



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

**Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 10:00 AM

19-0001

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**RECOGNIZING THE FIELD MUSEUM AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY FOR RECEIVING THE BEST OF THE BEST PARTNERSHIP AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2018, the Field Museum and the Forest Preserves of Cook County were honored with a Best of the Best award for Partnership from the Illinois Association of Park Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum and the Forest Preserves have been working together since the early 1990's to conserve and restore the Chicago Wilderness region's natural communities and provide programs and resources to connect people to nature; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum partners with the Forest Preserves in a variety of ways including environmental education programs, stewardship activities, community outreach and special events; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum and the Forest Preserves have a robust history of sharing expertise on a wide variety of issues including restoration and stewardship, science based education standards, community outreach, and the preservation and protection of the region's natural and cultural assets and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum administers the Mighty Acorns program that involves more than 20 partners, including the Forest Preserves and is one of the Midwest region's largest and longest running environmental education programs, reaching more than 350 educators and 12,000 middle school students to date; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum also coordinates CIMBY, the Calumet is My Backyard program, which annually engages over 700 high school students from the South Side of Chicago in educational activities and experiences that connect classroom learning to stewardship opportunities, with much of the programming taking place at Forest Preserves' sites; and

WHEREAS, in addition to environmental education and stewardship the Field Museum was a key partner in the creation of the Next Century Conservation Plan and is now actively involved in implementing the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum is a stalwart supporter of the Forest Preserves' outreach efforts including the successful Bird the Preserves initiative where Field Museum ornithology staff served on the planning committee, participated in the Big Year Competition, led bird walks for the public, and participated in workshops and events; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum also partnered with the Forest Preserves to host the 2016 Cultural History Forum that highlighted the area's prehistory, early history, and contemporary Native American communities, and reached a new audience interested in the human history of the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum is a key partner in "Better Beaubien", a 10-year action and vision plan for Beaubien Woods and the Little Calumet River, that is being developed through a rigorous community engagement process to enhance public access, encourage nature-based recreation, restore the site's natural habitat, and foster economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Field Museum partners with the Forest Preserves in many other ways including serving as stewards of several natural areas in the Calumet region, leading botany classes and hikes for volunteers, providing expertise in the development of the ambitious "Conservation Action Plan for Critical Wetlands in the Millennium Reserve", and much more; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is deserving of an award as the Field Museum is a long standing and invaluable partner to the Forest Preserves pursuing the common vision of people and nature thriving together.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the Field Museum for receiving the Best of the Best Partnership Award from the Illinois Association of Park Districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Field Museum as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

[19-0002](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY, FRIENDS OF THE FOREST PRESERVES, STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, GREENCORPS CHICAGO, AND AUDUBON GREAT LAKES FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION'S INNOVATION IN CONSERVATION AWARD FOR THE CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2018, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) honored the Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation Corps program with the Innovation in Conservation Award at its annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the NRPA Innovation Awards recognize and honor the latest advancements in the field of

parks and recreation and showcase the inspiring park and recreation agencies that have improved and empowered their communities through innovative practices in park design, health and wellness, environmental conservation, and social equity; and

WHEREAS, the Innovation in Conservation Award specifically recognized the Conservation Corps as an creative and original set of programs that create a localized solution to address regional environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps was developed in order to mobilize people to restore nature to health, and to train the next generation of conservation leaders and forest preserve advocates by providing paid, hands-on restoration experiences on the Forest Preserves' nearly 70,000 acres of public land; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps strives to break down geographic and racial barriers by creating a network where people of all backgrounds work together for a common cause and ensures that participants gain an understanding of local ecology and become nature ambassadors within their communities and among their peers; and

WHEREAS, the program has grown significantly since its inception, from 15 interns in 2005 to 303 participants today; and in 2018 alone helped to improve more than 2,200 acres of public land through restoration activities with Corps members providing over 54,742 restoration service hours; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps program engages participants from across Cook County, including people with barriers to employment, and plays a critical role in reconnecting people and nature and diversifying the conservation workforce and community; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps program was developed in collaboration with and is coordinated and implemented by several organizations including the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Friends of the Forest Preserves, the Student Conservation Association, Greencorps Chicago, and Audubon Great Lakes, demonstrating that strong partnerships result in effectively leveraging resources and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps is one of the Forest Preserves' main priorities and one of the Next Century Conservation Plan's key recommendations in achieving the goal of ensuring native landscapes will thrive for generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the Friends of the Forest Preserves, Student Conservation Association, GreenCorps Chicago, and Audubon Great Lakes for their commitment to the success of the Conservation Corps and dedication to the mission of the Forest Preserves and the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the above-referenced partners as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves and the residents of Cook County.