preserves and Bowman for Phase III Engineering services (the “Engineering Services Agreement”); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are, or will be available, pending annual appropriations, in the Forest Preserves capital funding accounts to pay the local share of construction and Phase III Construction Engineering Services costs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement when executed in their respective final form, shall be submitted to IDOT for approval and final processing.

**26-0328**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY EXPAND AREA DESIGNATED FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A ZOO**

WHEREAS, in 1920, Edith Rockefeller McCormick donated approximately 83 acres of land to the Forest Preserves with a restrictive covenant, requiring that the land be “used and maintained in perpetuity by the [Forest Preserves] as a zoological garden[;]” and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves added another 98 acres to be used for zoo purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, the Chicago Zoological Society (“CZS”) incorporated for the purpose of building,

operating and maintaining what is now known as Brookfield Zoo Chicago (“Zoo”); and

WHEREAS, in 1926, after a 1923 failed tax referendum, voters changed course, and approved a dedicated zoo tax leading to the official start of construction work and site grading; and

WHEREAS, on 7/1/1934, the Zoo opened its doors to the public; and

WHEREAS, effective 4/8/1986, the Forest Preserves and CZS entered into an *Agreement for the Maintenance and Operation of a Zoological Park on Lands of the Forest Preserve District* (the “Main Operating Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, this Main Operating Agreement was set to expire on 4/7/2026, but was extended for one (1) year via Board Item No. 25-0197 with a new expiration date of 4/7/2027; and

WHEREAS, through this Main Operating Agreement, the Forest Preserves designated property for use as a zoological park to be maintained and operated by the CZS as part of the Zoo; and

WHEREAS, today the Zoo sits on approximately 235 acres; and

WHEREAS, to transform the Zoo for generations to come, on 10/22/2024, CZS unveiled its Next Century Plan (see Board Item No. 24-0307), with a goal of revolutionizing animal habitats and spaces; embracing sustainable practices; transforming guest experience and accessibility; and expanding contributions to environmental education and conservation sciences; and

WHEREAS, the CZS desires to use additional Forest Preserves land for parking to accommodate visitors to the Zoo; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves desires to temporarily designate additional property of low ecological value adjacent to the Zoo, totaling approximately 3.37 acres in Brookfield Woods, for zoological park purposes and authorize the CZS to operate and maintain such additional property as a temporary overflow parking area in conformity with all other provisions of the Main Operating Agreement; and

WHEREAS, CZS will indemnify the Forest Preserves and name the Forest Preserves as an additional insured with respect to the operation and maintenance of this additional property; and

WHEREAS, if trees need to be removed in connection with the use of this additional property then CZS shall notify and seek approval from the Forest Preserves prior to any removal; however, tree mitigation

fees under the Tree Mitigation Plan (see Board Item No. 20-0279) will be waived as such fees have not traditionally been charged for property designated for Zoo purposes; and

WHEREAS, CZS will be responsible for restoration of this additional property to its original condition if not included in the successor agreement to the Main Operating Agreement; and

WHEREAS, neither the Forest Preserves nor CZS anticipate the proposed expanded footprint to have any impact on ancillary agreements between the parties, including, without limitation, agreements pertaining to development of programs, animal food procurement, veterinary programs, wireless license, and infrastructure support (Board Item Nos. 15-0449, 25-0254, 24-0192, 26-0287, 20-0289, 23-0276, 23-0308); and

WHEREAS, in the successor agreement between the Forest Preserves and CZS, anticipated to start 4/8/2027 subject to Board of Commissioners approval, the parties will revisit in its entirety the area of land designated for Zoo purposes with the understanding that if additional land is added to the footprint to be used for Zoo purposes in one place, then a reciprocal amount of land may be removed from the footprint in another area and returned to non-zoological Forest Preserves purposes.

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1. The Forest Preserves shall, and hereby does, designate the real property totaling approximately 3.37 acres and legally described below (the “Temporary Parking Area”) for zoological park purposes until April 7, 2027:

Lot 4 and Lot 3 except the north 40 feet of said Lot 3 and also except the west 40 feet of said Lot 3, all in Block 36 of Kimbark and Hubbard’s subdivision in the south half of Section 26-Township 39 North-Range 12 East of the Third Principal Meridian in Cook County, Illinois.

Section 2. The Forest Preserves hereby authorizes an amendment to the Main Operating Agreement for the limited and specific purpose of authorizing the CZS to operate and maintain the Temporary Parking Area for temporary overflow parking purposes, consistent with the remainder of the Agreement and the WHEREAS clauses described above.

**Effective date:** This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

**26-0330**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

## LAND USE FEES

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 5 (Public Utilities), Chapter 2 (Franchises), Appendix A (Cost Per Acre By Year) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows (consistent with Code Sections 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4):

- **Year**
- **Cost Per Acre**
- **Minimum License Fee (New & Renewal)**
- **YELAR Program Fee**
- **Administration Fee**

Click for full text: [<https://bit.ly/4wlrLG2>]

**Effective date:** This ordinance amendment shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT****26-0281**

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

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Other Part(ies):** Village of Lyons, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into a new Intergovernmental License Agreement with the Village of Lyons for a new peace officers memorial at Cermak Woods in Lyons, Illinois

**Goods or Services:** Construction and maintenance of a new memorial at Cermak Woods in Lyons, Illinois, to commemorate peace officers who have served Cook County

**Agreement Number(s):** IGA #26-0281

**Agreement Period:** Twenty (20) years from date of execution with two (2) automatic 10-year extensions, on condition that the memorial is substantially completed by 12/31/2030

**Fiscal Impact:** None. In addition, all license fees, license application fees, and YELAR fees will be waived.

**Accounts:** N/A

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Village of Lyons is seeking permission to construct and maintain a new memorial in honor of peace officers who have served in Cook County. The memorial would be funded in cooperation with the Peace Officer Memorial Foundation of Cook County (the "Foundation"). The memorial would occupy approximately 12,000 sq. feet (0.28 acres) in the northwest corner of Cermak Woods near the Cermak Family Aquatic Center. The proposed memorial design was commissioned by the Foundation and includes a wall with names of fallen officers, a series of flag poles, an entrance sign, hardscape, two (2) ADA parking spaces, and native landscaping.

The Village of Lyons agrees to be solely responsible for the construction and maintenance of the memorial. Once installed, the memorial will be open to the general public subject to the rules and guidelines of the Forest Preserves. Further, once installed, the memorial (but not the land it sits on) will be owned by the Village of Lyons as the Forest Preserves waives, for this project, the requirements under its Code Section 2-3-1(B) that structures erected on Forest Preserves property are deemed owned by the Forest Preserves. There will be no cost to the Forest Preserves for this project. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

**26-0327**

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

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Request:** Refer to Finance Committee

**Report Title:** Annual Energy Expense Report

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

**Summary:** On 9/9/2025, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Ameresco, Inc. to provide energy consultant, procurement, bill payment and data management services for the procurement of and budgeting for electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy for Forest Preserves facilities (Board Item No. 25-0293). On 10/21/2025, the Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves to enter into agreements recommended by Ameresco, Inc. (Board Item No. 25-0296). As required by Board Item No. 25-0296, this report provides a monthly breakdown of related energy payments made during fiscal year 2025.

**26-0271**

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

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Law Enforcement

**Request:** Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

**Report Title:** Model Policing

**Report Period:** 1/1/2026 - 6/30/2026

**Summary:** Report on the status of achieving the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department

**26-0268**

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

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

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

**Vendors:**

- Light On A Hill 3, D/B/A Soltaic Solutions, LLC, Eden Prairie, Minnesota (“Soltaic”); and
- Windfree, Wind + Solar Energy Design Company, Chicago, Illinois (“Windfree”)

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Solar Energy Procurement Supply Contract

**Contract Value:** Not to Exceed \$975,000.00

**Contract Period:** From the effective date through thirty (30) years after the date of commercial operation (estimated to be on or before 3/1/2027)

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** Average annual costs estimated at \$32,500.00 and total not to exceed \$975,000.00 over contract term of thirty (30) years.

**Accounts:** Utilities Electricity 51001.540022

**Contract Number(s):** #74000018359

**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):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves recently issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for an onsite solar system to serve the Central Maintenance Compound in Maywood via a Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”). A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a valuable tool in acquiring additional renewable energy with limited upfront capital investment while gaining technical experience managing on the ground clean energy projects. One (1) complete and responsive proposal was received and evaluated by staff on

financial competitiveness, technical capability, cost benefits, and compliance with all Forest Preserves requirements. As a result, the Forest Preserves proposes entering into a contract with Soltaic, the vendor who will be the PPA provider that will finance and own the new solar system. The second listed vendor, Windfree, is the solar company that will engineer, procure, construct and maintain the system. The Forest Preserves will not own the system or equipment associated with the PPA, and Soltaic's and Windfree's responsibilities for the construction, financing and operation of the system will be encapsulated in an agreement attached to the PPA.

The recommended PPA includes construction of a 140-kW ground mounted solar energy system with operations, maintenance, and the renewable energy credits for the 30-year term. The license area for the solar system is not to exceed 1 acre, and the area needed for construction will not exceed 1.5 acres. It will supply a range of 39%-45% of the Central Compound's electric load. The vendors will install, own, and maintain the system, with the Forest Preserves purchasing the electricity it produces over a 30-year term.

The total contract value is not to exceed \$975,000.00. This accounts for \$880,500.00 in energy costs with annual energy payments beginning in FY 2027 and increasing by 1% annually under the PPA structure, \$8,500.00 for contingencies, and a one-time initial pre-payment of \$86,000.00. The average cost per year is \$32,500.00. The total cost includes the value of tax credits anticipated to be earned by the vendors under current federal tax rules and passed through to the Forest Preserves through reduced PPA pricing. Payments are subject to annual Forest Preserves appropriations. With that said, at this time, the projected annual cost under the contract is expected to exceed the cost of non-solar generated energy for the location. However, Forest Preserves staff have determined that there is a benefit to having cost certainty and climate benefits for electricity for this location. Approval of this contract will advance the Forest Preserves' renewable energy and climate goals and will reduce the Compound's annual electricity GHG emissions by approximately 43.5% annually. Overall, the proposed contract advances the goals set in the Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan, including the net-zero by 2050 goal.

In addition to costs noted above, the Forest Preserves is responsible for (1) reimbursement for excess net metering credits, (2) reimbursement of real property or other tax expenses in connection with the operation of the system, (3) interest on late payments, and (4) if applicable, early termination fees. Regarding early termination fees, if the Forest Preserves terminates the PPA without cause, it will be responsible for certain termination fees (ranging from \$797,285.00 for Year 1 to \$24,608.00 for Year 30) as well as associated costs for any rescinded or revoked incentives. The PPA also includes non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, such as limitations on liability.

The PPA includes a revocable license for use of Forest Preserves property by the vendors. Further, the terms, conditions, and procedures of the Forest Preserves' licensing ordinances found at Title 2 (Forest Preserve Lands and Property), Title 5 (Public Utilities) and other applicable licensing provisions of the Forest Preserves Code of Ordinances may be waived or deemed not applicable in whole or in part by the Forest Preserves with respect to the proposed agreement, including the application of license fees. The Forest Preserves would be entering into this PPA not in its regulatory capacity but in its proprietary capacity as a market participant. The PPA may be recorded in order to evidence or secure the vendors right to access and use the licensed area.

**26-0308**

**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:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant and enter into grant agreement

**Purpose:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”) Boat Area Access Development (“BAAD”) grant funding for development of a boat launch project at the Little Calumet Boat Launch in Calumet Township, Illinois in Cook County

**Grant Amount:** \$200,000.00

**Grant Period:** Three (3) years from the date of execution

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$430,336.00 (\$325,280.00 match + \$105,056.00 20% contingency). Estimated match (excluding contingency) FY2026 \$80,000.00, FY2027 \$97,000.00, FY2028 \$148,280.00

**Accounts:** Land Improvements (51009.560019, 51010.560019, 51034.560019, 51036.560019, 51037.560019) and future Construction and Development accounts

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

**District(s):** 5

**Summary:** The proposed grant will support the improvement of the existing Little Calumet Boat Launch on the Little Calumet River in Calumet Township in south Cook County to benefit boaters, paddlers and visitors. The launch currently serves motorized boats. Proposed improvements include a new canoe and kayak launch and ADA access upgrades. Pavement will replace gravel and dirt, additional picnic tables will be added, and shade trees will be planted to enhance the river-edge platform area and gathering

space. In addition, a paved access path would be added from the existing parking lot, as well as a new ADA parking space located approximately 100 feet away. The estimated project cost is \$525,280.00, \$200,000 of which will be reimbursed through the grant. However, the Forest Preserves is requesting \$105,056 in additional funds for contingency for a total project cost not to exceed \$630,336.

**26-0316**

**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:** Prairie State Conservation Coalition, Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant and enter into grant agreement

**Purpose:** To support the acquisition of a 42-acre property in Glenwood, Illinois in Cook County

**Grant Amount:** \$100,000.00

**Grant Period:** 5/25/2026 (retroactive) - 5/28/2028

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to Exceed \$1,185,000.00 (with up to \$100,000 to be reimbursed by the grant)

**Accounts:** Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and Grant Fund 51010.560010

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

**District(s):** 5

**Summary:** The proposed grant award will support the acquisition of a 42-acre property located in Glenwood, Illinois. This acquisition would protect the Deer Creek floodplain and advance the Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, a data-driven vision to protect land and support community resilience. The acquisition is intended to generate multiple benefits to residents, including reduced flooding and improved air quality.

**26-0309**

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

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to extend grant agreement

**Purpose:** Authorization is sought to extend a grant agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”) for the federal Recreation Trail Program (RTP) grant funding to conduct surface repairs on 1 mile of the Tinley Creek Trail, located in Orland Township in an incorporated southwestern part of Cook County, Illinois

**Supplemental Grant Amount:** N/A

**Grant Period:** 12/29/2023 - 9/14/2026

**Extension Period:** 9/15/2026 - 9/14/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A (No change to original match amount of \$94,000.00)

**Accounts:** Professional Services (51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830; 51036.520830, 51037.520830); Land Improvements (51009.560019, 51010.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019, 51036.560019, 51037.560019) and future Construction & Development accounts

**Date of Previous Board Authorization for Grant:** 10/17/2023

**Previous Grant Amount:** \$188,000.00

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

**District(s):** 17

**Summary:** On 10/17/2023, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of grant funding from IDNR's RTP funds for the Forest Preserves to design and construct improvements for 1 mile of the black connector trail that, while modest in length, serves as a critical spur to the 9.1 mile Tinley Creek red trail loop (Board Item No. 23-0507). The awarded funds of \$188,000.00 will support the improvement of the trail access parking area at Catalina Grove, in Orland Township, by resurfacing the pavement and installing upgraded ADA curb ramps and detectable warnings. The Forest Preserves anticipates funding the remaining project cost with motor fuel tax funds provided by the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways through a separate intergovernmental agreement (Board Item No. 20-0007). A no-cost time extension of the grant agreement for twelve (12) months to 9/14/2027, is being requested to allow for completion of the project.

**26-0329**

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

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

**PROPOSED INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

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

**Other Part(ies):** Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Illinois

**Request:** To amend an agreement between the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") and the Chicago Zoological Society (the "Zoo" or "CZS") to temporarily expand the area of Forest Preserves property designated for Zoo purposes

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Maintenance and operation of a zoological park on lands of the Forest Preserves, commonly known as the Brookfield Zoo Chicago

**Agreement Period:** Original 4/8/1986 - 4/7/2026; Board Approved Extension 4/8/2026 - 4/7/2027

**Proposed Agreement Extension:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A (other than funding through annual budget appropriation)

**Accounts:** N/A

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

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** On 10/22/2024, CZS unveiled its Next Century Plan (see Board Item No. 24-0307), with a goal of revolutionizing animal habitats and spaces; embracing sustainable practices; transforming guest experience and accessibility; and expanding contributions to environmental education and conservation sciences. CZS now desires to use additional Forest Preserves land for parking to accommodate visitors to the Zoo. Pursuant to Board Item No. 26-0328, the Board of Commissioners has temporarily designated additional land for Zoo purposes, totaling approximately 3.37 acres in Brookfield Woods. Accordingly, the parties intend to enter into the proposed amendment to temporarily expand the area of Forest Preserves property designated for Zoo purposes in accordance with Board Item No. 26-0328. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

**26-0290**

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

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Permits, Rentals and Concessions

**Vendor:** Go Ape Bemis Woods, LLC, Western Springs, IL

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Aerial Adventure Course, Zipline, and Other Activities

**Contract Value:** N/A (Revenue Generating)

**Contract Period:** 7/1/2026 (retroactive) - 6/30/2036 with two (2), five-year optional extensions. The first renewal option shall be subject to the renegotiation of financial terms and approval by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners. The second renewal option may be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** The Agreement will generate an Annual Minimum Usage Fee of \$20,000.00 to the Forest Preserves. Annual compensation is based on a tiered revenue-sharing structure equal to 4% of gross revenue up to \$800,000.00, 6% of gross revenue between \$800,001.00 and \$900,000.00, 8% of gross revenue between \$900,001.00 and \$1,000,000.00, 10% of gross revenue between \$1,000,001.00 and \$1,200,000.00, and 12% of gross revenue exceeding \$1,200,000.00. The \$20,000.00 Annual Minimum Usage Fee is credited toward the revenue-sharing payment and serves as the minimum amount payable to the Forest Preserves for each year of the Agreement.

**Accounts:** Concession Fees 51001.411316

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016890 issued under Solicitation Number 25-40-012702

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

**District(s):** 16

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves previously awarded a contract to Go Ape Bemis Woods, LLC (“Go Ape”)(Board Item No. 14-0405) for the construction and operation of an aerial adventure course and zipline at Bemis Woods, which has now been in operation since 2015. Since 2021, the operation has generated an average of approximately \$128,363 in annual revenue for the Forest Preserves, demonstrating its continued financial benefit to the Forest Preserves. The Forest Preserves recently issued a new Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for a vendor to operate the Bemis Woods course. As the sole responsible and qualified bidder, Go Ape was selected to continue operating the treetop adventure course (includes zipline), treetop journey course (includes zipline), Treetop Nets, Forest Escape, and axe throwing activities at Bemis Woods in Western Springs, IL.

The Forest Preserves has the ability to terminate its new agreement with Go Ape after five (5) years, upon three (3) years notice and with the understanding that another zipline/adventure course would not operate in Bemis Woods for two (2) years after Go Ape’s removal. Go Ape owns the equipment at this location and will be required to return the site to its original condition upon end of contract. Go Ape will be responsible for paying certain utilities during operating season.

#### 26-0311

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

#### PROPOSED CONTRACT

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Phase III engineering services for construction oversight relating to construction of approximately 1.3 miles of the Des Plaines River Trail from Fullerton to North Avenue known as Segment 7.

**Contract Value:** \$1,239,837.50 (which includes 10%, \$112,712.50, contingency)

**Contract Period:** 9/1/2026 - 8/31/2029

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY2026 \$225,425.00, FY2027 \$845,343.75, FY2028 \$56,356.25 (\$1,127,125.00) but subject to grant reimbursement of 80% (\$901,700.00). The total Forest Preserves share would not exceed \$338,137.50 (\$225,425.00 plus an additional 10% contingency of \$112,712.50).

**Accounts:** Professional Services (51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830, 51036.520830, 51037.520830); and future Construction & Development accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000018441 issued in response to RFQ #26-80-014172

**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 is set to zero.

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** Phase III engineering services are needed to oversee the rehabilitation of approximately 1.3 miles of the Des Plaines River Trail, including construction of new trail alignment, elevated boardwalk structure, rehabilitation of the 1st Avenue underpass, and a trail connection to Evans Field (Elmwood Park) and to Strieby Drive (River Grove), including signalized crossing at Strieby Drive. A federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) grant will fund up to 80% (\$901,700.00) of the total contract amount of \$1,127,125.00 (excluding contingency). The Forest Preserves will be responsible for 20% (\$225,425.00) of the cost as provided in a separate Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation, which is the subject of a separate Board resolution (Board Item No. 26-0310). A 10% contingency has been added so the total Forest Preserves share would not exceed \$338,137.50 (\$225,425.00 plus an additional 10% contingency of \$112,712.50). Six (6) firms responded to a publicly advertised Request for Qualifications. Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. was selected based on qualifications.

**26-0317**

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

## **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Metropolitan Industries Inc., Romeoville, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Supply of Hydromatic pumps, brackets, rails and control panels.

**Contract Value:** \$375,000.00

**Contract Period:** 7/10/2026 - 7/9/2031

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$37,500.00, FY 2027 \$75,000.00, FY 2028 \$75,000.00, FY 2029 \$75,000.00, FY 2030 \$75,000.00, FY 2031 \$37,500.00

**Accounts:** Property Maintenance and Operations 51001.540350, Construction and Development 51033.540350, and future Construction and Development and Capital accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000018476

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

Sole Source contract with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Metropolitan Industries, Inc. is the sole Cook County authorized distributor of the Pentair Hydromatic pump, proprietary brackets, rails and control panel systems that the Forest Preserves uses in its restrooms. No other pumps and supplied proprietary brackets will fit the rail and discharge system for the Forest Preserves restrooms. After researching the cost and process to redesign these facilities, the Forest Preserves concluded a sole source contract is the most cost-effective option.

**26-0332**

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

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

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

**Vendor:** Alta Equipment Company, LLC, Orland Park, 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 a minimum of six (6) Kubota M62 tractor loaders and accessories

**Contract Value:** \$622,369.42

**Contract Period:** 7/7/2026 - 10/11/2027, with three (3) one-year renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent, subject to extension of the underlying contract

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$372,369.42, FY 2027 \$250,000.00

**Accounts:** Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444

**Contract Number(s):** #74000018479

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

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County is requesting to purchase tractor loaders and associated attachments based on Sourcewell Contract #082923-KBA awarded to Kubota Tractor Corporation, and fulfilled by its authorized local dealer, Alta Equipment Company, LLC. The Department of Resource Management would like to purchase six (6) Kubota M62 tractor loaders and attachments including pallet forks, winches, and front loaders in 2026 for use in land restoration and forestry operations across the Forest Preserves, with the ability to purchase additional equipment in 2027 as budget allows.

**26-0312**

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

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Matthew Paving, Inc., Oak Lawn, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** South Area Pavement, Dam and Electric Services Repairs.

**Original Contract Period:** 8/19/2025 - 9/18/2026

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 9/19/2026 - 9/18/2027

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$1,939,524.55

**Original Approval:** 7/1/2025, \$1,939,524.55

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

**This Increase Requested:** \$162,667.13

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY2026 \$162,667.13

**Accounts:** Land Improvements (51009.560019, 51010.560019, 51029.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019, 51036.560019, 51037.560019) and future Construction and Development accounts.

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016423 issued under Project #19-80-67G-25C2

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

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

**District(s):** 5, 11, 17

**Summary:** A time extension is needed due to permitting delays and a contract increase is needed to allow for unforeseen additional repair work and potential increased material cost at Midlothian Meadows, Whistler Woods and Tampier Lake dam. The current authorized contingency amount has already been largely depleted on additional work that was already completed at Dan Ryan Woods, Joe Orr Woods and Wampum Lake. The project was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 7/1/2025 (Board Item No. 25-0219).

26-0283

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

**PROPOSED AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTIONS**

**Department(s):** Legal Department

**Vendor(s):**

Ancel Glink, PC, Chicago, Illinois  
Burke, Burns & Pinelli, Chicago, Illinois  
Burke, Warren, & MacKay, Chicago, Illinois  
Caminer Law, LLC, Chicago, Illinois  
Chapman & Cutler, LLC, Chicago Illinois  
Del Galdo Law Group, LLC, Berwyn, Illinois  
Foley and Lardner, LLP, Chicago, Illinois  
Franczek, PC, Chicago, Illinois  
Golden, Holley, James, LLP, Chicago, Illinois  
Hardwick Firm, LLC, Chicago, Illinois  
Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, Chicago, Illinois  
Jackson Lewis, PC, Chicago, Illinois  
Katten, Muchin, Rosenman, LLP, Chicago, Illinois  
Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois  
Miner, Barnhill, and Galland, PC, Chicago, Illinois  
Neal & Leroy, LLC, Chicago, Illinois  
Odelson, Murphey, Frazier, & McGrath, LTD, Evergreen Park, Illinois  
Sanchez, Daniels, & Hoffman, LLP, Chicago, Illinois  
Schain, Banks, Kenney, & Schwartz, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois  
Tristan & Cervantes, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

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

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Legal services from outside legal counsel to be performed within the following categories of matters: Litigation, Labor & Employment, Land Use, Workers’ Compensation, General Local Government Law, Municipal Finance, and Workplace Investigations.

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2026 with two (2) optional one-year extensions

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 1/1/2027-12/31/2028

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$3,450,000.00

**Original Approval:** 11/14/2023, \$3,450,000.00

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

**This Increase Requested:** Not to Exceed \$2,300,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2027 \$1,150,000.00, FY 2028 \$1,150,000.00

**Accounts:** Corporate 51001.521055; Self-Insurance 51011.580011; and Real Estate 51006.521055

**Contract Number(s):** #23-60-009615

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

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On November 14, 2023, the Board of Commissioners approved the use of the firms listed above for outside legal counsel services for a three-year period, subject to two (2) one-year renewal options. The specified law firms were selected through the Forest Preserves' Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process in response to RFQ No. 23-60-009615. The Forest Preserves' now requests authorization to execute the renewal options.

Legal services are to be performed upon request of the Forest Preserves on an engagement-by-engagement basis, subject to a continued retention letter and engagement agreement by the Forest Preserves' Legal Department. Continuation in pool is subject to continued compliance with Procurement Code requirements for vendors. Legal fees for authorized work are subject to Title 1, Chapter 19 of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances and approval by the Forest Preserves' Finance Subcommittee on Litigation and Board of Commissioners.

**26-0306**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Authorization to proceed with grant of easements per Board Item No. 26-0169 as amended. The original waived appraised value of one of the easement areas is incorrect due to a change during plan review in one temporary easement area to a permanent easement area after the appraisal was completed. Forest Preserves staff nonetheless wish to convey the easements to IDOT to allow repairs to proceed due to the potential for significant road damage, partially on Forest Preserves' property, while a new appraisal is pending. Although the exact fair market value of the easement(s) are unknown, a waiver of fees is justified under Sec. 2-5-6 of the Forest Preserves Code of Ordinances as the proposed IDOT repairs/improvements represent a significant public benefit. Once known, if the corrected appraised value exceeds \$10,000, the Forest Preserves will report such appraised value to the Board of Commissioners.

**Item Number:** 26-0169

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Account(s):** N/A

**District(s):** 9

**Original Text of Item: 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~~ Waived. If the waiver value is higher than \$10,000, the amount will be reported to the Board of Commissioners.

**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

**26-0314**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Legal Department

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed amendment be approved in order to revise the Property legal description.

**Item Number:** 26-0131

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Account(s):** N/A

**District(s):** 15

**Original Text of Item: PROPOSED ORDINANCE****AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR POPLAR CREEK LAND AND WATER RESERVE**

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

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

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

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

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

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND:

PARCEL 1:-

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

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COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

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

PARCEL 3:

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

Parcel 1:

A.) That part of Lot 5 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207 in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144, lying Easterly of the Easterly line of State Route 59, according to the Plat of Dedication thereof recorded September 22, 1932, as Document No. 11143392, in Cook County, Illinois, excepting from said Lot 5 that portion taken by Condemnation in Case No. 95L0118 and described in the Order Vesting Title recorded May 25, 1995 as Document No. 95342243.

B.) That part of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207 in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144, lying Easterly of the Easterly line of State Route 59, according to the Plat of Dedication thereof recorded September 22, 1932, as Document No. 11143392, in Cook County, Illinois, excepting from said Lot 6 that portion taken by Condemnation in Case No. 95L0118 and described in the Order Vesting Title recorded May 25, 1995 as Document No. 95342243.

Parcel 2:

A.) That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207, in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, all in Cook County, Illinois, lying South of the South line of the North 19 acres of said Lot 8 and lying North of a straight line drawn from the Southeast corner of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, aforesaid, to a point on the East line of said Lot 8, 742.56 feet, as measured along said East line, North of the Southeast corner of said Lot 8, in Cook County, Illinois.

B.) That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207, in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, all in Cook County, Illinois, lying North of the North line of the South 728.00 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 15 and lying South of a straight line drawn from the Southeast corner of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, aforesaid, to a point on the East line of said Lot 8, 742.56 feet as measured along said East line, North of the Southeast corner of said Lot 8, in Cook County, Illinois.

C.) That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Section 15 aforesaid thence North 00 degrees 34 minutes East along the West line of said Section 742.5 feet, thence East parallel with the South line of said Section 1316.5 feet, thence South 00 degrees 44 minutes West, 14.50 feet, thence East parallel to the South line of said Section 660.0 feet, thence South 00 degrees 44 minutes West 198.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 20 minutes East 3.91 feet, thence South 1 degrees 05 minutes West, 528.0 feet to a point in the South line of said Section, thence West along said South line 1975.0 feet to the point of beginning, excepting therefrom that portion dedicated for public highway by instrument recorded September 22, 1932 as Document No. 11143392 and also excepting therefrom that portion taken for road in Condemnation Case no. 95L50618 and also excepting therefrom that part taken for road in Condemnation Case No. 92L50618, being situated in Hanover Township, Cook County, Illinois.

Parcel 3:

The South 3 acres of the North 19 acres of Lot 8 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207, in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, all in Cook County, Illinois.

AND ALSO That part of Lot 8 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third

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Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1949 as Document No. 20207 in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, lying South of the South Line of the North 19 acres of said Lot 8 and lying North of a straight line drawn from the South East corner of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, aforesaid, to a point on the East line of said Lot 8, 742.56 feet, as measured along said East Line, North of the South East corner of said Lot 8, in Cook County, Illinois.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING ~~1,218,808~~ 1,219,651 SQUARE FEET, OR ~~27.98~~ 28.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

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

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

District 15

**26-0315**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Legal Department

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed amendment be approved in order to revise the Property legal description.

**Item Number:** 26-0132

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A (No change to original purchase price.)

**Account(s):** N/A

District(s): 15

Original Text of Item: PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

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

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

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

Section: N/A

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

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

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AND:

PARCEL 1:-

~~THE SOUTH 3 ACRES OF THE NORTH 19 ACRES OF LOT 8 OF THE PLAT OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED~~

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~~JULY 1, 1848 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 20207, IN BOOK 29 OF MAPS, PAGE 144 AND DEPOSITED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.~~

~~PARCEL 2:~~

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

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

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A.) That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207, in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, all in Cook County, Illinois, lying South of the South line of the North 19 acres of said Lot 8 and lying North of a straight line drawn from the Southeast corner of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, aforesaid, to a point on the East line of said Lot 8, 742.56 feet, as measured along said East line, North of the Southeast corner of said Lot 8, in Cook County, Illinois.

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Parcel 3:

The South 3 acres of the North 19 acres of Lot 8 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1848 as Document No. 20207, in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, all in Cook County, Illinois.

AND ALSO That part of Lot 8 of the Plat of Section 15, Township 41 North, Range 9, East of the Third Principal Meridian, recorded July 1, 1949 as Document No. 20207 in Book 29 of Maps, Page 144 and deposited with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, lying South of the South Line of the North 19 acres of said Lot 8 and lying North of a straight line drawn from the South East corner of Lot 6 of the Plat of Section 15, aforesaid, to a point on the East line of said Lot 8, 742.56 feet, as measured along said East Line, North of the South East corner of said Lot 8, in Cook County, Illinois.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING ~~1,218,808~~ 1,219,651 SQUARE FEET, OR ~~27.98~~ 28.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

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

**Accounts:** Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010

**District(s):** 15

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified several parcels of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Poplar Creek Land and Water Reserve (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 59 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood, Cook County, Illinois and 253 Sutton Road, Unincorporated Hanover Township, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately ~~27.98~~ 28.00 ± acres. The Property has remnant oak-hickory woodland. Protection of this parcel will keep habitat adjacent to 765-acre Schaumburg Road Grassland to the west.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,650,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$5,660,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

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

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

**26-0318**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed amendment be approved in order to revise the General Superintendent's authority to approve and execute utility agreements from an annual Not to Exceed Amount of \$1,000,000 to \$1,750,000 to cover increased energy costs and potential equipment costs under Board Item No. 26-0224.

**Item Number:** 25-0296

**Original Text of Item: PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUEST FOR GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE UTILITY AGREEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, on 9/9/2025 the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") entering into a contract with Ameresco, Inc. to provide energy consultant, procurement, bill payment and data management services for the procurement of and budgeting for electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy for Forest Preserves facilities (Board Item No. 25-0293) (the "Contract"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Contract is due to expire on 9/30/2028 and has one (1) two-year renewal option; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for the Forest Preserves to lock in the best utility rates, the Forest Preserves must approve rates and enter into corresponding energy agreements on a timeframe that is shorter than thirty (30) days; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Contract, Ameresco is tasked with soliciting quotes, recommending energy suppliers, and administering agreements with energy providers; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last three (3) years, the Forest Preserves has spent an average of approximately \$820,000.00 annually for electricity and natural gas to operate its facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved a similar resolution involving energy agreements and contract authorization on January 26, 2021 via Board Item No. 21-0125.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby authorize the Forest Preserves General Superintendent to approve and execute any agreements for energy providers recommended by Ameresco, Inc., pursuant to the Contract; provided, however, that (1) any such agreements do not exceed a duration of forty-eight (48) months, and (2) the annual aggregate spend on such agreements will not exceed ~~One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00)~~ One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000.00) (collectively, the “Energy Contracts”).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that on an annual basis, no later than the ~~first Committee on Finance meeting after March 1st~~ July board meeting, the General Superintendent shall submit to the ~~Committee Board~~ Board a report covering all payments made pursuant to such Energy Contracts during the prior calendar year.

**26-0326**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Authorization to amend the previous board approval to update fiscal impact and summary. On July 1, 2025, the Board of Commissioners previously approved the award of a contract for Phase III construction engineering services but the contract was never executed due to delays in bidding of the project by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”). The vendor has submitted an updated cost proposal in anticipation of an IDOT construction bid posting in the near future. Forest Preserve staff are also seeking authorization for a modest contingency in the event of further prolonged delay in construction bidding.

**Item Number:** 25-0033

**Fiscal Impact:** Previous value of \$690,563.00 increased by \$162,724.60 (\$85,153 plus 10% contingency \$77,571.60) to a total of \$853,287.60

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**Original Text of Item:****PROPOSED CONTRACT****Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development**Vendor:** Bowman Consulting Group Ltd., Lisle, Illinois**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute**Good(s) or Service(s):** Phase III engineering services for construction oversight relating to construction of a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad connecting the Des Plaines River Trail from Golf Road to Central Road**Contract Value:** ~~\$690,563.00~~ \$853,287.60**Contract Period:** 9/1/2025 - 12/1/2027**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** ~~FY2025 \$69,056.30, FY2026 \$552,450.40, FY2027 \$69,056.30 subject to grant reimbursement of 80% (\$552,450.40) or up to \$664,980.00 if supplemental GCP funding is approved. FY2026 \$85,328.70, FY27 \$725,293.95, FY28 \$42,664.35). Subject to grant reimbursements (\$324,900 ICC Grade Crossing Protection funds and \$360,652.80 TAP-L funds with local share of \$90,163.20 excluding contingency).~~**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830, 51036.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts**Contract Number(s):** #74000013936 issued under Project #19-80-67G-24E1 and Solicitation #23-80-010118**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

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

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** Phase III engineering services are needed to oversee the Des Plaines River Trail Improvement Project between Golf Road and Central Road which includes a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and realignment of the existing trail. Grade Crossing Protection Funds (“GCPF”) through the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”) provided supplemental funding to cover 60% of bridge related items in the amount of \$324,900.00. In addition, a ~~major~~ federal grant was awarded in 2019 by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (“CMAQ”) through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)/locally programmed Transportation Alternative Program (TAP-L) program that will reimburse the Forest Preserves for up to 80% of the total costs ~~for these services~~ after application of GCPF funds. CMAQ/TAP-L funds would reimburse the Forest Preserves for up to ~~\$600,000.00~~ \$360,652.80 of total estimated cost of ~~\$750,000.00~~ \$775,716.00 submitted for CMAQ/TAP-L funding. The Forest Preserves would be responsible for a maximum of \$90,163.20 ~~\$150,00.00~~ or 20% of the total estimated cost and 100% of any cost exceeding ~~\$750,000.00~~ \$775,716.00. The Forest Preserves intends to pay the required 20% local match from ~~capital funds, which could be reduced after applying supplemental grant funds from the Interstate Commerce Commission (“ICC”) through the Grade Crossing Protection (“GCP”) Fund program or other~~ Forest Preserves capital funds.

~~A preliminary request for up to 60% of eligible engineering project costs has been submitted to the ICC that may be approved after submission of an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad (and the subject of Board Item No. 25 0034) to the ICC. If supplemental GCP Funds are approved, the Forest Preserves match would be reduced to \$85,020.00 and CMAQ/TAP-L grant reimbursement would also be reduced.~~

The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Qualifications for Phase III Engineering Services. Twelve (12) firms responded to a publicly advertised Request for Qualifications. Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. (“Bowman”) was selected based on qualifications.

**26-0331**

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

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed amendment be approved in order to revise the easement value.

**Item Number:** 26-0140

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Account(s):** N/A

**District(s):** 5

**Original Text of Item: 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~~ \$6,000.00.)

**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

**26-0110**

**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:** 5/1/2026 - 5/31/2026

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

**26-0282**

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

**REPORT**

**Department:** Permits, Rentals and Concessions

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** 2025 Fee Waiver and Discount Report

**Report Period:** January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

**Summary:** Under the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances, certain discounts are granted to veteran or non-profit organizations with respect to recreational use of Forest Preserves of Cook

County property or amenities. Additional discounts may be offered at the discretion of the General Superintendent. The Forest Preserves of Cook County implemented a Fee Waiver Policy (Policy Number: 02.30.00) establishing the process for when discounts or waivers would be granted. The policy requires an annual report to the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on discounts and waivers for the sake of transparency. The Fee Waiver and Discount Report describes specific discount categories and various passes issued pursuant to Forest Preserves of Cook County Board Approved Resolution No. 16-0314, approved July 12, 2016.

In 2025, the Forest Preserves of Cook County issued a total of \$194,761.80 in fee waiver permit discounts to various groups. In addition, a total of four thousand, nine hundred and thirteen (4,913) passes with an estimated value of \$191,350.25 were distributed across various programs, partners and/or events.

**26-0321**

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

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

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

**Report Period:** 5/1/2026 - 5/31/2026

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of May 2026. Payments total \$140,054.17 for May 2026.

**26-0307**

**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 7/7/2026 - 9/14/2026

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

**Thursday, 7/9; 4:30pm—6:30pm**

**Awaken Your Senses, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Join this senses-based wellness workshop for all ages and skill levels. *This program is led by certified yoga and wellness instructor Kim Eisendrath. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 7/9; 5:30pm**

**Camping 101, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs**

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

**Saturday, 7/11; 8pm**

**Summer Stargazing, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Participants can learn how to read a sky map and identify summer constellations followed by a short walk. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 7/12; 10am**

**Pond Dip, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Discover what tiny critters are living in the pond in this hands-on science program. *Ages 5 and up. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Tuesday, 7/14 through Thursday, 7/16; 9:30am—2:30pm**

**Field Biology, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Participants who attend this workshop will develop their knowledge and understanding of local natural communities, and gain experience in field survey techniques within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. *Registration required. Educators can earn professional development hours in this Next Generation Science Standard based workshop. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 7/16; 11am—2pm**

**Insect Fest, Cummings Square, River Forest**

Join us for this all-things-insect event! Patrons can have fun on a bug hunt, experience an insect petting zoo and more. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Friday, 7/17; 12pm—2pm**

**Crafternoon: Mosaics and Collages, Rubio Woods, Midlothian**

Patrons can discover the artistry of mosaics and collages by using nature to create a personal project. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

**Saturday, 7/18; 9am—2pm****Kayak the Des Plaines, Irving park Road Canoe Landing, Schiller Park**

Join us for a 9-miles kayak from the Irving Park Road Canoe Landing to Schuth's Grove. *Equipment and shuttle will be provided. This program is recommended for kayakers. Please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 7/18; 10am—12pm****Dog Days of Summer, Beck Lake, Des Plaines**

Join us for adoption opportunities, canoe paddles, training tips, treats and more. *Dogs must be on a leash and be friendly to people and other pets. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 7/18; 12pm—3pm****Summer Nature Camp, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Patrons can learn the significance of summer in Native American culture while participating in various activities. *Registration required. This program is presented by Trickster Cultural Center. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 7/19; 1pm****Nature Hike, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join a naturalist for a short hike as we take in the sounds and sights at Sagawau. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630) 257-2045.*

**Sunday, 7/19; 1:30pm****Stranger Things, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Patrons can explore the unusual and mysterious natural world around us. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Wednesday, 7/22; 7pm—8:30pm****Naturalist Night Out: Fireflies, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Join a naturalist for a themed stroll under the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 7/23; 5:30pm****Camping 101, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

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

**Friday, 7/24; 10am—12pm****Fishing for Community, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Drop in and learn fishing basics, build connections with others, and enjoy the beauty of nature. *Instructions and equipment will be provided. This program is a bilingual program that is offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Friday, 7/24; 5pm—7pm****Community Fishing Clinic, Sundown Meadow, Countryside**

Patrons can enjoy a free fishing clinic for anglers. *Ages 6 and up. Ages 6-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment will be provided. This program is presented with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 7/25; 11am****Wild About Play, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Unleash your wild side! Drop in. and create enrichment items for our ambassador animals. *Groups are welcome. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Saturday, 7/25; 11am—3pm****Campus Block Party, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Celebrate summer at the campground with family and friends! Participants can enjoy artmaking, playing games, food and more. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 7/25; 1pm****Cell Phone Photography for Teens, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Teens can explore our trails through a camera lens to learn tips on taking nature photos with your cell phone. *Registration required. Ages 13-17. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Sunday, 7/26; 10:30am****High Summer Nature Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Join us for a guided walk to experience the beauty of summer in the gardens and woods surrounding Trailside Museum. *Registration required. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Sundays, 7/26 & 8/30; 2:30 pm****Share the Trails: Cycling Pit Stop, LaBagh Woods, Chicago**

Get your helmet fit, tires inflated, bike checked and learn about trail safety. Presented by Ride Illinois.

Grove 4. Free.

**Friday, 7/31 through Sunday, 8/2; 12pm**

**Hip-Hop Camp-Out, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Join us for a camping experience that blends hip-hop culture, nature, wellness and community. *Registration required. This program is presented with the Chicago Hip Hop Heritage Museum. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/1; 10am–12pm**

**Teen Restoration Workday, Evans Field, River Grove**

Join us and improve native wildlife habitat by removing invasive species. *Ages 13-17. Ages 13-15 must be accompanied by an adult. Tools and equipment will be provided. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/1; 10am–1pm**

**Back to School Adventure Day, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Ring in the school year with a day of fun, learning, and community connection! Back-to-School Community Adventure Day features free school supplies, exciting outdoor activities like archery and kids fire extinguishing. *This program is presented with ICNA Chicago, Niles-Maine Library, Hive Center for the Book Arts and more. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/8; 10am–12pm**

**Painting by the Slough, Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch, Willow Springs**

Participants can enjoy the beauty of freshwater ecosystems through watercolor painting. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. All skill levels are welcome. Supplies will be provided and will include paper, watercolor palettes, and paintbrushes. Participants can bring an example of their past work, or their own supplies. Please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/8; 2pm**

**Weaving a Community, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Patrons can learn weaving techniques and its history as well as the natural history of invasive plants. *Supplies will be provided. For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Sunday, 8/9; 12pm–2pm**

**Natural Dyes Workshop, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Patrons can learn how to turn natural materials into fabric dyes. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Participants can color a bandana or bring their own 100 percent cotton item. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 8/9; 1pm****Let's Go Find Some Bugs, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Play bug bingo as we hunt for the best bugs of the summer. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Thursday, 8/13; 8pm****Bat Chat, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Patrons can learn about these fascinating creatures while watching for them over the river. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Saturday, 8/15; 9am—2pm****Hummingbird Fest, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Let's celebrate hummingbirds! Patrons can watch hummingbird banding demonstrations, learn about their migration, behaviors and physiology, make crafts with kids, and more. *Registration required. Please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/15; 10am—12pm****Nature Wellness Walk, Catherine Chevalier Woods, Chicago**

Join us for relaxing mindfulness and meditative practice during this leisure walk. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program will be held at Grove 1, and it is presented by the University of Illinois-Extension. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 8/15; 5pm—7pm****Cultural Presentation and Dance Exhibition, Schiller Woods-East, Chicago**

A showcase of Native dance forms and cultural presentations. *This event is presented with the American Indian Center of Chicago. For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 8/16; 11am****Summertime Stories, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

The Naperville Chinese Storytellers share stories in Chinese followed by nature-based art and activities. *Ages 10 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Monday, 8/17 through Thursday, 8/20; 8:30am—12:30pm****Outdoor Education Camp, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Children can learn teambuilding skills in survival challenges, activities and games. *Registration required.*

*Ages 6-11 The camp will be separated based on age groups. Children aged 6-8 will be part of group 1 and children aged 9-11 will be part of group 2. The cost for this program is \$25 per child. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Wednesday, 8/19; 7pm—8:30pm****Naturalist Night Out: Senses, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Join a naturalist for a themed stroll under the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 8/20; 6:30pm—8:30pm****Twilight Canoe, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can explore the wonders of Crabtree Lake at twilight. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program is presented with the Chicago River Canoe and Kayak. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Friday, 8/21; 9:30am—11am****Wildflowers in the Prairie, Carl R. Hansen Woods, Hoffman Estates**

Patrons can learn about the natural history and wildflowers of Shoe Factory Road Prairie on this 2-mile walk. Bring sun protection and water! *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Friday, 8/21; 5:30pm—8pm****Nature Skate Day, Dan Ryan Woods-East, Chicago**

Bring your best skating skills routines or just roll along to the music. *This event will be held at Groves 13 and 14. For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

**Friday, 8/21; 6:30pm—8:30pm****Twilight Canoe, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can explore the wonders of Crabtree Lake at twilight. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program is presented with the Chicago River Canoe and Kayak. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 8/22; 1pm****The Jewels of Mexico, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join us for an indoor presentation that explores the legend of hummingbirds and their cultural significance in Mexico. Then relax and enjoy a walk to hummingbird garden. *Registration required. Please call (630) 257-2045.*

**Thursday, 8/27; 10am**

**Digital Detox in the Garden, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Participants can learn how plants can help us disconnect from our devices. *Registration required. This program is led by Wandering Paths Founder and flower farmer Navraaz Kaur Basati. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 8/27; 6pm–8pm****Twilight Creations: Open Art Space, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Musicians, poets and visual artists find inspiration during the twilight hours indoors or outdoors. *For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Thursday, 8/27 through Friday, 8/28; 9:30pm–12:30am****Partial Eclipse of the Moon, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Patrons can experience a breathtaking partial total lunar eclipse as it slowly transforms the night sky. *Patrons must bring a chair. Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Friday, 8/28; 7pm–9pm****Night of Nature Play, Eggers Grove, Chicago**

Participants can experience nature at night through open play, star gazing, and s'mores. *For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

**Saturday, 8/29; 1pm****Listening to Nature, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Patrons can enjoy a focused listening excursion. The soundwalk will lead us to an exploration of the soundscape via the trails of the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. This program is led by Sound artist Norman W. Long. Please call (630) 257-2045.*

**Saturday, 8/29; 7:30pm****Bat and Nighthawk Walk, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Join us for a walk around our 1-mile dogwood trail and look for and listen to bats and nighthawks. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Sunday, 8/30; 11am–3pm****Art in Nature Festival, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Bring out your inner artist and create your own masterpiece using different mediums. Participants can watch plein air artists painting on the trails as well as music and dance performances. Local businesses and organizations will be offering art activities and giveaways. Art and food will be available for purchase.

*For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 9/1; 10am—11am**

**Garden Days, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Do you want to make a difference and get your hands a little dirty? We're looking for volunteers to help us grow and care for the Trickster Cultural Center Gardens! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just curious to learn, your time and energy will help us create a beautiful, sustainable space for the community. *This program is presented by Trickster Cultural Center. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 9/3; 6pm—8pm**

**Twilight Creations: Open Art Space, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Musicians, poets, and visual artists can find inspiration during the twilight hours indoors or outdoors. *For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Thursday, 9/3; 7pm**

**“The Grown-Ups”, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Patrons can enjoy a performance during the sunset under the open sky. “The Grown Ups” is a funny, deeply human play inviting audiences to gather close and “lose” themselves in the woods. *This play is presented by The Tramps, an independent Chicago artist collective, which is funded in part by the Independent Productions Initiative through Redtwist Theatre. For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/5; 10am—3pm**

**National Hummingbird Day, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can explore the conservation and historical importance of these birds throughout the Americas. *For more information about presentations and activities, please call (847)381-6592 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/10; 8pm—9:30pm**

**Moth Picnic, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us for a nighttime moth attraction hike and see which moths appear on our white sheet under black light. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Saturday, 9/12; 10am—12pm**

**Landscape Needle Felting, Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch, Willow Springs**

Participants can explore the beauty of our natural landscape using natural fibers. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Supplies will be provided. Please call (312)533-5751 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/12; 1pm—4pm**

**Paddle at Beaubien Woods, Beaubien Woods Boat Launch, Chicago**

Patrons can paddle along the Little Calumet River while enjoying a fun day on the water and in nature. *The canoes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please call (708)771-9632.*

**Sunday, 9/13; 12:30pm—2:30pm**

**Herbal Tea Party, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Patrons can learn about native plants from the garden then sample different infused teas made from them. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JULY 7, 2026**

**26-0319 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)** Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 7/7/2026

**26-0320 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)** Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 7/7/2026

**26-0105 REPORT** Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures, Report Period: 1/1/2026 - 5/31/2026

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**RULES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JULY 7, 2026**

**26-0336 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS** Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 06/09/2026