



Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation & Policy Council Meeting

February 9, 2023 ▪ 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center ▪ [15891 Paxton Ave, South Holland, IL 60473](#)

Public Comments. Members of the public who wish to testify must register at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting. Register by sending your name and organization (if applicable) to Eileen.Figel@cookcountyil.gov. Written-only comments provided 24 hours prior to the start of the Council meeting will be made part of the meeting record and available to all Council members. Anyone wishing to submit written public comments should send comments via email to Eileen.Figel@cookcountyil.gov.

Accommodations. The meeting will be held inside the Sand Ridge nature center which is an accessible building. To request live-captioning or other accommodations, please send an email to Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Next Century Conservation Plan Vision

The people of Cook County will celebrate and nurture our thriving woodlands, prairies and waters as world-class treasures that sustain our great metropolis.

AGENDA

- 9:30 am
1. Welcome and Introduction of New Council Members (Alan Bell, Chairperson, Conservation & Policy Council)
 2. Sand Ridge Nature Center Campus/Partner stories
Sand Ridge Nature Center Campus Director (Cre Walls)
Underground Railroad (Tom Shepherd)
 3. Approval of Minutes (See Attachment 1)
 4. Public Comments
- 10:00 am
5. Chairman's report
- 10:10 am
6. Discussion with Superintendent Arnold Randall
- 10:20 am
7. Promoting Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (Raquel Garcia-Alvarez, Jacqui Ulrich) (See Attachment 2)
Over the past several years, the FPCC, Council and partners identified more than forty initiatives to promote equity and make the preserves more inclusive. On November 18, 2022, REDI team members and other staff convened to review and prioritize the initiatives to be implemented over

the next several years. This includes expanding efforts to engage residents from communities that have historically been excluded.

10:45 am *Break*

11:00 am **8.** Protecting Land (Chris Adas and Cathy Geraghty)

With funding from the referendum, the Forest Preserves can acquire and protect more natural open land for the enjoyment of generations to come. What are the top priority acquisition sites for the next few years, and how are we applying a REDI lens to these acquisitions? How is the Forest Preserves working with Chicago Wilderness and the 30 X 30 initiative (part of an international campaign to protect 30% of land and water by 2030)?

11:25 am **9.** Engaging on Additional Topics (See Attachment 3)

How do we engage in topics that don't fit on our agendas? Special meetings? Written updates? Other options/ideas?

11:55 pm **10.** Updates from Strategic Partners

12:00 pm **11.** Adjourn