



Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation & Policy Council Meeting April 19, 2024 ▪ 8:45 am (site tour) ▪ 10 am to noon (meeting)

The tour of Deer Grove West begins at 8:45 am. Meet at [Deer Grove West, Grove #5](#).
Make a right at the fork and drive to the end of the parking lot; there is a round-a-bout at Grove 5.

Meeting will be held from 10 am to noon at [Camp Reinberg, 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine, IL 60074](#)

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 Sharon.Williams3@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 Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov.*

Accommodations. *The meeting will be held inside the main hall at Camp Reinberg; this is an accessible building. To request an accessible tour of the grounds, 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.

A G E N D A

- 8:45 am *Please join us for a pre-meeting tour of Deer Grove West led by Senior Resource Ecologist Becky Collings. Deer Grove is Cook County's first forest preserve. Today there are nearly 2,000 acres of diverse habitat including upland forest, ravines, wetlands and prairie. Following years of restoration work, two areas within Deer Grove are recognized by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission as some of the highest quality natural areas in the state.*
- 10:00 am 1. Welcome (Alan Bell, Chairperson, Conservation & Policy Council and Commissioner Britton, TBC)
 2. Land Acknowledgement
 3. Nature Spotlight – Becky Collings
- 10:10 am 4. Approval of Minutes (See Attachment 1)
 5. Public Comments

- 10:15 am **6.** Chairman's report
- 10:25 am **7.** Discussion with Interim General Superintendent Eileen Figel
- 10:35 am **8.** Engaging volunteers (Henrietta Saunders, Linda Masters, Kris DaPra, Emily Russell)
- 11:00 am **9.** Protecting Biodiversity (Laurel Ross, Iza Redlinski)
- 11:20 am *Break*
- 11:30 am **10.** Update on Referendum and ARPA Spending (Michelle Uting, Beth Dunne, Jen Baader)
- 11:50 am **11.** Updates from Strategic Partners
- 12:00 pm **12.** Adjourn

Attachments

1. Minutes for Meeting of 2.1.24
2. Council Representation at 2024 Board Meetings – Updated List
3. ARPA Funding Report (December 2023)
4. Chicago Botanic Garden News
5. Recent Media Highlights (Provided as a separate document.)