



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

Virtual Meeting

BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 10:00 AM

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Due to the current health crisis, there is no in-person participation for the County Board meetings. The President and Commissioners will participate remotely. The public can observe the livestream <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>

The public can still testify to the Committee Meetings. Only written comment will be accepted for those wishing to provide Public Testimony. Written comments provided prior to the start of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting. Three minutes per comment will be allowed, though every effort will be made to read statements in their entirety. If you have additional material for the Board to consider, please email testimony to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov and indicate a desire that your testimony be entered into the record. All written comment which complies with County Board Rules will be posted online.

PRESIDENT

[20-0277](#)

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**REMOTE MEETINGS**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Section 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 1 of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

4-1. *Meeting.*

(a) The Board shall hold regular meetings pursuant to an annual calendar adopted by resolution of the Board.

(b) It shall be the duty of the President to call special meetings of the Board whenever such meetings are necessary in his or her opinion. The President must give no less than forty-eight (48) hours' advance written notice of such special meetings to the Commissioners and to the public.

(c) In the event that the President states that an emergency exists, the President may call a special meeting, providing twenty-four (24) hours' advance written notice to the Commissioners and to the public, unless not reasonable under the circumstances. In such case notice shall be given as soon as practicable. All emergency meetings shall be held at the County Seat, in the County Office Building, unless another place within the County shall be designated by the President or Board.

(d) Special meetings shall also be held whenever requested by at least one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the Commissioners (six (6) Commissioners). At least forty-eight (48) hours' advance written notice of such

special meetings shall be given to the remaining Commissioners and the public.

(e) All notices of special meetings must include an agenda for such meeting, and such meeting shall be limited to the subjects and items specified in the call of the meeting. The notice of the call of the meeting shall be read at the beginning of the meeting.

(f) Special meetings shall be held at the hour of 10:00 a.m., unless another hour is specified in the call.

(g) All regular meetings shall be held at the County Seat, in the County Office Building, unless another place within the County shall be designated by the Board.

(h) A regular or special meeting may be cancelled by the President by providing no less than twenty-four (24) hours' advance written notice that said meeting has been cancelled to the Commissioners and to the public.

(i) Remote Meetings. All public meetings of the Board and its committees and subcommittees may be conducted by means of electronic, video, audio, or telephonic connection ("remote meeting") for the duration of the Illinois Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, including any extensions thereto, related to COVID-19 or a public health crisis. A member who desires to attend and participate in a remote public meeting shall do so by the designated electronic means. For purposes of conducting a remote meeting, the terms "written", "in writing", "document" and "copy" in these rules includes printed or electronic means, and a rule that requires an instrument to be provided to the Board Secretary or a member or the meeting Chair may be satisfied by electronic transmission.

4-30. Public Testimony. Subject to the provisions herein, public testimony will be permitted at regular and special meetings of the Board and at committee meetings of the Board.

The Board encourages public participation in the legislative process. The following rules shall apply at any meeting of the Board and its committees at which public comment or testimony is taken:

(a) Public testimony at all meetings. Public testimony at all meetings. Subject to the provisions herein, public testimony will be permitted at all meetings of the Board, its committees and subcommittees. Any member of the general public may address the Board or any of its committees or subcommittees at any remote meeting required to be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1, et seq., as then in effect) in writing, or orally from a remote location by means of electronic, video, audio, or telephonic connection if permitted in the meeting notice.

(b) Authorization to speak. Authorization to speak. Authorization as a public speaker or to provide written testimony to be read into the record of a meeting of the Board, its committees and subcommittees shall be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, municipality of residence, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary.

~~(c) Public comment period~~ ~~Public comment period~~. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda, or at the discretion of the chair, but prior to final action by the meeting body as is practicable. The public comment period during a remote meeting may be limited to written testimony which shall be read into the record by the Board Secretary.

~~(d) Germane subject matter encouraged~~ ~~Germane subject matter encouraged~~. Public testimony shall be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda. To preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency, the presiding officer may impose subject matter limits on public comment or testimony.

~~(e) Time limit for public speakers~~ ~~Time limit for public speakers~~. Written public testimony or oral testimony will be limited ~~During their testimony, each public speaker may have up to three (3) minutes.~~ The Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Responses to inquiries of the public speaker by the presiding officer or members shall not count towards any time limit. With leave, the presiding officer or members may extend a public speaker's time as desired.

~~(f) Prohibited behavior for public speakers~~ ~~Prohibited behavior for public speakers~~. ~~Public speaker~~ Oral or written testimony shall not include the use of vulgar, abusive or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; Failure ~~failure~~ to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony.

~~(g) Disruptions of meetings prohibited~~ ~~Disruptions of meetings prohibited~~. Disruptions of meetings are prohibited. Disruptions include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Speech or testimony by an individual after expiration of the time allotted for the speaker's public comment or testimony;
- (2) Speech or testimony by an individual that is not germane to a specific item or items on the meeting agenda;
- (3) Speech or testimony by an individual who has not been recognized by the presiding officer for public comment or testimony, who is speaking in a volume louder than a low, conversational level appropriate for communication between persons seated next to each other in the chamber, or whose speech is audible by others; or
- (4) Holding or placing a banner or sign during a meeting in a way that may endanger other individuals or that obstructs the free passage or view of others attending or viewing the meeting.
- (5) Verbal comments and testimony must be conducted in respectful speech with no personal attacks.

- (6) If an individual engages in disruption of the meeting, including but not limited to; any of the actions described above, the presiding officer may rule:~~Rule~~ the individual out of order and; direct the individual to cease the activity and impose other reasonable conditions for the individual's continued presence at the meeting. If the individual does not immediately comply with the presiding officer's order, the presiding officer may direct the removal of the individual from the meeting. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting is excluded from returning to that meeting, unless the decision of the presiding officer is overruled by a majority vote of those members in attendance. Any two (2) members may place before the body the question of whether to permit the individual to return to the same meeting.

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

[20-0461](#)

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

PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Emily Harris, Laurel Ross, and Mark N. Templeton

Position: Council Members

Department/Board/Commission: Conservation and Policy Council

Effective date: 1/1/2021

Expiration date: 12/31/2023

Summary: The Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent and develops and annually updates a strategic plan to operationalize the Next Century Conservation Plan, as well as reviewing and making recommendations for the annual budget, conservation policies and practices and long-term strategic issues.

Emily Harris, Principal, Harris Strategies. As Principal of Harris Strategies, LLC, Emily Harris helps organizations bring big ideas to action. Emily leads strategic plans and designs programs to bring hundreds of partners together around common goals. Her work to make the Chicago region a better place has included initiatives on economic growth, open space conservation, historic preservation, leadership

development, disability rights, and early childhood education. She has a passion for urban living, social justice and conservation, and is deeply committed to setting collective agendas and getting things done. She created and launched ADA 25 Advancing Leadership--the nation's only independent non-profit focused on civic leadership by people with disabilities. She led the Burnham Plan Centennial focused on metropolitan Chicago's future. She led development of the Next Century Conservation Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County and assisted with the development of the World Business Chicago Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs and Cook County Partnering for Prosperity plan. Emily serves on the Boards of Directors of Access Living and the Leadership Fellows Association of Leadership Greater Chicago, and is a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation Strategic Planning Committee.

Laurel Ross, Former Director of Urban Conservation, Field Museum, Chicago. Laurel Ross has served in numerous leadership positions within the conservation community of Chicago, demonstrating a tremendous commitment to conserving the native environment of Illinois. Laurel was the Director of Urban Conservation for the Field Museum from 2004 to 2014. In this role, she developed and oversaw programs that connected people to nature through environmental education, habitat restoration and collaboration between related environmental and cultural organizations. She has also served as Chair of Chicago Wilderness, Director of Conservation Programs for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Director of the North Park Village Nature Center. Laurel has many years of experience as a committed volunteer and leader in environmental stewardship through the Volunteer Stewardship Network of Illinois.

Mark N. Templeton, Director, Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago. Mark Templeton has an extensive background in government finance and strategic planning with a demonstrated focus on environmental issues. He currently serves a Director of the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago. Prior to this role, Mark was Executive Director of the Office of Independent Trustees for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trust, where he helped ensure that the \$20 billion pledged by BP was available to address claims of affected individuals. He also served in the cabinet of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon as Director of the Department of Natural Resources, where he managed approximately 1759 employees, oversaw an approximately \$300 million annual budget, oversaw Missouri State Parks, and directed allocation of approximately \$350 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Additionally, Mark was Associate Dean and COO at Yale Law School, developed strategies for environmental sustainability at McKinsey & Company and was a senior adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

[20-0462](#)

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Henrietta Saunders

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Conservation and Policy Council

Effective date: 1/1/2021

Expiration date: 12/31/2023

Summary: The Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent and develops and annually updates a strategic plan to operationalize the Next Century Conservation Plan, as well as reviewing and making recommendations for the annual budget, conservation policies and practices and long-term strategic issues.

Henrietta Saunders is Chairperson of the Natural Resources Commission for the Village of Glenview and a long-time volunteer with the Friends of the Forest Preserves and the North Branch Restoration Project. She currently serves on the boards of Community Organizing and Family Issues (“COFI”) and Family Promise Chicago North Shore. She previously has served on local, state and national boards of the League of Women Voters as well as the Delta Institute and Faith in Place. She worked in commercial banking, in a small family business, at the UFCW Midwest Health and Benefits Fund and in various nonprofits before retiring. Henrietta has a BA from Brown University, an MBA in Finance from University of Chicago, an MS in Learning Sciences from Northwestern, and is fluent in Spanish. Her honors include Spirit of the River Award, Friends of the Chicago River (2015), Peggy Montes Unsung Heroine Award, Cook County Board of Commissioners (2016), Freshwater Hero Award, Freshwater Future, Petosky, Michigan (2017) and 20th Anniversary Transformative Leader Award, Faith in Place, 2019.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[20-0464](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Conservation and Policy Council

Request: Approve

Report Title: Position Paper: *Nature-Compatible Recreation in the Forest Preserves of Cook County*

Report Period: N/A

Summary: This is the third of four (4) position papers prepared by the Conservation and Policy Council to provide guidance regarding key issues that face the Forest Preserves. These position papers continue an important legacy of civic leadership related to the Forest Preserves. In 1959, an Advisory Committee paper stated, “The Board has kept in mind the fact that the great holdings of the District are the property of all the citizens of Cook County and has refused to dissipate them for community, municipal or other purposes not in the interest of the general public,” and that it takes “vigilance, effort and courage” to sustain and enforce these policies with firmness and resolution. This position paper reinforces and builds upon previous efforts. It recommends that the Forest Preserves prioritize nature-compatible recreation and oppose new uses that are not aligned with the Forest Preserves’ mission. The paper also recommends that existing recreational programs and/or facilities that do not align with the Forest Preserves’ mission and are not financially sustainable be transformed to natural spaces or re-purposed for nature-compatible recreation.

Upon approval of the position paper by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, the Forest Preserves shall take steps to implement the recommendations, including creating or revising policies, ordinances, and other documents as necessary, as well as obtaining any required board approval related to such actions.

The paper was developed by Terry Guen (Council member), Michael DeSantiago (Council member), Maria Pesqueira (Council member), Benjamin Cox (Friends of the Forest Preserves), Eileen Figel (Forest Preserves), Cynthia Moreno (Forest Preserves - retired), Kristin Pink (Forest Preserves), Jacqui Ulrich (Forest Preserves) and Karen Vaughan (Forest Preserves).

[20-0451](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Other Part(ies): The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (the “Tollway”).

Goods or Services: Proposed permanent and temporary easements, tree removal, and temporary partial closure of the Salt Creek Trail associated with reconstruction of I-294 adjacent to Bemis Woods.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Construction period and temporary easement from 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025. The permanent easement will continue indefinitely (perpetual).

Fiscal Impact: \$2,290,102.79 (Revenue Generating). This amount represents the following: (1) Permanent and Temporary easements - \$44,000.00 (appraised value); and (2) tree mitigation (estimate for 431 trees) - \$2,246,102.79. In-kind contributions by Tollway for ecological restoration, gateway signs have an estimated value of over \$350,000.00

Accounts: N/A

District(s): 17

Summary: The Tollway is scheduled to reconstruct a section of I-294 from Ogden Avenue to 31st Street in and adjacent to Bemis Woods. The proposed reconstruction work will impact property owned by the Forest Preserves and will require granting a permanent easement of 3.325 acres and a temporary easement of 0.892 acre. Impacts to land owned or leased by the Forest Preserves will include construction of box culverts and other storm sewer infrastructure, removal of approximately four hundred thirty-one (431) trees, establishment of a mowed access path for future maintenance, and temporary closure of the Salt Creek Trail.

The Tollway will pay required tree mitigation fees, provide vegetation management and tree trimming along a permanent access path in Bemis Woods adjacent to 31st Street at Meadowlark Golf Course, and contribute in-kind restoration work on approximately 85 acres within Bemis Woods with an estimated value of \$300,000.00. The Tollway will also install a taller salt spray wall to minimize impacts on the preserves.

In addition, the Tollway will reconstruct the Salt Creek Trail under the I-294 Salt Creek Bridge, include the Forest Preserves logo as a public artwork on the bridge abutment, and provide in-kind contribution of additional gateway signs designed by the Forest Preserves at various locations in Bemis Woods with an estimated value of over \$50,000.00. The Tollway will make additional bank stabilization improvements adjacent to a portion of the I&M Trail which is currently closed to provide access for the Tollway's Mile Long Bridge reconstruction.

[20-0452](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Audubon Great Lakes, Chicago, Illinois.

Reason: On 2/25/2020, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves to accept a \$50,000.00 federal grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Management Program to restore and enhance 118 acres of coastal wetlands at Burnham Prairie Nature Preserve and Eggers Marsh in the Calumet region (Board Item No. 20-0134). The project includes four (4) field trips which will be coordinated and led by Audubon Great Lakes’ Wild Indigo Nature Exploration for the public, schools, and local urban community organizations interested in bridging relationships to nature. The field trips will highlight the unique plants and animals which live in the coastal areas and will seek to inspire local community members to care for local nature and view the preserves as an asset to their neighborhood. The Forest Preserves seeks board authorization to contribute \$6,000.00 of the grant funds to Audubon Great Lakes to cover the cost of the field trips.

Contract period: 12/15/2020 - 4/30/2022

Fiscal Impact: \$6,000.00

Account(s): Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444

Concurrences:

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

District(s): 4

[20-0454](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

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

Grantor: Forest Preserve Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization to accept grant and enter into agreement

Purpose: Ecological restoration at Cranberry Slough Preserve

Grant Amount: \$37,500.00

Grant Period: 12/15/2020 - 4/15/2022

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444

Concurrences:

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

District(s): 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded grant funds by the Forest Preserve Foundation to support 13 acres of ecological restoration at Cranberry Slough Preserve near the Village of Palos Park in southwestern Cook County. Cranberry Slough is a rich woodland, savanna, and sedge meadow complex and is a priority for ecological restoration. Restoration will include thinning over-dense tree stands to increase light levels and improve the health of this preserve. This work builds on prior restoration work at this preserve and the adjacent Country Lane Woods preserve.

Total project costs to be covered in full by the grant amount are \$37,500.00. The work will be conducted at no additional cost to the Forest Preserves. The grant award will require the execution of a grant agreement.

[20-0455](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

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

Grantor: Forest Preserve Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization to accept grant and enter into agreement

Purpose: Ecological restoration at Schubert's Woods Preserve

Grant Amount: \$9,000.00

Grant Period: 12/15/2020 - 9/30/2021

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444

Concurrences:

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

District(s): 6

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded grant funds by the Forest Preserve Foundation to support 2 acres of ecological restoration at Schubert's Woods Preserve near the Village of Park Forest, along the Sauk Trail preserve system in southern Cook County. Schubert's Woods is a rich woodland and floodplain forest that sits on an ancient moraine with rolling hills and is bisected by Thorn Creek. Restoration will include removal and treatment of invasive brush at a key location to improve the health of this preserve.

Total project costs to be covered in full by the grant amount are \$9,000.00. The work will be conducted at no additional cost to the Forest Preserves. The grant award will require the execution of a grant agreement.

[20-0456](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Resource Management

Grantee: Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves")

Grantor: Forest Preserve Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization to accept grant

Purpose: Forest Preserve Experience Program, an outdoor learning and basic job skill training program available to high school-aged youth whose families are clients of the Housing Authority of Cook County

Grant Amount: \$37,500.00

Grant Period: 12/15/2020 - 10/30/2021

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444

Concurrences:

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded grant funds by the Forest Preserve Foundation to support operation of the Forest Preserve Experience (“FPE”) program in 2021. The FPE program is available to high school-aged youth whose families are clients of the Housing Authority of Cook County (“HACC”). The FPE will engage 75-100 youth who will conduct on-the-ground restoration activities that improve the ecological health of the Forest Preserves. Participants receive extensive environmental education and job skills training supplemented by nature-based enrichment activities which promote Forest Preserves awareness, and teach participants how healthy forest preserves contribute to their community and quality of life.

The FPE program is administered by Friends of the Forest Preserves through a contract issued under RFP #17-31-117, which was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 11/14/2017 (Board Item No. 17-0388), and subsequently amended on 12/11/2018 (Board Item No. 18-0507). The Forest Preserves hosts the program, and contributes training and environmental education activities for program participants.

Total project costs to be covered in full by the grant amount are \$37,500.00. The Forest Preserves is not required to provide matching funds. Total costs to operate the FPE program are approximately

\$320,000.00 annually, of which the HACC has historically contributed approximately half directly to Friends of the Forest Preserves, and the remainder has been subsidized through grants, partner philanthropy and fundraising. Final grant agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

[20-0434](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Other Part(ies): University of Illinois Extension, Champaign, Illinois

Request: Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Illinois Extension and to make quarterly payments for services.

Goods or Services: Environmental education and outreach services

Agreement Number(s): #740000007201

Agreement Period: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$1,125,000.00 (FY 2021, \$225,000.00; FY 2022, \$225,000.00; FY 2023, \$225,000.00; FY 2024, \$225,000.00; FY 2025, \$225,000.00)

Accounts: Corporate Fund 51001.700005

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has had an ongoing and positive partnership with the University of Illinois Extension (the “Extension”) since 2013 via successive intergovernmental agreements. Under the proposed intergovernmental agreement, the Extension will continue to provide educational and public outreach programs, thus significantly expanding educational opportunities for youth and adult populations within Cook County, including the Conservation@Home program. The Extension will also provide professional training workshops for Forest Preserves staff in numerous departments and assist in growing the number of Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners that volunteer with the Forest Preserves. The Forest Preserves Conservation and Experiential Programming staff will oversee the contract and will work with the Extension staff to coordinate and direct these

educational activities as well as on specific projects related to the Next Century Conservation Plan as outlined in their Scope of Work. The Forest Preserves shall retain the right to reduce or terminate funding obligations due to budget constraints.

[20-0435](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Other Part(ies): City of Chicago and Chicago Park District, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County to enter into an intergovernmental agreement.

Goods or Services: Continued funding for the not-for-profit NeighborSpace

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025, with the option for a five (5) year renewal at the discretion of the General Superintendent

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$500,000.00 (FY 2021, \$50,000.00; FY 2022, \$50,000.00; FY 2023, \$50,000.00; FY 2024, \$50,000.00; FY 2025, \$50,000.00; FY 2026, \$50,000.00; FY 2027, \$50,000.00; FY 2028, \$50,000.00; FY2029, \$50,000.00; FY 2030, \$50,000.00)

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520830

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: In 1997, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) entered into an agreement with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to form NeighborSpace, a not-for-profit that owns, leases and insures small parks, gardens, natural areas, river edges and scenic landscapes in the City of Chicago. On 1/4/1999, the intergovernmental agreement was extended to 12/31/2018 and on 10/16/2018 the agreement was further extended from 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2020. The parties have determined to enter into a new agreement continuing the arrangement. The proposed intergovernmental agreement will be subject to legal review and approval. A Forest Preserves Commissioner and a Forest

Preserves staff member sit on the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace along with representatives of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District. As a condition for the Forest Preserves' contribution, the Forest Preserves may, at the General Superintendent's discretion, enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the services that NeighborSpace will provide in alignment with the Forest Preserves' mission.

[20-0403](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS ITEM OF BUSINESS

Department: Office of the General Superintendent

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

Fiscal Impact: \$150,000.00

Accounts: Advertising and Promotional Services 51001.520610

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") is requesting authorization for the General Superintendent or a designee to have discretionary spending up to \$150,000.00 throughout 2021 for advertising and promotional services with a variety of media vendors to promote and showcase the amenities, programs and natural areas of the Forest Preserves. The media vendors would be engaged for periods of one (1) year or less.

Media purchases would align with the 2021 communications goals of the Forest Preserves, which include focused outreach to communities and populations in Cook County impacted by a history of racial inequity, as defined by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The advertising and promotional spending packages would be suggested by the Forest Preserves' Communications Division as part of an integrated marketing plan that may include electronic, print, broadcast and out-of-home (billboard) advertising and vetted based on the desired audience, frequency, reach and budget offered by local media. The marketing strategy also complements the short and long-term goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan, as well as other short and long-term goals of the Forest Preserves.

Concurrences:

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

District(s): Districtwide

[20-0422](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Legal Department

Vendors:

Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, Dicianni & Krafthefer, P.C. - Chicago, Illinois
Brothers & Thompson, P.C. - Chicago, Illinois
DeVore Radunsky Miller Berger LLC - Chicago, Illinois
Franczek P.C. - Chicago, Illinois
Gildea Coghlan & Regan, Ltd. - Western Springs, Illinois
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP - Chicago, Illinois
Jackson Lewis P.C. - Chicago, Illinois
Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd. - Chicago, Illinois
Laner Muchin, Ltd. - Chicago, Illinois
Miller Canfield - Chicago, Illinois
Neal & Leroy, LLC - Chicago, Illinois
Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier & McGrath, Ltd. - Evergreen Park, Illinois
Robbin Schwartz - Chicago, Illinois
Tristan & Cervantes, LLC - Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Legal services from outside legal counsel to be performed within the following categories of matters: Litigation, Labor & Employment (including related litigation and workers compensation), Land Use, and General Local Government Law.

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$3,200,000.00

Contract Period: Date of execution - 12/31/2023, with two (2) optional one-year extensions

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021 \$1,200,000.00, FY 2022 \$1,000,000.00, FY 2023 \$1,000,000.00

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

Contract Number(s): 20-60-005335

Concurrences:

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

The contract-specific MWBE goal for each contract was set to zero.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The specified law firms have been selected through the Forest Preserves' Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. Three of the responding firms are certified Minority-Owned Business Enterprises via the City of Chicago: Brothers & Thompson, P.C., Neal & Leroy, LLC, and Tristan & Cervantes, LLC. Also, several respondents noted that they have programs designed to include minority and women representation on matters.

Contracts for legal services are to be performed upon request of the Forest Preserves, subject to the negotiation and execution of a retention letter by the Forest Preserves' Legal Department. Legal fees for authorized work are subject to approval by the Forest Preserves' Finance Subcommittee on Litigation and Board of Commissioners.

[20-0432](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTION

Department(s): Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Vendors: A.M. Bus Company, Chicago, Illinois

First Student, Naperville, Illinois

Alltown Bus Service, Skokie, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to exercise the first of two (2), one-year renewal options and to increase contract

Good(s) or Service(s): Bus Transportation Services

Original Contract Period: 2/1/2018 - 1/31/2021; with two (2), one-year renewal options

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 2/1/2021 - 1/31/2022

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: Not to exceed \$75,000.00 annually per company for a total not to exceed amount of \$675,000.00

Original Approval: 1/9/2018

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$225,000.00 (\$75,000.00 per company)

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021 \$225,000.00

Accounts: Advertising and Promotions 51001.520610; Special or Coop Programs 51001.521313; Institutional Supplies 51001.530170; Other Supplies 51001.531900; and Grant accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000002608, #74000002609 and #74000002610 issued under RFP 18-35-101

Concurrences:

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

The contract-specific MWBE goal for each contract was set to zero.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Conservation and Experiential Programming Department and the Volunteer Resources Center provides transportation for school groups and community groups to come to the Forest Preserves for education, recreation and volunteer programs. In addition, programming needs often require shuttle bus transportation between program sites and parking areas. In 2018, after a competitive RFP process, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved awarding the contract to four (4) bus companies (Agenda No. 18-0112). However, the Forest Preserves entered contracts with only three (3) of the bus companies because the fourth company could not meet RFP requirements. The Forest Preserves now seeks to exercise the first of two (2) extension options and to increase the contract for each of the three (3) bus companies.

[20-0448](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION TO EXERCISE CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTION

Department(s): Legal Department

Vendor: Alia Drug Testing, 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): On-site drug and alcohol testing services

Original Contract Period: 5/1/2018 - 12/17/2020 with two (2) one-year renewal options

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 12/18/2020 - 12/17/2021

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$140,000.00

Original Approval: 4/24/2018, \$140,000.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$50,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2021, \$50,000.00

Accounts: Legal Services 51001.521055

Contract Number(s): #74000003864 (#1712-16459 CC)

Concurrences:

The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final 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): Districtwide

Summary: Effective 12/18/2017, Cook County entered a three (3) year contract with vendor for drug and alcohol testing. On 4/24/2018, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved the Forest Preserves piggybacking off the County contract to realize cost efficiency.

In 2020, Cook County exercised the first of two (2) renewal options and extended its contract with the vendor through 12/17/2021. The Forest Preserves seeks authorization to continue to piggyback off the County contract and to increase the contract.

[20-0423](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Action: Authorization to disburse payment

Payee: Pan-Oceanic Engineering Co., Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Good(s) or Service(s): 119th Street Trail Underpass Improvements

Fiscal Impact: \$244,775.56

Accounts: Trails 51010.560063, 51051.560063 and 51058.510063

Contract Number(s): #74000008007 issued under Project #20-80-34

District(s): 17

Summary: This is a payment for the construction contract with Pan-Oceanic Engineering Co., Inc., for the 119th Street trail underpass improvements. The work includes but is not limited to removing existing aggregate path, construction of concrete path pavement, storm sewer and drainage structure cleaning, storm sewer lining, drainage improvements, earthwork, tuckpointing and repairing a stone wall.

[20-0442](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Action: Authorization to disburse payment

Payee: Enlight Contracting, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

Good(s) or Service(s): Districtwide Transportation Improvements

Fiscal Impact: \$396,297.71

Accounts: Site Amenities 51029.560060

Contract Number(s): #74000007883 issued under project #19-80-67G-20C1

District(s): 9, 17

Summary: This is a payment to Enlight Contracting, LLC for construction services rendered for the resurfacing of Axehead Lake parking lot, Bemis Woods South parking lot, Zoo Woods parking lot and Thatcher Woods parking lot and drive.

[20-0443](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Action: Authorization to disburse payment

Payee: Matthew Paving, Inc., Oak Lawn, Illinois

Good(s) or Service(s): Districtwide Transportation Improvements

Fiscal Impact: \$509,030.47

Accounts: Site Amenities 51029.560060, 51051.560060, and 51057.560060

Contract Number(s): #74000008008 issued under project #19-80-67G-20C2

District(s): 5, 6, 13

Summary: This is a payment toward the construction contract with Matthew Paving, Inc. for services rendered for the resurfacing of the Beaubien Woods Boat Launch parking lot, repaving a portion of the Tinley Creek Bike Trail and the parking lot at Erickson Woods in the Skokie Lagoons Preserve.

[20-0459](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 11/17/2020

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2020 to Present: \$1,792,048.87

Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$19,610.40

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2020 to Present: \$592,993.27

Legal Fees for 11/17/2020 to Be Approved: \$65,256.72

[20-0474](#)

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Matthew B. DeLeon, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 11/17/2020.

[20-0446](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for October 2020.

[20-0447](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursements Report

Report Period: 10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursements Report for the period of October 2020. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

[20-0458](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - October 2020

Report Period: 10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

Summary: Per Board Resolution 19-0509 (12/17/2019), the Forest Preserves of Cook County Legal and Finance Departments are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of October 2020.

[20-0457](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar - 12/15/2020 - 12/30/2020

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website, fpdcc.com/events, for updates and changes.

Tuesday, 12/15; 2pm (Via Facebook Live)

On the Trail Tuesdays, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Find out what is new and interesting out on Crabtree's trails during this weekly naturalist vlog.

Thursday, 12/17; 2pm (Via Facebook Live)

Fire Building 101, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Learn trips and tricks for fire building in the snow and cold along with winter camping tips to keep you safe, warm, and dry. *View on the Camp in Cook Facebook page.*

Thursday, 12/17; 10am (Via Facebook Live)

I'm a Scientist: I Need That Fat! Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs

This month we will be investigating and conducting an experiment that demonstrates how animals stay warm in the winter. *See the Little Red Schoolhouse Facebook page for the materials needed.*

Friday 12/18; 6:30pm (Via Zoom)

Art in Nature

Explore native plant species through artmaking. In this virtual class, an instructor will lead you step-by-step through watercolors and provide tips and tricks for water coloring in the field. *Registration required.*

Saturday, 12/19; 2pm (Via Facebook Live)

Seed Starting Workshop, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Learn how to start seeds of several native wildflowers, to enhance your yard and benefit native wildlife. *A limited amount of seeds and seed-starting materials will be available to pick up from December 12 - 20, until gone.*

Tuesday, 12/22; 10am (Via Facebook Live)

Small Serendipity, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

River Trail's Ranger staff talks with you about nature and provides instructions for making a craft at home. Supplies for craft at home are available at River Trail for pick up, if needed starting 12/19. For

early childhood through 2nd grade.

Tuesday, 12/22; 1pm (Via Facebook Live)

Ask a Bird Nerd, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Have you ever had a question about birds? Do you wish you knew how to get started birding? How about how to get more birds to your yard? Program Specialist Jessica Becker is here to help! Catch her live as she answers your most burning questions regarding the birds of Cook County.

Saturday, 12/26; 1pm (Via Facebook Live)

Winter Bird Feeding, Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont

Be prepared for winter bird feeding. Join us on Facebook, we will discuss seed, feeders, and suet. Bring your questions!

Saturday, 12/26; 10am (Via Facebook Live)

Nature in Spanish, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Learn some common nature words and phrases in Spanish as we explore a different nature topic each month. Beginners welcome.

Tuesday, 12/29; 7pm - 8pm (Via Zoom)

Winter Photography Skills Workshop

This online workshop will cover photography basics, with a focus on composition in the winter. We will cover issues you may experience while out taking pictures when there is snowfall. We will also provide tips and best practices for you to use on your next winter photography adventure. The presentation will include recommendations on some of our most picturesque preserves for you to explore with your camera. Q&A will be held at the conclusion of the program. *Registration required in order to obtain the Zoom link.*

Wednesday, 12/30; 10:30am (Via Facebook Live)

Mother Nature & Me, Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs

Children ages 3-5 and their favorite adult will participate in a Zoom program to learn all about SNOWFLAKES. *Registration required.*

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/15/2020

20-0412 PROPOSED ORDINANCE Authorizing The Acquisition Of Land Via Donation From The Cook County Land Bank Authority And Creating A Forest Preserve On The Acquired Land Near Cermak Woods

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/15/2020

20-0366 REPORT Department of Planning and Development, Report Title: 2021 Update to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan Report Period: Five (5) Years, 2021-2025
