

## Conservation and Policy Council

**January 20, 2015**

Tour of Trailside Nature Center ▪ 2 pm to 2:40 pm ▪ 738 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest  
Council Meeting ▪ 3 pm to 5 pm ▪ Thatcher Pavilion at 8030 Chicago Avenue, River Forest

### **Optional Pre-meeting tour of Trailside Museum**

*Council members are invited to join us for a tour of Trailside Nature Center located just across the street from Thatcher Pavilion. (See attached map.) Meet at the main entrance to Trailside at 2 pm. We will conclude the tour by 2:40 pm and then drive down the street to Thatcher.*

## **A G E N D A**

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1. Welcome and Introductions (Wendy Paulson, Chair)
2. Public Comment
3. Overview of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Next Century Conservation Plan (Arnold Randall, General Superintendent, FPDCC)
4. Testimonial (Daniel Suarez, Audubon Chicago Region)
5. Implementation Strategy and Council Responsibilities (Eileen Figel, Deputy General Superintendent, FPDCC) (See Attachments 2 and 3.)
6. Challenges and Opportunities
7. Council Operations & Resources (Cathy Geraghty, Director of Strategic s, FPDCC)
  - a. Operating Guidelines
  - b. Overview of Resource Binder
  - c. Affidavits
  - d. Straw poll for terms
8. Adjourn

## Attachment 1: Map of Trailside Nature Center & Thatcher Pavilion



**To Trailside Museum & Nature Center (738 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest):** Trailside is at the southwest corner of Thatcher and Chicago Avenue. Enter parking lot from Chicago Avenue, just east of Thatcher Avenue. Follow footpath to museum; we will meet at the entrance.

**To Thatcher Pavilion (8030 Chicago Avenue, River Forest):** Enter the driveway from Chicago Avenue and proceed north to the parking lot. We will meet in the adjacent pavilion.

## Attachment 2: Council Responsibilities

The Conservation and Policy Council is charged with helping the Forest Preserves to implement the Next Century Conservation Plan, which is a 25-year vision for the Preserves, by overseeing the development and annual update of a 5 year strategic and financial plan.

The General Superintendent has established a series of committees led by Preserves staff and representatives of partner organizations to support the Council in developing this strategic operating plan (see attachment 3). The partner organizations are contributing their time and talent to assist, in some cases with funding from foundations or other outside resources. In addition, through a generous grant from the Chicago Community Trust, Openlands is collaborating with Forest Preserves staff to support Council operations and planning for the first year.

The committees organized around the four goals of the plan will be responsible for identifying tasks and milestones for the first year of implementation. Using this information, Openlands and the Forest Preserves staff will work with Council members to develop a draft five-year strategic and financial plan for the Council's review and recommendation at its September 2015 meeting.

The proposed Council planning calendar for 2015 is as follows:

<b>Council Meeting 1</b> January 20, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Next Century Plan and the Forest Preserves</li> <li>• Progress to date</li> <li>• Operating procedures, terms, etc.</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation Wkshp</b> February 4, 2 pm to 4 pm at Brookfield Zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is evaluation important?</li> <li>• What does success look like?</li> <li>• How will we measure progress and tell our story?</li> </ul>
<b>Council Meeting 2</b> April 6 3 pm to 5 pm (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation Committee presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Leadership (Goal 4)</li> <li>◦ Nature (Goal 1)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion and questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Key policy or priority questions</li> <li>◦ Extrapolate to 5 years?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Council Meeting 3</b> June 23 3 pm to 5 pm (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation Committee presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ People (Goal 2)</li> <li>◦ Economy (Goal 3)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Key policy or priority questions</li> <li>◦ Extrapolate to 5 years?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Council Meeting 4</b> September 10 3 pm to 5 pm (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Budget and work plan</li> <li>• Five year strategic and financial plan</li> <li>• Recommendation to Forest Preserves Board</li> </ul>
<b>Year 1 Reflection/Assessment</b> December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are we progressing?</li> <li>• What is working well? What isn't?</li> <li>• What adjustments are needed?</li> </ul>

## Attachment 3: NEXT CENTURY CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Conservation & Policy Council

Wendy Paulson (chair), Falona Joy, Laurel Ross,  
Linda Mastandrea, Mark Templeton,  
Michael DeSantiago, Peter Ellis, Robert Castaneda,  
Sylvia Jenkins, Terry Guen,  
Commissioner Robert Steele (ex-officio)

*Develop and annually  
update 5-year strategic &  
financial plan.*

*Meet quarterly, beginning  
Jan. 20, 2015.*

### Steering Committee

Arnold Randall, Cathy Geraghty, Chris Adas, Cynthia Moreno,  
Daniel Betts, Dennis White, Eileen Figel, Erik Varela,  
John McCabe, Steve Hughes, Troy Alim (FPCC)  
  
Alejandro Grajal (CZS), Benjamin Cox (FOFP), Gregory Mueller  
(CBG), Jane Balaban (NB Steward), Justin Pepper (BF), Lenore  
Beyer-Clow (Openlands), Rebecca Sanders (Audubon),  
Richard Gamble (CZS), Stuart Strahl (CZS)  
  
Staff Coordinator: Mary Pat Cross

*Ensure coordinated,  
comprehensive approach.*

*Guide evaluation &  
communication.*

*Meet quarterly, beginning  
Dec.17, 2014.*

### Nature Cmte

**GOAL 1:** Native  
landscapes will thrive  
for generations

Co-chairs:  
John McCabe, FPCC  
Jane Balaban, North  
Branch Prairie Project

Staff coordinator:  
Lydia Uhler

### People Cmte

**GOAL 2:** Everyone in  
Cook County will feel  
welcome at the forest  
preserves—and will  
seek them out for  
discovery, renewal  
and fun.

Co-chairs:  
Cynthia Moreno,  
FPCC  
Rebecca Sanders,  
Audubon Chicago

Staff coordinators:  
Amanda Grant &  
Lydia Uhler

### Economics Cmte

**GOAL 3:** Communities  
will value the  
economic benefits of  
protected lands.

Co-chairs:  
Chris Adas, FPCC  
Richard Gamble,  
Chicago Zoological  
Society

Staff Coordinator:  
Anthony Tindall

### Leadership Cmte

**GOAL 4:** Visionary  
conservation leaders  
will safeguard,  
expand and bring  
increased resources  
to the Forest  
Preserves.

Co-chairs:  
Troy Alim, FPCC  
Lenore Beyer-Clow,  
Openlands  
Staff Coordinator:  
Anthony Tindall

*Committees will create an annual work plan and implement specific tasks to fulfill the priorities within their assigned goal. They will meet monthly for the first year.*