

**Forest Preserves of Cook County
Conservation & Policy Council
June 17, 2021 ▪ 9:30 am to 12:30 pm ▪ via Zoom**

In response to the corona virus pandemic, the meeting will be held via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting from your computer at: https://fpdcc.zoom.us/j/89119296308?pwd=bnFSa2h5VDdNVUlyZTMwZU5uRVVQdz09 Meeting ID: 891 1929 6308 Passcode: 771392	Or join by phone via one tap mobile: +13126266799,,89119296308#,,,,*771392# US (Chicago)
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Public Comments. Members of the public who wish to testify remotely have until 24 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting to register in order to do so. 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 by 9:30 a.m. on June 16, 2021.

Accommodations. The meeting will utilize Zoom auto-captioning. To request other accommodations, please send an email to Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

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.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 am | 1. Welcome (Alan Bell, Chairperson, Conservation & Policy Council) |
| | 2. Approval of minutes (See Attachment 1) |
| | 3. Public comments |
| 9:45 am | 4. Chairman's report |
| | a. Status of the Council's 2021 Strategic Priorities and Phase 2 Implementation Strategy |
| | b. Communication protocols between the FPCC, Council, and Stakeholder Organizations |
| | c. High impact land uses |
| 10:00 am | 5. Discussion with General Superintendent Arnold Randall |

- 6. Special updates**
- 10:10 am a. Referendum Update and Council Engagement (Will Abberger, TPL and Benjamin Cox, FOTFP)
- 10:30 am b. Sustainability & Climate Resiliency: Update on FPCC efforts to date (Anthony Tindall & Tom Rohner)
- Council's role (accountability, advocacy, help people understand the ecosystems value and public health value, build support)
 - How do we incorporate these efforts in public messaging? Can we create an exhibit at the nature centers? Can we showcase solar power at the camps to educate children? Can we incorporate this message into CEP programs with local schools?
- 10:50 am c. Council special engagement initiatives
- 11:00 am d. Pavement reduction initiative (Aren Kriks)
- 11:15 am *Break*
- 11:25 am **7. Position paper updates and status of implementation (See Attachments)**
- a. [Racial Equity](#) Diversity & Inclusion (Emily Harris, Shelley Spencer)
 - b. [Acquisition & Disposition of Land](#) (Laurel Ross, Mark Templeton, Alan Bell)
 - c. Discussion
- 12:05 pm **8. Other items requiring Council input and guidance**
- a. Governance and the addition of new Council members
- 12:15 pm **9. Council stories/testimonials (Sylvia Jenkins, Laurel Ross, Hank Saunders)**
- 12:30 pm **10. Adjourn**

Attachments

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2021 | 5 Land Acquisition & Disposition Update |
| 2 NCCP Phase 2 Implementation Strategy | 6 Summer Events & Hikes in the Forest Preserves |
| 3 2021 Strategic Priorities for the Council | 7 Recent Media Updates |
| 4 REDI Update | |

Attachment 1

Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation & Policy Council

Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2021

Note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held via Zoom video conference. A recording of the meeting is available at: [4.22.21 Conservation & Police Council Meeting](#)

Welcome and Call to Order. Chairperson Alan Bell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following Council members and others attended:

Advisory Council Members

Alan Bell, Chairperson
Mark Templeton, Vice-chairperson
Emily Harris (by phone)
Henrietta Saunders
Laurel Ross (by phone)
Maria Pesqueira
Terry Guen
Commissioner Stanley Moore

Presenters

Andrew du Moulin, Trust for Public Lands
Arnold Randall, Forest Preserves
Benjamin Cox, Friends of the Forest Preserves
Eileen Figel, Forest Preserves
Jane Balaban, Chair of SUV position paper committee
Will Abberger, Trust for Public Lands

Sylvia Jenkins and Shelley Spencer did not attend.

Other meeting participants included representatives from the offices of Commissioner Anaya and Commissioner Suffredin, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Zoological Society, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Openlands, Audubon Great Lakes, Field Museum, and the Chicago Transit Authority. The meeting was [live-tweeted](#) by Avani Kalra of Chicago Documenters.

Alan called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Alan indicated that the meeting is being recorded in compliance with the open meetings act. A record of the meeting chat is attached to these minutes.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Moore to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Templeton. The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Name	Vote
Alan Bell	Yes
Mike DeSantiago	Yes
Terry Guen	absent
Emily Harris	Yes
Sylvia Jenkins	absent
Commissioner Moore	Yes

Name	Vote
Maria Pesqueira	Yes
Laurel Ross	Yes
Henrietta Saunders	Yes
Shelley Spencer	absent
Mark Templeton	Yes

The minutes were approved.

Public comments. No members of the public registered to address the Council. Written public comments were received from Commissioner Alma Anaya. The Commissioner's written comments were read by Eileen Figel and are attached to these minutes. (See Attachment 1.) Alan thanked the Commissioner for her heartfelt comments and added that the Council has been thinking about how the Council can help make it clear that the preserves must be open and welcoming to all people.

Terry Guen joined the meeting.

Chair's Report. Alan reported on the following items.

- **Strategic Priorities for the Council.** Alan thanked the position paper committee chairs for identifying priorities for the current year. Alan added that DEI, climate and sustainability, and the referendum effort will drive the implementation of all position papers. The implementation effort will be discussed in more detail at the June meeting.
- **Consultation with Council regarding High-Impact Land Use Matters.** Alan reported that he has been working with staff leadership and the land use reform task force to update policies related to land use and land disposition. It will take a year to complete the process. In the interim, General Superintendent Arnold Randall or designated staff will provide the Council a running list of high impact land uses and transactions so the Council can provide feedback and policy guidance. Mark Templeton commended Alan and staff for their hard work and progress and added that this is a great approach which allows the Council to give input and allows staff to proceed with their work. Alan gave quick updates on land use proposals related to an easement request from the Illinois Tollway at Bemis Woods, a stormwater license request from the Village of Crestwood, a proposed land exchange related to the planned extension of the CTA red line, and a potential land exchange with the Village of Orland Park. Alan added that the staff is taking into account the spirit and intent of the position papers, as well as other factors, to assess each transaction and to ensure there will be a net acreage benefit, ecological benefit, or benefit to the mission of the preserves. Arnold assured the Council that staff is indeed focused on these issues, wants to make sure the Council is informed, and wants to get their feedback. Laurel Ross agreed with Mark that this is a good approach and added that the Council wants to provide support for the staff if an official exerts pressure to do something inappropriate. Arnold responded that his concern is that the FPCC gets request from communities wanting to support a school or hospital or other important use which is beneficial, but does not advance the mission of the Forest Preserves. Alan acknowledged comments posted to the on-line chat and concurred that equity and other benefits are also critically important.
- **Resolution in support of the Forest Preserves Police.** Mike DeSantiago introduced a resolution in support of the Forest Preserves Police and opposing a proposal for the Cook County Sheriff to take over policing of the Forest Preserves. Mark Templeton made a motion to amend the proposal to add "and any substantially similar future measure" between "HB1843" and "which would eliminate" in the final paragraph. Thus the revised last sentence would read, "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation and Policy Council does hereby oppose HB1843 **and any substantially similar future measure** which would eliminate the Forest Preserves police force and assign jurisdiction of the Forest Preserves to the Cook County Sheriff's Department." Maria added this is an opportunity to look at the role of FPCC Police and its responsibility to preserve and protect the preserves. Benjamin Cox stated that the effort to disband the FPCC police began in 2009 and keeps coming back. He suggested that the FPCC publish an annual report highlighting the unique role the Forest Preserves police play in terms of alternate patrols and other unique duties. Arnold explained that prior to the preserves having their own police, people did not feel it was safe to visit the preserves. Since the 1980s, there has been a concerted effort to make it safer and the district is looking at additional changes going forward. Arnold added that it is critically important to maintain sworn officers who can maintain a safe and welcoming environment within our urban environment, and the district wants to be a model police

department. President Preckwinkle has been very focused on this and now is the time to make these changes. Mike made a movement to approve as amended. The motion to amend was seconded by Hank Saunders. The results of a roll call vote to approve the amended resolution are as follows:

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Alan Bell	Yes	Maria Pesqueira	Yes
Mike DeSantiago	Yes	Laurel Ross	Yes
Terry Guen	Yes	Henrietta Saunders	Yes
Emily Harris	Yes	Shelley Spencer	absent
Sylvia Jenkins	absent	Mark Templeton	Yes
Commissioner Moore	Yes		

- **Suicide Prevention/Wellness in the Preserves.** Maria Pesqueira and Mike DeSantiago reported on their recent meeting with Kimberly Knake of NAMI. Maria explained that the preserves are such an important asset for mental health. Cathy Geraghty is working on a Wellness in Nature seminar for mental health professionals and the FPCC is participating in various other events for Mental Health Awareness month. <http://www.nch2.org/may-mental-health-awareness-month.html>
- **Responding to Hate Crimes Against AAPI Community.** In response to a suggestion by Terry Guen, the Forest Preserves' CEP Team is working with the Zoo and the Garden on outreach/activities to connect with AAPI community leaders and to explore options for events which connect Asian American nature-focused traditions to the Preserves. In addition, representatives from Asian Human Services of Chicago is providing guidance to staff regarding how to respond to hate language; they are also being invited to participate in the Community Leaders Workshop and the Wellness in Nature seminar. Terry also suggests that the FPCC look at specific programs for different generations and explore ways to work with schools to broaden engagement with AAPI community. Alan emphasized the importance of promoting a big tent approach which assumes that not everyone is the same and individuals may connect to nature in different ways. Mike added that he sees great diversity at the preserves.
- **Partnership with Alliance to End Homelessness.** The Forest Preserves Landscape Maintenance Department and Police Department have met with regional outreach workers from the Alliance to connect homeless individuals with services and resources they may need, and FPCC staff are contacting the alliance when they find a homeless individual in the preserves.

Discussion with General Superintendent Arnold Randall. General Superintendent Arnold Randall provided the following updates:

The FPCC is working hard to address hate language and hate crimes. It is complicated because sometimes the victims are afraid and do not want to press charges.

The FPCC is working with Hillard Heintze to complete an independent analysis of our police department and to develop a recruitment strategy.

Chief Bush is leaving the FPCC; Arnold thanked the Chief for his help embracing ten principles for model community policing. <https://fpdcc.com/forest-preserves-police-affirms-commitment-to-ten-shared-principles/>

Karen Vaughan is now the Director of Communications for the CHA. Arnold thanked Karen for all her work leading the permits department.

Arnold welcomed Debra Walker as the new Executive Director of the Forest Preserve Foundation.

Special Update: Feasibility Analysis for Raising Resources. Will Abberger and Andrew duMoulin of TPL presented findings of their recent study analyzing the feasibility of various funding options to secure resources needed to achieve the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan. (See Attachment 2.) TPL's analysis indicates that an increase to the PTELL of .030% would generate \$49.8 million per year. The cost to the average homeowner would range from \$13 per year for the southwest suburbs to \$26 per year for homeowners in north suburbs. The next step is to poll residents to determine the level of support for the proposed increase. Will added that voters are generally willing to pay about this much to support forest preserves. The Board will be asked to vote in June to put a measure on the November 2022 ballot. Benjamin Cox added that Commissioners have been talking about the need to proceed with a referendum in November 2022, and conservation advocates have joined together to build a network to promote a referendum. The advocates have met with half of the Commissioners and have gotten very positive feedback. One commissioner indicated he/she wants to see the polling results and will be supportive if there is broad public support. Benjamin is confident the polling will go well because record numbers of people are visiting the preserves and the district is in a better place than it has been in decades. Benjamin concluded that things are pointed in the right direction. Alan Bell and Hank Saunders are serving as the Council's referendum liaisons, but Alan hopes each Council member will be involved and help with outreach and advocacy. Terry suggested the ballot language address social equity and climate mitigation. Will responded that TPL has been testing messages of equity related to park access. They will poll these messages and may recommend incorporating this into the ballot language.

Nature-Compatible Recreation position paper update. Terry Guen provided an update on implementation efforts. Terry highlighted efforts to engage communities in Chicago and other areas that do not have forest preserves nearby. Terry added that she is very excited about what the CEP team has been able to achieve, how they are raising the bar, and how they are identifying quantifiable goals. Terry also reported that staff are doing pilot studies for swimming pools, flying fields, and golf courses to explore "the next generation" of these legacy uses. Terry thanked staff who have spearheaded initiatives based upon the goals of the paper.

Scaling Up Volunteers position paper update. Jane Balaban thanked Wendy Paulson and Sylvia Jenkins for all their work on the SUV paper. Jane provided an update on top priorities for 2021 and shared a list of volunteer stewards by zip code. (See Attachment 3.) The map shows a surprising number of volunteers who live in Chicago. Hank asked about the social role amongst the volunteer network and how this could be used to recruit more volunteers. Jane agreed that community and a shared commitment to a common goal is what really holds the volunteers together. Jane will explore with the key stewards how this can be celebrated. Hank also suggested asking key stewards if they have networks who would engage in the referendum efforts being led by Friends of the Forest Preserves and other advocates. Jane believes that volunteers will be a loud voice in helping to advance the referendum. Arnold thanked Jane for her hard work and her leadership.

On-site meetings and tours. The Council will consider returning to an on-site meeting for its annual retreat in June. If this is not safe, the Council will convene virtually for the meeting, but add an on-site tour or activity at another date.

Stories/Testimonials. Alan invited Mike DeSantiago and Terry Guen to share personal stories about their connections to the preserves.

Terry stated that we all have our origin stories with nature. Hers began with Dr. Norman Harris of the Museum of Science in Boston. Dr. Harris and a group of naturalists would bring animals to the classroom which is where



Terry met Spooky the Great Horned Owl and got hooked on nature. “I want to shout out to all the preserves staff who are doing this humble job. These are clearly the things that are going to addict citizens to nature advocacy.”

In her work, Terry thinks about what can be done to reconstruct nature within small, urban projects that are limited in size, but reach a lot of people. She worked on millennium park for over 5 years. While a professor at IIT, Terry’s students mapped various factors along the river to identify what people need to connect to nature. Terry explores different ways of thinking about ecology in a super urban area to connect more people to nature.

When Mike was young, his parents struggled with heroine addiction. In an effort to break free, they moved the family to Chicago to get away from the influence of their drug buddies in New York. “We started visting the forest preserves; I had never been to one before. I didn’t know what it was called; I didn’t care what it was called.” The preserves. My friends and I would bike to . . . “ It introduced the family to tress and nature. Mike’s dad became a fisherman. Later, Mike married and he and his wife moved to a house not far from the forest preserves. His son grew up climbing a tree at Caldwell, and now his grandson climbs the same tree. “Today I walk out my back door and visit that same park I rode to on my bike as a kid. And now my grandson wants to go to the woods all the time. It is a thread through our whole life. Our family’s connection with the forest preserves is real and still going.”



Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Mike DeSantiago. The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Name	Vote
Alan Bell	Yes
Mike DeSantiago	Yes
Terry Guen	Yes
Emily Harris	Yes
Sylvia Jenkins	absent
Commissioner Moore	Yes

Name	Vote
Maria Pesqueira	Yes
Laurel Ross	absent
Henrietta Saunders	Yes
Shelley Spencer	absent
Mark Templeton	Yes

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at noon.

Attachment 1.1: Public Comments

COUNTY BUILDING
118 NORTH CLARK, ROOM 567
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(T) 312-603-5443
(F) 312-603-3759
Alma.Anaya@cookcountyil.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE
4374 SOUTH ARCHER AVE.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60632
(T) 773-376-2700
(F) 773-376-3320



ALMA E. ANAYA
COMMISSIONER- 7TH DISTRICT
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VICE-CHAIR
Business and Economic Development
Parks

MEMBER
Asset Management
Contract Compliance
Criminal Justice
Finance
Health and Hospitals
Homeland and Security and Emergency
Management
Human Relations
Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations
Transportation
Workforce, Housing & Community
Development
Zoning and Building

April 20, 2021

Forest Preserves of Cook County
Conversation & Policy Council
Eileen.Figel@cookcountyil.gov

Re: Written Testimony on the Forest Preserves' Response to Hate Incidents Against the AAPI Community

Dear Chairman Bell and Members of the Conservation and Policy Council:

I write to commend the Conservation & Policy Council for holding space in your agenda today to discuss the response from the Forest Preserves of Cook County regarding hate incidents against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. As we have witnessed, this community has recently been facing an onslaught of violent and discriminatory incidents and hate crimes across the country that must be addressed.

As a government entity, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and Cook County overall have a responsibility to understand such issues and move to implement measures that prioritize accountability and are nimble to the evolving challenges and needs of the people we serve. As the Cook County Commissioner of the 7th District, I look forward to learning more about your efforts on this issue and commit to working with you on finding solutions to ensure that the experiences of members of the public with Cook County are free from discrimination and that our guidelines and resources are readily accessible and responsive to anyone who needs them. We must think critically about what it means to be a "Welcoming County" to all individuals regardless of who they are and consider the intersectionality of this work. I encourage you to work closely with the Forest Preserves to prioritize ensuring that all individuals feel safe and supported in our facilities.

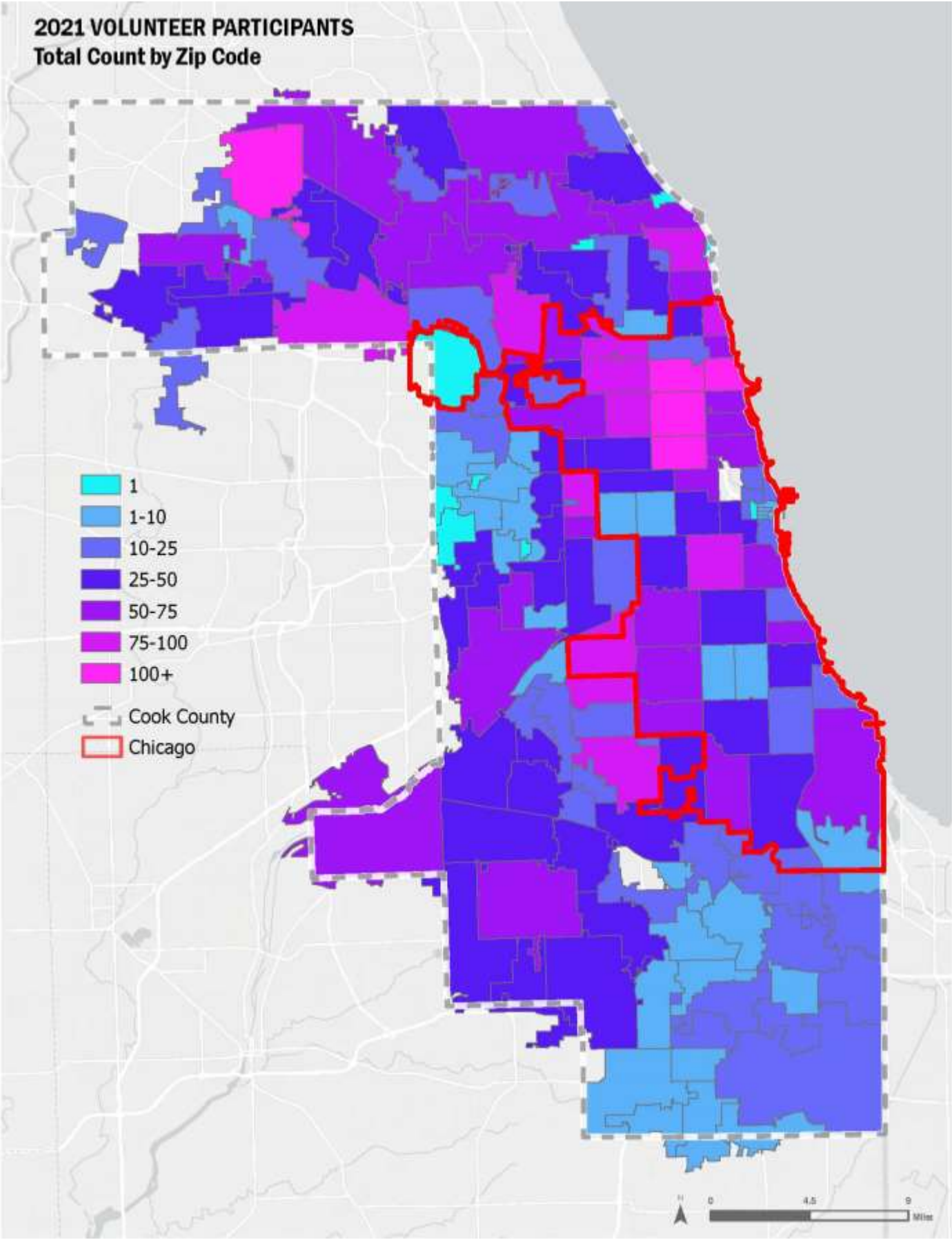
While the hate incidents and violence occurring throughout the country and Cook County pose a painful and challenging moment for all of us, this is also a moment of hope and opportunity to address this issue in a creative and actionable manner. Thank you for your consideration of my written comment. I am available for any questions or further discussion at Alma.Anaya@cookcountyil.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alma E. Anaya", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alma E. Anaya
Cook County Commissioner, 7th District

Attachment 1.2



Forest Preserves of Cook County Feasibility Study

Will Abberger and Andrew du Moulin

April 22, 2021



What is the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance Program?

We create and protect new public funding for land conservation, parks, and restoration through the research, design, and passage of ballot measures and legislation and serve as thought leaders in the field.



Our Track Record: 604 wins, 83% Yes, \$83 billion created, over 100 million Yes Votes



TPL Supported November 2020 Park, Climate, and Conservation Ballot Measures

- 26 measures in 11 states
- 26 were approved by the voters
- 100 percent passage rate
- Over \$2.9 billion in funds for parks, climate, and conservation



Previous Forest Preserve District Measures

Successful Forest Preserve and Conservation District Referenda: 1996-2020					
Jurisdiction Name	Date	Description	Funds Approved	Result	% Yes
Champaign County Forest Preserve District	11/3/20	Property tax increase for District operations	\$14,000,000	Pass	57%
Kane County Forest Preserve District	4/4/2017	Bond for the acquisition and preservation of open space	\$50,000,000	Pass	54%
Kane County Forest Preserve District	4/5/2011	Bond for the acquisition and preservation of open space	\$30,000,000	Pass	54%
Lake County Forest Preserve District	11/4/2008	Bond for the purchase of open space and natural areas	\$185,000,000	Pass	66%
Kane County Forest Preserve District	4/17/2007	Bond for the acquisition and preservation of open space	\$85,000,000	Pass	64%
Kendall County Forest Preserve District	4/17/2007	Bond for the preservation of open space, habitat, recreational areas, trails and watersheds	\$45,000,000	Pass	68%
McHenry County Conservation District	4/17/2007	Bond for the preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, recreational areas and water quality	\$73,000,000	Pass	57%
DuPage County Forest Preserve District	11/7/2006	Bond for the preservation of open space	\$68,000,000	Pass	65%
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District	3/21/2006	10-year, 6-cent property tax increase for the purchase of open space land for preservation	\$5,000,000	Pass	52%



5

Key Steps for Successful Ballot Measures

Feasibility Research

Public Opinion Survey

Program Recommendations

Ballot Language

Campaign



Feasibility Research: Six Funding Options Examined

PTELL

- Limiting Rate Increase
- Increase to Extension Limit
- Levy for a New Tax Rate
- Increase Debt Service Extension Base

Bonds

- Bonds Requiring Voter Approval
- Bonds Not requiring Voter Approval



7

Estimated Revenue Generated: PTELL

Forest Preserves of Cook County Estimate of Limiting Rate Increase (PTELL 18-190)								
Increase above the limiting rate	New Limiting Rate	Extra Revenue Generated In First Year	Extra Revenue Generated Over 25 Years	Cost to City of Chicago Homeowner (\$262K)	Cost to Average North Suburbs Homeowner (\$324K)	Cost to Average South and West Suburbs Homeowner (\$184K)	Cost/\$100K of Assessed Value	(New Tax Levy) Approximate Amount of Taxes Extendable if Proposition Approved
0.010%	0.081%	\$18,413,009	\$410,325,219	\$8.82	\$8.60	\$4.59	\$1.88	\$114,894,400
0.020%	0.071%	\$33,104,770	\$827,619,248	\$13.76	\$17.36	\$9.25	\$3.80	\$131,583,181
0.025%	0.076%	\$41,450,660	\$1,036,266,262	\$17.23	\$21.72	\$11.59	\$4.76	\$139,932,041
0.030%	0.081%	\$49,798,631	\$1,244,913,276	\$20.70	\$26.10	\$13.92	\$5.72	\$148,277,922
0.035%	0.086%	\$58,142,412	\$1,463,560,291	\$24.17	\$30.47	\$16.25	\$6.67	\$156,623,802
0.045%	0.096%	\$74,834,173	\$1,870,854,320	\$31.11	\$39.22	\$20.92	\$8.59	\$173,315,564
0.050%	0.101%	\$83,180,053	\$2,079,501,334	\$34.58	\$43.59	\$23.25	\$9.55	\$181,661,444
Extra Revenue over 20 year term assumes no additional increases or decreases to tax rate. Based on 2019 taxable value in district of \$186,917,611,547. Average home value in City of Chicago (average of North, Central, and South) of \$262K, in north suburbs of \$324K, and in south and west suburbs of \$184K.								



8

Step 2 – Public Opinion Survey

Methodology: random, sample, voters, telephone

Why poll?

- reality test
- perspective
- messages and messengers

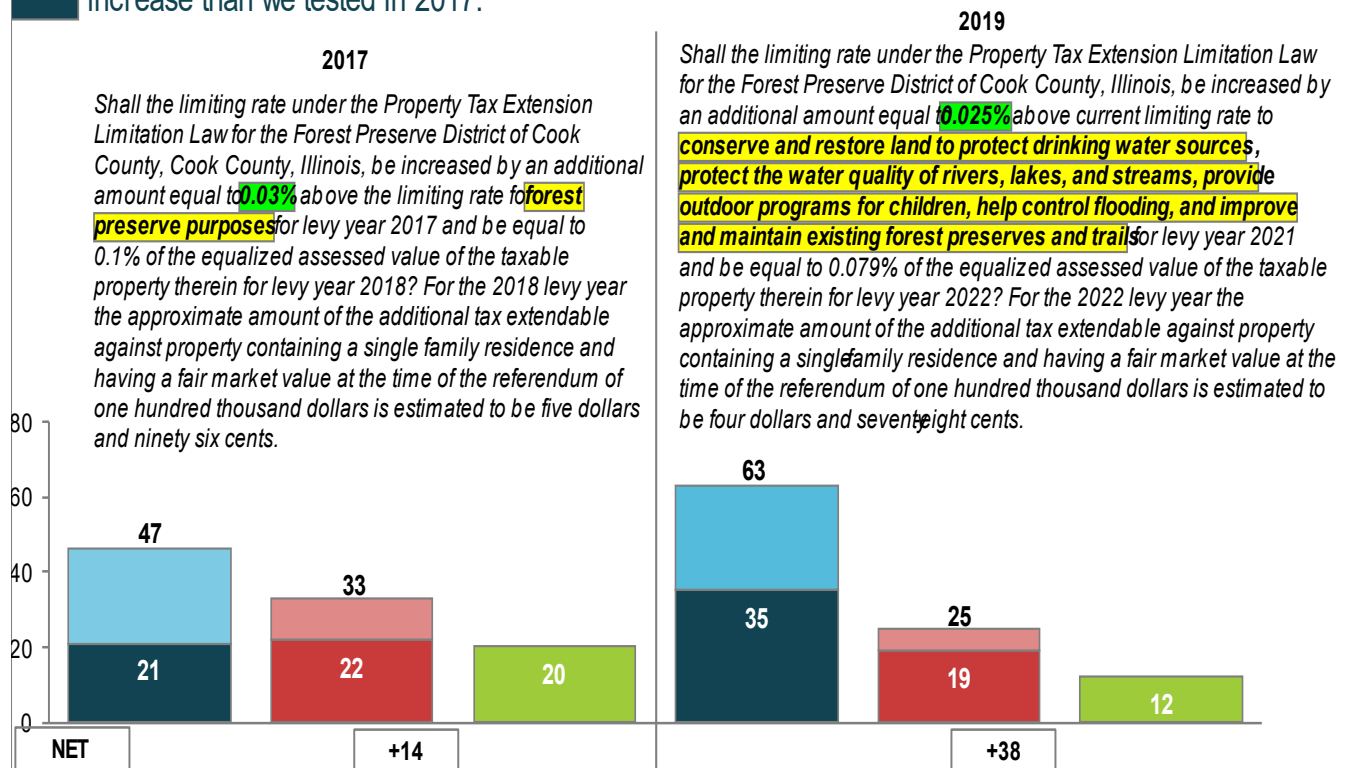
Polling goals

- affordable proposal
- compelling purposes
- accountability provisions



The property tax ballot tests better than it did in 2017.

This is partly due to higher youth turnout, but also likely because we tested a lower percentage increase than we tested in 2017.



Questions?

For further information, please contact:

- Will Abberger, Vice President, Director,
Conservation Finance

850-222-7911 ext. 23

Will.Abberger@tpl.org

- Andrew du Moulin, Director, Center for
Conservation Finance Research

617-605-5210

Andrew.duMoulin@tpl.org

www.tpl.org



Attachment 1.4: Meeting Attendees

Alan Bell, Council

Anival Vega

Arnold Randall, FPCC

Avani Kalra, Chicago Documenters

Benjamin Cox, FOTFP

Bob Megquier, Openlands

Carl Vogel, FPCC

Cathy Geraghty, FPCC

Chip O'Leary, FPCC

Chris Adas, FPCC

Cicely Fleming, Office of Commissioner
Suffredin

Commissioner Stanley Moore

Damon Howell, FPCC

Delio Calzolari, FPCC

Eileen Figel, FPCC

Emily Harris, Council

Greg Mueller, Chicago Botanic Garden

Hank Saunders, Council

Jane Balaban, Key Steward

Jen Baader, Brookfield Zoo

John McCabe, FPCC

Laura Milkert, Field Museum

Laurel Ross, Council

Leah Mooney, CTA

Margaret Macpherson

Maria Pesqueira, Council

Mark Templeton, Council

Michelle Parker, Great Lakes Audubon

Mike DeSantiago, Council

Nicole Pierson, FPCC

Nina Baki, FPCC

Patrick Dunn, CTA

Representative of Commissioner Suffredin

Robin ?

Sonali Tandon, CTA

Steve Hughes, FPCC

Terry Guen, Council

Victoria Moreno, Office of Commissioner
Anaya

Will Abberger, TPL

Attachment 1.5: Record of Meeting Chat

01:36:13	Emily Harris:	Agree with Mark sounds like the right approach
01:38:05	Michelle Parker (she/her/hers):	Could you please speak to equity considerations with land exchanges?
01:39:29	Terry Guen:	1. would like to see proactive planning by FPDCC for collaboration by sister agencies to support the District mission; aka River Oaks ecological restoration with MWRD funding
01:40:42	Terry Guen:	2. need FPDCC to provide primary leadership at community engagement level. not to be led by sister agencies or FPDCC may not be clearly represented
01:41:43	Benjamin Cox (he/him):	I would love to hear how advocacy groups are being brought into the mix. In 2004, we joined Commissioners Suffredin, Quigley, and others in updating the Land Use Policy and have long weighed in on these most important issues.
01:58:21	Terry Guen:	what is the FP police training with regards to Racial Equity Diversity Inclusion REDI?
02:06:03	Cathy Geraghty:	Link to Nature Culture and Human Health activities for May
02:06:09	Cathy Geraghty:	http://www.nch2.org/may-mental-health-awareness-month.html
02:07:29	Maria Pesqueira:	Thanks Cathy!
02:16:28	Emily Harris:	Thank you Teri. This is good input as we think about how to frame the next part of the REDI position paper. We welcome suggestions as we proceed to focus broadly on inclusion
02:19:18	Nina Baki:	CEP is offering programs in May in celebration of APIA Heritage Month and hosting a virtual Community Leadership Workshop for leaders who identify as Asian Americans on May 25.
02:23:37	Carl Vogel:	https://fpdcc.com/forest-preserves-police-affirms-commitment-to-ten-shared-principles/
02:24:48	Cathy Geraghty:	Shelley is at the Coleman Foundation now.
02:48:22	Terry Guen:	would like to update the ballot language to identify benefits of social equity and climate mitigation
02:56:44	Will Abberger:	We will also be testing climate as a message for Cook County voters. Their are important carbon storage benefits from the land acquisition and restoration goals in the Next Century Conservation Plan.
02:57:56	Alan Bell:	Great. Thanks Will.
03:03:35	Will Abberger:	Thanks for the opportunity to again work with the Council and present to you at your meeting today. Andrew and I need to leave the meeting now, but look forward to continuing to work with you to create dedicated funding for the Forest Preserves.
03:03:45	Nina Baki:	https://fpdcc.com/celebrate-earth-day-with-the-forest-preserves/

03:04:02	Nina Baki:	Don't forget to join us in Earth Day celebrations this weekend!
03:19:44	Terry Guen:	Thank you Jane! Can you please share the diagram?
03:25:26	Emily Harris:	Yes! Thank you Jane for your steadfast leadership and commitment
03:27:03	John McCabe:	Jane thanks! Nicole as well! Great work everyone.
03:28:08	jane balaban:	Terry, were you referring to the Zip code map?
03:29:04	Emily Harris:	I love the idea of outdoor site visit plus virtual business meeting
03:30:38	Henrietta Saunders:	Agree with Emily
03:31:10	Mark Templeton (he/his):	+1
03:31:19	Maria Pesqueira:	Beautiful image Terry!
03:36:21	jane balaban:	OUCH! :-)
03:38:04	jane balaban:	Terry, no criticism intended, just joking
03:44:16	Benjamin Cox (he/him):	Thank you Mike. That was wonderful.
03:44:36	Maria Pesqueira:	Mike— Thank you for sharing your beautiful family story with us!
03:44:50	Maria Pesqueira:	*Family forest story
03:44:56	Emily Harris:	Thank you both Mike and Teri for sharing your stories and your deep commitment to the Preserves and nature
03:45:06	jane balaban:	It was compelling, Mike, wonderfully said.
03:45:37	Arnold Randall Iphone:	Thank you both for sharing your stories. Very compelling and powerful.
03:45:39	Mark Templeton (he/his):	Thanks to Mike and Terry
03:46:04	Cathy Geraghty:	Thank you Council!

Attachment 2: NCCP Phase 2 Implementation Strategy (2021 to 2025)

Focus	1. Secure the public resources needed to achieve NCCP goals. 2. Implement policies and recommendations of position papers.		
“Buckets” of Work	1. Position Papers (Strategic priorities <i>for 2021</i> are shown below.)		
	<div>Racial Equity</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply racial equity lens to all major budget, policy, programs• Evaluate how this changes decision-making at FPCC.	<div>Land Acq & Disp</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure resources for land acquisition• Place a moratorium on land disposition• Clarify current land use policies	<div>Nature-Compatible Rec</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop strategies for 3 legacy uses (pools, selected golf courses, model airplane fields) & pilot 3 types of community engagement strategy
	<div>Scaling Up Volunteers</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop plan to recruit & train 500 volunteer leaders• Work with board to connect with constituents & local leaders• Deploy new resources to support/accelerate restoration at volunteer stewardship sites	<div>Diversity & Inclusion</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete paper by Dec. 2021.	
	2. Challenge Grants		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly visible sites• Meet public identified needs for recreation and nature programming• Consider a REDI Lens (racial equity)• Restore lands to ecological health (especially priority lands)• Benefit under-served communities (e.g. Residents South of I-80)• Have a fast turn-around (shovel ready and largely completed by early fall 2022)		

3. Trail Guides/other NCCP Goals

Nature	People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase volunteer leadership ▪ Incorporate volunteers across departments ▪ Restore high visibility acreage ▪ Increase \$ for restoration & vol ▪ Increase Conservation Corps ▪ Expand partnerships (Conservation@Home, others) ▪ Certify low mow areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage under-served communities; learn from Beaubien Woods project. ▪ Present nature/wellness at conferences ▪ Implement community engagement BPs throughout FPCC projects/programs ▪ Work with CW on environmental education initiatives ▪ Expand Mighty Acorns ▪ Host Learn Outside conference
Economy	Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build the case for nature ▪ Document/demonstrate value of nature and FPCC ▪ Environmental tourism (Hank) ▪ Marketing plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversity goals for contracting, etc. ▪ Make info available to public (public dashboards) ▪ Support strong Council ▪ Expand resources

Process Structure (roles & responsibilities)

Conservation & Policy Council	Steering Committee	Ad Hoc Working Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build support • advocate • provide guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop overall implementation strategy • monitor & report progress via KPIs/public dashboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • move specific projects forward

Attachment 3: 2021 Strategic Priorities for the Council

Overarching Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate approaches that are in line with the Council’s Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) position paper. NOTE: Equity was added to the list of land acquisition criteria as a key factor in decision-making. Consider advocating for Beaubien acquisition and/or Southeast Cook Plan 2. Create a Community of Support for the forest preserves by building awareness of the value of the preserves to the quality of life of our region. The success of all recommendations above depends on this. NOTE: Committee should be a go-to source for civil opinion – create a mechanism as a sounding board and create a community of support 3. Secure resources needed to successfully implement the NCCP.
Nature-Compatible Recreation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy for Aquatic Centers (Brian Arnoldt and Eric Pedersen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool roofs and features will require replacement at some point, but not in the next few years. • This is a long timeline, but may be okay within current political context. 2. Strategy for River Oaks, Burnham, Edgebrook Golf Courses (Karen Vaughan and Dave Kircher) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP with \$25K cap received only one response. • Responses to re-issued RFP are due at end of Dec. • May need a budget transfer for 2021 funds. 3. Strategy for Model Airplane Flying Fields (Jean Sheerin and Chip O’Leary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fields are geographically distributed across FPCC • Most are 800 ft from homes (though closer to trails) • Some ecological impact to birds • Some complaints at Deer Grove re: noise <p>Role of Council: Review and guide approach to these pilot projects.</p>
Land Acquisition and Disposition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore aggressively the potential to secure funding for land acquisition through a voter referendum, a tax levy increase and other alternative strategies. NOTE: High priority for the Council 2. Place a moratorium on disposition of land and empower a body led by the Conservation and Policy Council to review and develop a final disposition policy that make land disposition possible only in rare and extreme instances. NOTE: Undecided about whether to support a moratorium on disposition or not 3. Clarify, rewrite, and improve both the current Land Use Policy of the Forest Preserves and the corresponding State Code provisions for consistency and clarity, including the creation of a comprehensive executive summary that reflects the

	material operative provisions NOTE: In process – when completed will take up a fair amount of the LAAD Committee’s time
REDI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete DI paper. 2. Make racial equity assessments part of process for all major policy/budget/planning decisions. 3. Evaluate how applying REDI lens changes decision-making.
Scaling Up Volunteers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners to develop a plan for recruiting and training the 500 (make this a minimum 250?) Volunteer Leaders that will sustain the ecological stewardship program that is critical in the effort to restore 30,000 acres to high quality. Engage staff, partners, and volunteers in gathering useful information that can inform the Cook County Forest Preserve plan. Have the basic plan in place and begin implementing it by end of 2021 2. Work with the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners to connect with constituents and local leaders. Provide Commissioners and their staff with regular updates that can help inform constituents about the Preserves, what the natural resources provide, and how citizens can get involved in the Preserves. Identify restoration projects within or nearby a Commissioner’s district and help engage the constituents with the Preserves. 3. Volunteer programs are a powerful resource, but they require long-term support and innovation to be effective. Identify and deploy new resources to support and accelerate restoration at existing volunteer stewardship sites, in consultation with site stewards.

Attachment 4



REDI Position Papers Update

At its April 2021 meeting, the Conservation and Policy Council identified three strategic REDI priorities as follows:

1. Complete Part II of the REDI position paper focusing on diversity and inclusion.
2. Make racial equity assessments part of process for all major policy/budget/planning decisions.
3. Evaluate how applying REDI lens changes decision-making.






An update on efforts related to both position papers (Part I and Part II) is presented here, followed by several issues the committee wishes to discuss with the Council.

1. Complete Part II of the REDI position paper focusing on diversity and inclusion. (Emily)

The Part II position paper will focus on broader efforts to promote diversity and inclusion throughout the forest preserves. A timeline, scope of work, and status update is presented in Table 1. As indicated, the committee hopes to complete the paper by the end of 2021.

Table 1: Timeline and Status of Tasks for Developing DI Position Paper

Task		Status	
January to March	1. Identify purpose of the Inclusion & Diversity planning process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why are we doing this?• Who is calling for this and why?	DONE	
	2. Define approach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will focus on high-level, primary dimensions of diversity in order to create a framework which is broadly inclusive. <table><tr><td>Primary Dimensions of Diversity<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ age▪ ethnic heritage▪ gender▪ disability▪ race (addressed in Part 1)▪ sexual orientation</td><td>Secondary dimensions of diversity are those that can be changed, and include, but are not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ educational background▪ geographic location▪ income▪ marital status▪ military experience▪ parental status▪ religious beliefs▪ work experiences</td></tr></table>	Primary Dimensions of Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ age▪ ethnic heritage▪ gender▪ disability▪ race (addressed in Part 1)▪ sexual orientation	Secondary dimensions of diversity are those that can be changed, and include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ educational background▪ geographic location▪ income▪ marital status▪ military experience▪ parental status▪ religious beliefs▪ work experiences
Primary Dimensions of Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ age▪ ethnic heritage▪ gender▪ disability▪ race (addressed in Part 1)▪ sexual orientation	Secondary dimensions of diversity are those that can be changed, and include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ educational background▪ geographic location▪ income▪ marital status▪ military experience▪ parental status▪ religious beliefs▪ work experiences		

Task		Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The position paper will provide high-level guidance.• In-depth work will be guided by the staff REDI team with leadership and support from the General Superintendent’s office.	
Jan to Mar (cont.)	3. Build a process structure (roles & responsibilities) <div><div>Stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Provide input throughout process</div><div>Working Group<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Collects input•Completes research•Develops recommendations</div><div>Cons. & Policy Council<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Guides development of paper•Approves final paper•Guides implementation</div><div>Board of Commissioners<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Adopts paper</div><div>FPCC Staff/REDI team<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implements recommendations</div></div>	DONE
	4. Conduct research/literature review ✓ Modify DI definitions	DONE
	5. Develop a communication and engagement strategy <p>Ongoing communications about D&I initiatives propel understanding and increase employee engagement with key programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview stakeholders AND share input to modify future interviews• Communities/organizations engaged to date include LBGTQ, BiPOC, Youth, ADA/Disability, Volunteers. How will we ensure that senior leaders can articulate the case for D&I, inspire employees to make sustained commitments, and pilot and support D&I efforts?	In Process
	6. Develop timeline and work plan	DONE
April to June	7. Establish objectives, goals, action steps, primary stewards, and checkpoint targets <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the core themes?• Does the current DI statement adequately define values?	In Process
	<i>Discuss key points we want to share with the Council and key input we want to get from the Council. (6.17.21)</i>	DONE



Task		Status
July thru Aug	8. Identify measurable indicators to measure progress towards goals Without targeted KPIs, you can't learn whether your program achieves its intended purpose. Some outcomes to consider measuring are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation among groups • Employee survey scores 	In Process
	9. Establish buy-in strategy and accountability mechanism ✓ Vet preliminary findings and recommendations	
Sept	<i>Council to approve draft DI paper (s.t. final revisions). (9.1.21 Council meeting)</i>	
	<i>Finalize action plan to implement key recommendations.</i>	
Oct - Dec	<i>Complete editing and graphic design. (Oct.)</i>	
	<i>Brief President and Board. (Nov.)</i>	
	<i>Present final Diversity & Inclusion position paper to board for adoption. (12.14.21 Board Meeting)</i>	
On-going	10. Market your successes and your failures ✓ Communicating the results of diversity initiatives demonstrates FPCC's commitment to diversity and inclusion.	

2. Make racial equity assessments part of process for all major policy/budget/planning decisions, and 3. Evaluate how applying REDI lens changes decision-making. (Eileen)

Part I of the REDI paper, [Moving Towards Racial Equity in the Forest Preserves of Cook County](#), was adopted by the FPCC Board in July 2020. The paper presents long-term, comprehensive recommendations to promote racial equity throughout the preserves. It also includes a work plan which recommends eleven specific actions to be completed over the next several years. The status of the eleven actions are presented in Table 2; the Council's strategic priorities are highlighted in yellow. As indicated, key indicators are being developed to help measure and document long-term progress.

Table 2:
Implementing the Recommendations of the Racial Equity Position Paper
Status Report (June 17, 2021)

Task	Status
1. Meet with President, individual Board members and other local officials in small groups to discuss recommendations in detail.	✓ Completed
2. Institutionalize the FPCC REDI staff committee so that its work becomes	In 2020, the REDI committee: ✓ Implemented hiring panel practices that introduce racial equity both in who

Task	Status
<p>integrated with FPCC policies and procedures districtwide, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training and Development: Identify and eliminate barriers that prevent employees from engaging in professional development classes. b. Community Engagement: Increase event/program partnerships and develop methods to evaluate the success of each partnership. c. Human Resources: Develop a diverse list of contacts for new job postings, review the minimum requirements for current and future job descriptions, and make interviews more conversational, while remaining Shakman Compliant. d. Human Resources: Track demographics and staff morale through reports and surveys to measure changes, and track staff retention with the use of exit interviews. 	<p>participates in panels and questions that are asked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convened racial identity caucuses to provide a safe place for employees to discuss and process the murder of George Floyd and systemic racism in the U.S. ✓ Conducted staff-led REDI 101 workshops for staff and volunteers <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the pandemic, the community engagement pilot project and several trainings were put on hold. These will be restarted. ▪ The committee is currently developing key performance indicators to embed racial equity as a metric for department and district success.
<p>3. Complete first phase of implicit bias training for all FPCC staff and implement policies and practices that embed REDI training on a continual basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The entire police department completed implicit bias training in 2020. ✓ CEP and Permits staff completed training in April 2021. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The REDI Committee will work with the training manager to provide annual training that incorporates REDI concepts and principles.
<p>4. Increase funding to provide buses to connect residents from impacted communities to events, programs and sites throughout the Forest Preserves, including the Zoo and Garden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The CEP team developed and funded a Nature Express bus program. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the pandemic, we were unable to launch the program in 2020; it will be restarted this summer.
<p>5. Incorporate best practices for inclusive place-making into the implementation strategy for each Gateway Plan and into new plans and capital investments.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are conducting outreach to internal and external stakeholders to get input on improvements to be constructed at Caldwell Preserves.

Task	Status
	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach relating to renovation of the Crabtree Nature Center is planned in 2022. ▪ Community engagement around new information, wayfinding signs and programs at Eggers Grove is also planned in 2022 if we receive an IL Coastal Grant.
<p>6. Convene a racial equity impact assessment training for the senior team.</p>	<p>✓ Completed</p>
<p>7. Make racial equity impact assessments part of the process for all major policy, planning, and budget decisions. Embed racial equity assessments in all FPCC requests for proposals and contracts for goods and services.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <p>Departments are doing a good job incorporating a REDI lens in decision-making, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REDI team's work on hiring, promotion, training, and engagement ▪ Model policing initiative (including adoption of ten principles/virtual town hall, implicit bias training for all police, de-escalation/use of force changes, rollout of body cameras, initiatives for stronger community relations, recruitment strategy to improve diversity, commitment to procedural justice) ▪ CEP's engagement/listening work with AAPI, BiPOC communities ▪ Incorporating REDI lens and evaluation tool into "fit exercise" to assess programs ▪ Piloting engagement best practices for legacy use analysis ▪ Applying REDI lens for land acquisition and capital investments <p>Next Steps:</p> <p>It is not yet clear if additional work is needed to institutionalize racial equity impact assessments. The district's MWBE procurement ordinance sunsets June 2022, and we have engaged a consultant to complete a disparity study to determine if there is justification to continue setting aspirational MWBE goals.</p> <p>✓ We will meet with consultant in July 2021 to explore how we can further expand and embed REDI goals in our procurements process.</p>

Task	Status
<p>8. Continue outreach to Indigenous and people of color and other groups to seek input and provide opportunities to co-design strategies to promote racial equity at the Forest Preserves.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The district's CEP team continues to expand a broad range of programming and engagement activities such as community leadership workshops, gear libraries, training and other resources to help community partners bring their members out to the preserves. ▪ Staff are convening listening sessions with the AAPI community and the American Indian community. ▪ Staff also go out to community meetings and various events in the community (rather than always expecting the community to come to us). This is not just about us presenting about the Forest Preserve; it is about learning about the communities we serve. ▪ The team provides small grants to organizations which engage new audiences and help participants connect to nature at the preserves.
<p>9. Seek funding to expand the Conservation Corps and Forest Preserve Experience.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FPCC is supporting an effort led by Openlands to include funding in the federal infrastructure bill for a new Climate Conservation Corps. If successful, this will substantially scale up these programs.
<p>10. Evaluate how applying a racial equity lens changes decision-making and/or revises FPCC priorities. Track and guide REDI efforts and present annual progress report with recommendations for moving forward to General Superintendent, Conservation & Policy Council, President & Board. Assess how the FPCC is articulating its REDI values (via the diversity & inclusion statement, etc.) and how these values are being internalized to promote racial equity.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The district is working with the County's Office of Research, Operations and Innovation to develop key performance indicators to measure and document the district's REDI efforts, as well as overall NCCP efforts. The info will be incorporated into a performance dashboard which will be easy to access and understand. A demonstration of the new performance dashboard will be presented to the Council in 2022.
<p>11. Promote and defend the position paper as needed.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

To discuss with the Council (Shelley)

- We want to celebrate current commitments and successes, while acknowledging the on-going need to expand and institutionalize this work. And we must be open to continual learning.
- How do we make sure these things ALWAYS happen? Are there ideas from the Council that can be incorporated into our next paper that will help move things towards enduring policies and lasting commitments?

Attachment 5



Conservation & Policy Council Update - Land Acquisition and Disposition June 17, 2021

Strategic Priorities 2021

1. Explore aggressively the potential to secure funding for land acquisition through a voter referendum, a tax levy increase and other alternative strategies.

Update: This is in progress and is a high priority for the entire Council

2. Place a moratorium on disposition of land and empower a body led by the Conservation and Policy Council to review and develop a final disposition policy that make land disposition possible only in rare and extreme instances.

Update: The Council and the LAAD Committee continue to support the moratorium recommendation contained in the LAAD Position Paper approved by the Council and Board of Commissioners, with the Council and the LAAD Committee recognizing that certain “high impact” transactions that were approved or in process prior to the adoption of the LAAD Position Paper need to be addressed proactively with a sensitivity to the goals of the moratorium being made a priority as a part of the land use and land disposition decision-making process. Great progress has been made with Superintendent Randall and staff leadership in fine-tuning such a framework, which will help guide the decision-making process until the final, updated land use policies are completed, with incorporated provisions relating to the moratorium recommendations.

3. Clarify, rewrite, and improve both the current Land Use Policy of the Forest Preserves and the corresponding State Code provisions for consistency and clarity, including the creation of a comprehensive executive summary that reflects the material operative provisions

Update: A land use policy task force has been working on updating the Preserves’ land use and land disposition policies for over a year and expect to have the updates completed by the end of 2021. The updates include a comprehensive overhaul of all of the land use and land disposition policies to provide clarity and guidance and to better align with the mission of the Preserves, the Next Century Conservation Plan and the recommendations contained in the LAAD Position Paper.

4. Coordinate approaches that are in line with the Council’s Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) position paper

Update: Equity was added to the list of land acquisition criteria as a key factor in decision-making. We secured LWCF for Deer Creek Corridor Acquisitions (part of the Southeast Cook Plan). Last week, we closed on approximately 24 acres in Glenwood, located in southeast Cook County, next to Glenwood Woods in Chicago Heights. The property contains the confluence of Butterfield Creek and Thorn Creek. We’re working with CTA and the City to secure additional open space at Beaubien Woods.

5. Create a Community of Support for the forest preserves by building awareness of the value of the preserves to the quality of life of our region. The success of all recommendations above depends on this.

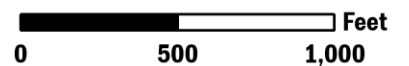
Update: Met with Commissioners Brandon Johnson and Sean Morrison.



Glenwood Academy Parcel



FPDCC Property



Attachment 6: Summer Events & Hikes in the Forest Preserves

Our programming teams and naturalists are hosting a wide range of events and walks. Here are some events coming up over the next few weekends; visit the [FPCC events calendar](#) for a full listing.



Sat, Jun 19 • 8 am

[Nesting Bird Walk](#)

Trailside Museum of Natural History • River Forest, IL 60305



Sun, Jun 20 • 8 pm

[Summer Solstice Hike](#)

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center • Willow Springs, IL 60480



Sat, Jun 19 • 10 am

[Juneteenth Celebration](#)

Sand Ridge Nature Center • South Holland, IL 60473



Sun, Jun 27 • 10:30 am

[The Buzz on Bees](#)

River Trail Nature Center • Northbrook, IL 60062



Sat, Jun 19 • 1 pm

[Summer Prairie Hike](#)

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center • Lemont, IL 60439



Sun, Jun 27 • 1 pm

[The Secret Life of Snakes](#)

Sand Ridge Nature Center • South Holland, IL 60473

OR – Bring your family [camping in the preserves this summer](#). Campgrounds are fully reopened and the fireflies are amazing in June!

Attachment 7: Recent Media Updates

Please see the separate pdf file attached to the meeting appointment.