



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**  
**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda**

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 11:00 AM**

[17-0120](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF JENS JENSEN GRASSLAND AND WOODLAND AS AN ILLINOIS LAND AND WATER RESERVE BY THE ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, on January 24th, 2017, at the 225th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland was approved for dedication as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve; and

**WHEREAS**, dedication of a site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve provides a high level of protection for land in Illinois, and is granted only to natural areas of regional and state-wide ecological significance; and

**WHEREAS**, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve is an approximately 220 acre, high quality portion of the larger Jens Jensen preserve also known as Deer Grove East located in the Village of Palatine in northwest Cook County. The site consists of remnant mesic woodlands and sedge meadows, along with reconstructed prairie and wetlands supporting 398 species of native plants and 25 bird species recognized as species in greatest need of conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the namesake for this designation is Jens Jensen, a devout conservationist who was instrumental in the creation of the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, extensive restoration has been underway at the site since 2007 in partnership with Openlands as a part of an O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account project, which provides mitigation of off-site wetland impacts resulting from the O'Hare Modernization Program; and

**WHEREAS**, this large-scale habitat restoration initiative was undertaken in conjunction and in cooperation with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Chicago Department of Aviation; and

**WHEREAS**, restoration efforts have focused on restoring hydrology in degraded wetlands and adjacent uplands, as well as the removal of invasive brush and vegetation impacting the site via prescribed fire and reintroduction of native plants; and

**WHEREAS**, storm water modeling that encompassed the Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve has shown a significant increase in the amount of storm water staying on site because of the previously mentioned hydrologic and plant community restoration activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve has also benefitted from extensive long-term volunteer stewardship by the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, whose countless

hours of service and dedication have helped make the site what it is today and will help it continue to thrive into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, dedication of Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland as a Land and Water Reserve advances the goal set forward in the Next Century Conservation Plan to dedicate 20,000 acres as Illinois Nature Preserve protected land by 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County does hereby acknowledge this momentous dedication and the Forest Preserves' steadfast commitment to protect and restore our region's significant natural resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, Openlands, the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Chicago Department of Aviation as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves and the residents of Cook County.

[17-0094](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNITION OF THE *BIRD THE PRESERVES* INITIATIVE, A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's nearly 70,000 acres of natural lands are home to some of the nation's most biologically diverse flora and fauna, including nearly 300 types of resident and migrant birds, both common and unusual, that depend on Forest Preserves' habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, birding is one of the most popular recreational activities in America and can serve as a gateway activity to a greater connection with the natural world, and is an excellent way to introduce people to the forest preserves, providing a positive, healthy, and fun experience in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, Bird the Preserves is an initiative that connects diverse communities to the Preserves by expanding birding programs and activities, celebrating the migration stories that people and birds share, and establishing the Preserves as a premier birding destination in the Chicago Wilderness region; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through Chicago Wilderness provided federal funding to the Preserves to launch the Bird the Preserves initiative in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, over 17 partner organizations representing birding clubs, non-profits, and government agencies worked together to successfully implement the Bird the Preserves initiative throughout 2016, holding more than 220 bird walks and related events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bird the Preserves initiative included a Big Year competition, a yearlong friendly contest where teams from throughout Cook County adopted different preserves and competed to find the most bird species and recruit the most new birders at that preserve. The Chicago Botanic Garden and Brookfield Zoo also formed teams and promoted the initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the Big Year was a resounding success and had 21 official teams that spotted a total of 253 species of birds and had an estimated 2,400 people participate in bird walks and events--35% of whom were new birders, 35% had never birded in the forest preserves before, and over 190 unique zip codes were represented; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bird the Preserves initiative has proven so successful at connecting people with the Preserves, that the Preserves has sought and received additional funding from the Forest Preserve Foundation to incorporate elements of the Bird the Preserves initiative into the Preserves' permanent program offerings; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative's successful communications and marketing campaign, led by the Preserves and partners, resulted in Bird the Preserves stories featured in nearly 20 online and print publications, on-air media coverage from FOX and WCIU's You and Me This Morning, a 593% increase in page views on the Preserves' birding webpage, and a major social media presence utilizing the hashtag #birdthepreserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Bird the Preserves is consistent with the goal of the Forest Preserves to increase connections between people and nature.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, on behalf of ourselves and staff, do hereby congratulate the partners, Big Year teams, field trip leaders, staff, funders, and participants of Bird the Preserves on their success in launching a unique and influential initiative that can serve as a model for both the Forest Preserves and others; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to partners, funders and Big Year teams of the Bird the Preserves initiative.

[17-0119](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING THE NAMING OF THREE (3) FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY NATURE CENTERS TO AMERICANTOWNS MEDIA'S LIST OF THE 10 BEST NATURE CENTERS IN ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, Best of Illinois, a subsidiary of AmericanTowns Media, has compiled and published a list of "The 10 Best Nature Centers in Illinois"; and

**WHEREAS**, AmericanTowns Media is an online network of local lifestyle community guides that creates, curates, and distributes local content for over 29,000 communities across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, nature centers are a valuable means of educating the public on the importance of preserving and respecting local natural areas, and encourage exploration and lifelong learning about our region's native habitats and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, Sand Ridge Nature Center, Crabtree Nature Center, and Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center have each been named to this list of the ten (10) best nature centers in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland stands on a 6000-year-old broad, low ridge of sand and water polished pebbles surrounded by 235 acres of woodlands, oak savannas and wetlands. The center features exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the Calumet region, and offers a number of special events annually, including Illinois Archaeology Day and Settlers' Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington Hills features 1,182 acres of woodlands, prairies, and wetlands which were shaped by glaciers and provide an important rest stop for migratory birds, attracting a wide variety of users and birding enthusiasts. Over 260 species have been recorded using these habitats, with at least 89 species breeding onsite; and

**WHEREAS**, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center in Willow Springs offers a glimpse into the historic past of the Palos Hills of southwestern Cook County. The center's grounds include attractions such as an orchard planted by early settlers in 1906, and an 1886 schoolhouse from which the center gains its namesake. The recently constructed visitor center features a variety of live animal exhibits and a children's activity room; and

**WHEREAS**, the full list of honorees can be viewed online at: <http://bestthingsil.com/nature-centers/>.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County does hereby acknowledge and congratulate the Forest Preserves and its nature center staff on this achievement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented for display at each of the nature centers being honored in recognition of their contributions to the intrinsic value of nature centers as institutions that inspire conservation and an appreciation of our region's many natural resources.

[17-0160](#)

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION HONORING FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICEMAN FRANK POWELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Frank Powell began working for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in 1990, and is now retiring after 27 years of service; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Powell has worked as a serviceman with Cook County Forest Preserves in the Landscape Maintenance Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank has received several awards for outstanding customer service; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank served as a sergeant in the United States Army and also served eight years as a staff sergeant and two years with the National Guard; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank is the father of Eric and Angelique Powell and the son of Henry Powell, and is the key person in his family who seeks solutions to problems; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank worked with the Stardust Review out of Kennedy King College and these shows were filled with talented impersonators of icons with music from the 40s to early 60s; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank went on to develop his own show, called the "Best of Black Chicago," a show famous for talented impersonators of stars such as: Nat King Cole, Donna Washington, Coco Taylor, Muddy Waters, Minnie Ripperton, the Dells, Chaka Khan, and Michael Jackson; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank was one of the first to sponsor filled party buses that included champagne and soul food for people travelling to Merrillville Indiana for shows; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank has always been a successful entrepreneur, owning his own clothing store, three newspaper stands and is currently a ticket broker for today's popular artists; and

**WHEREAS**, retirement looks good on him and all who know him will attest that Frank Powell has a gentle spirit and is dearly loved by his family and respected by his friends and neighbors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the President and Forest Preserve District of Cook

County Board of Commissioners, shall honor Mr. Frank Powell for his years of service with the Cook County Forest Preserves within the 4th District and his distinguished service to our country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Frank Powell in recognition of his outstanding service.