



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
Board of Commissioners**

**Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room**

**118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita,  
Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2) excused

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

[24-0131](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**HONORING CATHY GERAGHTY, RAQUEL GARCIA-ALVAREZ, XOCHITL LOPEZ, AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S YOUTH OUTDOOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM FOR RECEIVING CHICAGO WILDERNESS GEORGE B. RABB FORCE OF NATURE AWARDS**

**WHEREAS**, on January 17, 2024, Cathy Geraghty, Raquel Garcia-Alvarez and Xochitl Lopez, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Youth Outdoor Ambassador Program were all honored with a Chicago Wilderness George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award during a ceremony held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the George B. Rabb Force of Nature Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose conservation, restoration, advocacy or educational activities in the region are inspirational examples for others; and

**WHEREAS**, Cathy Geraghty, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Forest Preserves, was recognized

as one of the region’s most ardent champions of biodiversity, dedicating her professional career and her free time to protecting nature; and

**WHEREAS**, she has led many successful initiatives, including the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Centennial Campaign Plan and is a founding member of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance, where she has contributed to building an extensive and welcoming network of people who share expertise and resources to improve the environment for people and nature; and

**WHEREAS**, Raquel Garcia-Alvarez and Xochitl Lopez, volunteer site stewards with the Forest Preserves, were recognized for leading and engaging Latinx communities in conservation at Possum Hollow Woods since 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Xochitl and Raquel’s leadership and expertise effectively center Latinx and BIPOC communities, building a culture that includes both Spanish and English speakers, welcoming intergenerational families and creating connections for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves’ Youth Outdoor Ambassador Program was recognized for its efforts to engage young people to serve as “ambassadors” to the Forest Preserves and identify how their peers can become lifelong advocates for nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Outdoor Ambassador Program serves as an excellent model for other organizations on how to genuinely engage young people in influencing and improving programming and communication strategies, ensuring that nature thrives and that people of all ages feel connected with their public land agencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the winners of the Chicago Wilderness George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0131. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Donesilion Reed - TCA Health**

**Michele Miedlar**

**Benjamin Cox - Friends of the Forest Preserves**

**Alan Bell - Conservation and Policy Council**

**Will Hudson - The Children's School**

**Thomas J. Sadvak**

**PRESIDENT**

[24-0090](#)

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SWEET WOODS**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE** in part of Section 23, Township 35 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Sweet Woods in District 5.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the "District"), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public

use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof; and

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made a part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

1588 13th Street, Ford Heights, Cook County, Illinois

PARCEL 1:

LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 1, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 2, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 3, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 4, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 13, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 14, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 15, LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 16, LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 17, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 18, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 19, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 20, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 25, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 26, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 27, LOTS 24 TO 30 IN BLOCK 28, LOTS 23 TO 30 IN BLOCK 30, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 31, LOTS 1 TO 30 IN BLOCK 32, LOTS 1 TO 9 IN BLOCK 33, LOTS 22 TO 30 IN BLOCK 33, LOTS 23 TO 30 IN BLOCK 34, ALL IN DE FORREST SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 18, 1891 IN BOOK 48 PAGE 30 AS DOCUMENT 1470496 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 4 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 3: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 13 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 4: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 20 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 5: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 30 IN BLOCK 25 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 6: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FALLING IN SOUTH 1/2 OF 204TH STREET IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 7: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FALLING IN 205TH STREET IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 8: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FALLING IN 206TH STREET IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 9: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FALLING IN 207TH STREET IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 10: THE EAST 1/2 OF THAT PART VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FALLING IN 208TH STREET IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 11: THE EAST 1/2 OF VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE FROM THE SOUTH LINE OF VACATED 208TH STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 22 OF BLOCK 33 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 12: ALL OF VACATED PULLMAN AVENUE FROM THE CENTER LINE OF 204TH STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 9 BLOCK 33 (EXCEPT THE EAST 1/2 OF SAID VACATED PULLMAN STREET LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOT 22 IN BLOCK 34) IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 13: ALL OF VACATED STONEY ISLAND FROM THE CENTER LINE OF 204TH STREET TO THE CENTER LINE OF VACATED 209TH STREET (EXCEPT THE EAST 1/2 OF SAID VACATED STONEY ISLAND LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 22 IN BLOCK 30} IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 14: ALL OF VACATED PARK AVENUE FROM THE CENTER LINE OF VACATED 204TH STREET TO THE CENTER LINE OF VACATED 208TH STREET (EXCEPT THE EAST 1/2 OF VACATED PARK AVENUE LYING WEST OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 16 TO 23 IN BLOCK 28) IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 15: THE SOUTH 1/2 OF VACATED 204TH STREET AND ALL OF VACATED 205TH, 206TH AND 207TH STREETS FROM THE EAST LINE OF VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE TO THE CENTER LINE OF THE 16 FOOT VACATED ALLEY RUNNING THROUGH BLOCKS 1, 16, 17 AND 28; IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 16: VACATED 208TH STREET FROM THE EAST LINE OF THE VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE TO THE WEST LINE OF PARK AVENUE (EXCEPT THE SOUTH 1/2 OF VACATED 208TH STREET LYING NORTH OF AND ADJOINING LOT 1 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE VACATED ALLEY IN BLOCK 30) IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 17: VACATED 209TH STREET FROM THE EAST LINE OF VACATED SUMMIT AVENUE TO THE WEST LINE OF VACATED STONEY ISLAND AVENUE (EXCEPT THE SOUTH 1/2 OF VACATED 209TH STREET LYING NORTH OF AND ADJOINING LOT 1 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE VACATED ALLEY IN BLOCK 34), IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 18: ALL OF THE VACATED ALLEYS THROUGH BLOCKS 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 31 AND 32 IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 19: THE WEST 1/2 OF THE VACATED ALLEYS ADJACENT TO LOTS 24 TO 30 IN BLOCK 28, LOTS 23 TO 30 IN BLOCKS 30 AND 34

AND THE WEST 1/2 OF THE VACATED ALLEY LYING ADJACENT TO LOTS 22 TO 30 IN BLOCK 33 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE VACATED ALLEY ADJACENT TO LOTS 1 TO 9 IN BLOCK 33, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS ALSO PARCEL 20: THE WEST 1/2 OF THE VACATED PUBLIC ALLEYS RUNNING THROUGH BLOCKS 1, 16 AND 17, ALL IN DE FORREST SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST ¼ OF SAID SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ALL IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PINs:

32-23-204-031, 32-23-205-031, 32-23-206-031, 32-23-207-032, 32-23-212-031, 32-23-213-031, 32-23-214-031, 32-23-215-033, 32-23-220-031, 32-23-221-031, 32-23-222-031, 32-23-223-034, 32-23-228-031, 32-23-229-031, 32-23-230-031, 32-23-231-032, 32-23-236-031, 32-23-237-031, 32-23-238-032, 32-23-241-033, 32-23-241-034, 32-23-242-032

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 2,450,773 SQUARE FEET, OR 56.262 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the several parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 5

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0090 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0089](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE**

**Department(s):** Legal Department

**Other Part(ies):** Larry A. Paarlberg and Marcia Christine Paarlberg, As Joint Tenants (Owners of Record)

**Request:** It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

**Description of Real Estate:** 1588 13th Street, Ford Heights, Cook County, Illinois

**Section:** N/A

**Parcel(s):** PINS

32-23-204-031	32-23-205-031	32-23-206-031	32-23-207-032	32-23-212-031
32-23-213-031	32-23-214-031	32-23-215-033	32-23-220-031	32-23-221-031
32-23-222-031	32-23-223-034	32-23-228-031	32-23-229-031	32-23-230-031
32-23-231-032	32-23-236-031	32-23-237-031	32-23-238-032	32-23-241-033
32-23-241-034	32-23-242-032			

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SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 2,450,773 SQUARE FEET, OR 56.262 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.



**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,410,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,420,000.00 in total).

**Accounts:** Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and ARPA Fund 51032.560010

**District(s):** 5

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified several parcels of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Sweet Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 1588 13th Street, Ford Heights, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 56.262 ± acres. The Property has natural and fallowed land.

Through negotiations, the Owners of Record (the “Sellers”), have agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,410,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,420,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

The Property contains three parcels comprising approximately 2.85 ± acres which are located within the Lincoln Highway Corridor Study Area and the Ford Heights-Cottage Grove/Route 30 TIF boundary (the “Study/TIF Area”). The Forest Preserves proposes to use the portion of the Property that overlaps with the Study/TIF Area for Forest Preserves uses authorized under its Enabling Statute. In the interest of full transparency, if within five (5) years of closing on the proposed acquisition another government entity, including without limitation, Cook County, Cook County Land Bank Authority, and the Village of Ford Heights, desires that the Forest Preserves convey the Study/TIF Area to the acquiring government entity for fair market value for a public purpose via the Local Government Property Transfer Act, then the Forest Preserves would be willing to explore such conveyance, subject to approval of the Forest Preserves’ Board of Commissioners.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0089 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0139](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title I - Administrative, Chapter 8 - District Finances, Section 2 - Contracts and Purchases of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as Follows:

**Section. 1-8-2 CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES**

- A. Conditions and Restrictions on Awarding a Contract
- B. Signatures Required on Contracts
- C. Purchase Orders
- D. Effect of Tax or Fee Delinquency
- E. Bids by Local Business
- F. Recycled Product Procurement Policy
- G. Cook County Resident Employment Requirement
- H. Contracts for Supplies, Material and Work
- I. Powers and duties of Purchasing Agent
- J. Rules and Regulations
- K. No Delegation of Power to Act for Expenditure Exceeding \$150,000.00
- L. Contracts for a Period Exceeding Three (3) Years
- M. Competitive Bidding Contracts
- N. Requests for Proposals or Requests for Qualifications
- O. Purchase Procedure
- P. Sole Source Procurements
- Q. Emergency Purchases
- R. [Section Deleted].
- S. Construction, Maintenance, and Repair of Public Works
- T. Living Wage

- U. Disqualification for Noncompliance with Child Support Order:
- V. Disqualification Due to Prior Default or Termination
- W. False Statements
- X. Comparative Government Procurement
- Y. Innovative Procurement
- Z. Joint Procurements
- AA. Consortium and Group Procurements
- BB. Procurement and Disbursements Reports
- CC. Selection of Professional Services for Debt Transactions

Full text of this ordinance amendment can be found here: <https://bit.ly/24-0139>

**Effective date:** This ordinance amendment shall be in effect on January 1, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0139 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0140](#)

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**DESIGN-BUILD PROCUREMENTS**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Title 1 - Administrative, Chapter 8 - District Finances, Section 6 - Design-Build Procurements of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances is hereby enacted as Follows:

**1-8-6: Design-Build Procurements**

- A. Definitions
- B. Solicitation of Proposals
- C. Scope and Performance Criteria
- D. Procedures for Selection
- E. Combined Evaluations Phases for Projects Estimated to be Less than \$12,000,000
- F. Submission of Proposals
- G. Award
- H. Reports and Evaluation

Full text of this ordinance can be found here: <https://bit.ly/24-0140>

**Effective date:** This ordinance shall be in effect on January 1, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0140 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**COMMISSIONERS**

[24-0117](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, SCOTT R. BRITTON and FRANK J. AGUILAR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY REVISED REQUIREMENT FOR MODEL POLICE DEPARTMENT PROGRESS REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WHEREAS,** in 2020, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (“Forest Preserves”) issued a Request for Proposals and retained Hillard Heintze to analyze the Forest Preserves’ Law Enforcement Department (i.e., “Police Department” or “Department”) and recommend best practices to: (a) maintain and strengthen police and community relations, (b) create a work culture that is inclusive and equitable to all people, and (c) support a diverse police force through recruitment, retention and promotion; and

**WHEREAS,** the final report of the independent analysis of the Department from Hillard Heintze was presented to the Committee on Law Enforcement (the “Committee”) on September 21, 2021, and such report recommended best practices and includes a work plan, timetable, and cost estimates for implementing the best practices, as well as tools to measure progress toward those goals; and

**WHEREAS,** the report outlined 21 recommendations needed to improve recruitment and retention, update policies and procedures, improve communication across ranks, and enhance police and community relations; and

**WHEREAS,** one of the key findings is that the Department has a ready, willing and able workforce capable of helping transform the Department into a model police force; however, although those employees interviewed as part of the report were willing to help improve the Department internally, as well as its external relationships, many were concerned that change would not happen once the

assessment concluded, and indicated that they have seen previous efforts to assess the Department or effectuate change, that were curtailed or failed to result in meaningful changes; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that the report recommendations are adhered to, and that the Forest Preserves continues to recognize the importance of establishing an aggressive timeline to implement said recommendations and to report back to the Board on progress being made towards achieving said recommendations the Board passed Resolution 21-0474, requesting the Forest Preserves to outline and deliver a detailed timeline for all elements needed to achieve the goal of a Model Forest Preserve Police Department as recommended in the *Independent Analysis of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Police Department* and that the General Superintendent and the Chief of the Department update the Board via the Committee on progress being made towards achieving such goal on a quarterly basis beginning with the first quarter of the 2022 fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes and is satisfied that the Forest Preserves’ leadership and the Department have made significant progress since the passage of 21-0474 and is confident that this progress will continue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners does hereby rescind the quarterly progress reporting request and replace it with a request for semi-annual reporting of the same subject matter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that effective immediately, the periodicity of these reports shall be January through June and July through December, each of which is to be introduced to the Board and referred to the Committee within the subsequent quarter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall sunset on December 1, 2026 and that, if so willed by this or future Boards, this reporting requirement may be reinstated, amended or enshrined in future resolutions or ordinances.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0117. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

[24-0093](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

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

**Grantor:** The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant

**Purpose:** Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept grant and enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Morton Arboretum for tree planting utilizing funds received through the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program.

**Grant Amount:** \$30,000.00

**Grant Period:** 1/12/2024 (retroactive) - 9/30/2025

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$30,000.00 in direct match

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51034.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840; and all future Professional Services and Grant and Mitigation accounts

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

**District(s):** 3, 4, 5

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has been sub-awarded grant funds from the Morton Arboretum via the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program to plant a total of eighty (80) trees in picnic groves in south Cook County at Beaubien Woods, Kickapoo Woods, Green Lake, Eggers Grove, and Dan Ryan Woods. These planting efforts serve to reduce the negative impacts of historical ash tree loss due to the Emerald Ash Borer and other stressors that trees in the urban environment face, including impacts from deer, invasive species, and an increasingly stressful climate. Planting sites were selected with due consideration of recreational use, with a majority falling within federally listed disadvantaged communities, which historically experience higher air pollutant levels, flood risk, and above average surface temperatures.

The project will increase forest diversity and resiliency, improve wildlife habitat, and provide additional benefits in the form of improved air and water quality as well as shade for visitors’ enjoyment. Trees will

consist of a diverse mix of native species.

Total project costs are \$60,000.00, of which the Forest Preserves will contribute \$30,000.00 or 50% in direct match.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0093. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0120](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant

**Purpose:** Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept and enter into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for Boat Area Access Development (BAAD) grant funding for development of a canoe launch project at Maywood Grove in Maywood, Illinois in Cook County.

**Grant Amount:** \$80,000.00

**Grant Period:** 4/1/2024 - 3/31/2026

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$268,000.00 (\$210,000.00 match + \$58,000.00 20% contingency). Estimated match in FY2024: \$214,400.00; and \$53,600.00 in FY2025

**Accounts:** Land Improvements 51009.560019, 51010.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019; and future Construction and Development accounts

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

**District(s):** 1

**Summary:** The proposed grant will support the improvement of an existing rustic canoe and kayak launch along the Des Plaines River in Maywood Grove, part of Thatcher Woods, a 245-acre forest preserve in central Cook County, Illinois. The existing carry-in launch is currently used by the Forest Preserves' Greater Maywood Paddling Program, an award-winning initiative that partners with over a dozen organizations. The improved launch will address flooding, erosion, and accessibility and make the launch easier to use for beginners. In addition to improvements at the river edge, the project will include a paved access path from an existing parking lot located only 500 feet away. A new map and information signs will also be installed in the parking lot, where paddlers can also access equipment storage. The proposed accessible paddling launch will provide access for kayaks and canoes to the Des Plaines River which offers opportunities for paddling, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The Forest Preserves will bid construction of the boat launch and related improvements with an estimated total cost of \$290,000.00.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0120. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0122](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant

**Purpose:** Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves to accept and enter into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for grant funding awarded to



conduct improvements of the Gold Star Mothers Memorial within Dan Ryan Woods in Chicago, Illinois in Cook County.

**Grant Amount:** \$100,000.00

**Grant Period:** 12/1/2023 (retroactive) - 11/30/2025

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$44,000.00 (\$20,000.00 match + \$24,000.00 20% contingency)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830; and Land Improvements 51009.560019, 51010.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019 and future Construction & Development accounts

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

**District(s):** 4

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has been awarded funds to support infrastructure improvements to the existing Gold Star Memorial in Dan Ryan Woods, a 257-acre forest preserve, and one of only a handful of preserves located within the City of Chicago. The Gold Star Mothers Memorial honors the families who have lost a loved one in the service of their country and was originally dedicated after World War I and relocated near the new Visitors Center in 2018. The proposed improvements will include a new accessible gathering space around the memorial, with seating and permeable pavers. Native grasses and plants will also be added to create a visual separation from 87th Street. A new security camera will also be added to discourage vandalism.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0122. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0104](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“IDNR”), Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to extend grant agreement.

**Purpose:** To implement outdoor recreation improvements at Beaubien Woods in Chicago, including the development of a trail connection to the adjacent Altgeld Gardens neighborhood, which will increase outdoor recreation activities for all Cook County residents.

**Supplemental Grant Amount:** N/A

**Grant Period:** Two (2) years from date of full contract execution (10/1/2022 - 9/30/2024)

**Extension Period:** 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025

**Fiscal Impact:** Original: Not to Exceed \$3,054,500.00 (\$1,154,500.00 50% match + \$575,000.00 25% contingency + \$1,325,000.00 anticipated underground utility services to the site). Estimated impact without contingency and underground utility services: FY2023 \$577,000.00 and FY 2024 \$577,500.00. There is no additional cost associated with the extension.

**Accounts:** Consulting Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830; Land Improvement 51009.560019, 51010.560019; Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105, 51010.560105, 51030.560106, 51031.560105; and future Construction and Development accounts

**Date of Previous Board Authorization for Grant:** 9/20/2022 (Board Item No. 22-0363)

**Previous Grant Amount:** \$1,150,000.00

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

**District(s):** 4, 5

**Summary:** On 9/20/2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of grant funding from IDNR’s Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program (Board Item No. 22-0363) to implement improvements including reconstruction of existing

boat launch ramps and onshore fishing boardwalk, an accessible canoe/kayak launch system, a new program shelter and interpretive signs, and a restroom and trail connection to the adjacent neighborhood of Altgeld Gardens. A no-cost time extension of the grant agreement for twelve (12) months is being requested to allow for the completion of the work. The delay is primarily due to the Forest Preserves' need to acquire an easement in order to connect water service for the new restroom building. The easement acquisition is expected to be completed around September 2024.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0104. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0123](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

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

**Grantor:** The Illinois Department of Natural Resources ("IDNR"), Springfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to extend grant agreement.

**Purpose:** To improve approximately three (3) miles of trail and enhance ADA access at two (2) trailhead parking lots at Tinley Creek Trail, located in Oak Forest, Illinois in the southwestern part of Cook County, Illinois.

**Supplemental Grant Amount:** N/A

**Grant Period:** 4/5/2022 - 3/31/2024

**Extension Period:** 4/1/2024 - 5/2/2025

**Fiscal Impact:** Original - Local match not to exceed \$514,000.00; total estimated project cost: \$714,000.00 (\$595,000.00 plus 20% contingency). There is no additional cost associated with the extension.

**Accounts:** Land Improvement 51010.560019 and 51029.560019

**Date of Previous Board Authorization for Grant:** 4/5/2022 (Board Item No. 22-0188)

**Previous Grant Amount:** \$200,000.00

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

**District(s):** 6

**Summary:** The Tinley Creek Trail Repair Project is currently 50% completed with culverts and new storm sewers installed and patching completed in preparation for asphalt surfacing scheduled to take place in spring 2024. As asphalt paving is a weather-dependent activity, the Forest Preserves requested and received an extension from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The new end date is May 2, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0123. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0132](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim 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 the Chicago Horticultural Society, Glencoe, Illinois.

**Reason:** The Forest Preserves and the Chicago Horticultural Society, which operates the Chicago Botanic Garden (the “Garden”), seek to partner for cooperative land management at Turnbull Woods, and to utilize the Garden’s unique expertise in plant propagation to assist with the launch of the Forest Preserves’ in-house seed amplification program. The Garden is a recognized global leader at the forefront of research on floristic genetics and species diversity for landscape restoration efforts throughout the Upper Midwest. Through this partnership, the Garden would recruit, hire, and train a plant Nursery Manager and a Nursery Technician to support restoration on Forest Preserves properties through the development of seed beds, greenhouse infrastructure, collection and propagation of seed, etc. The Garden will staff the positions for a two-year period starting in 2024. Cultivating native seed and plants from local populations is critical to the resiliency of ecological restoration efforts throughout the preserves by

ensuring that native plants are genetically adapted to our local habitats.

This partnership would also provide support for the Garden’s Stewardship and Ecology of Natural Areas (“SENA”) internship program to conduct ecological restoration activities at Turnbull Woods. The SENA program provides advanced workforce training for aspiring natural resource professionals, with a focus on stewardship, ecological monitoring, data collection and analysis. The SENA interns, under the Garden’s direction, will conduct invasive species removal, seed collection, prescribed burning and other restoration actions in accordance with the Forest Preserves’ approved management schedule.

The Forest Preserves has a long history of cooperation with the Garden on shared initiatives, including without limitation, the Plants of Concern Program (Board Item No. 22-0375), Joint Purchasing Initiatives (Board Item No. 20-0142), and ARPA Projects (Board Item No. 23-0308).

**Contract Period:** Date of execution - 12/31/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$432,800.00 (\$332,800.00 for Seed Amplification Program and \$100,000.00 for SENA internship program). Additionally, the Garden is contributing an additional \$264,555.00 of in-kind support.

**Account(s):** Professional Services 51034.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840; and all future Professional Services and Grant and Mitigation accounts

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

**District(s):** Districtwide

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0132. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0118](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Vendor:** Niles Animal Hospital PC, Niles, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Ambassador Animal Veterinary Services

**Original Contract Period:** 3/15/2021 - 3/14/2024

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 3/15/2024 - 12/31/2024

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$150,000.00 not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year.

**Original Approval:** 3/14/2021

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** Not to exceed \$50,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2024, not to exceed \$50,000.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000009050

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

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves is requesting an extension of the contract with Niles Animal Hospital for veterinary service for the Ambassador Animal program through the end of the year. We will be issuing a new Request for Proposals or Qualifications for veterinary services this year and need the additional time to go through that process. While we are awaiting bids we need to have a licensed veterinarian on contract to care for our Ambassador Animals. The original contract was awarded based on a 2020 RFP. At that time, it was determined that the MBE/WBE goal would be set at zero due to the nature of the contract and the lack of options for subcontractors. With the Forest Preserves’ new Ambassador Animal protocols in place, we are considering a Request for Qualifications in order to contract with more veterinarians from around the county and closer to all the different Nature Centers.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0118. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0135](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** 360 Energy Group, 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):** Professional services to develop building energy and sustainability plans and strategies districtwide

**Original Contract Period:** 3/15/2021 - 3/14/2022 with two (2) one-year optional extensions to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent; General Superintendent Exercise of Optional Extensions 3/15/2022 - 3/14/2024

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 3/15/2024 - 3/14/2025

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$440,000.00

**Original Approval:** 2/24/2021, \$440,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** \$100,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2024 \$75,000.00, FY 2025 \$25,000.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 510028.520830, 51030.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830; and future Construction and Development and Professional Services accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000008784 issued under Request for Proposal #20-80-52

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

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals in 2020 to assist in its developing strategies and action plans to operate on 100% clean energy by 2030 and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Eleven (11) firms submitted proposals. A selection committee reviewed the proposals and found 360 Energy Group, LLC to be the most responsive.

Services provided have included in-depth analysis of the Forest Preserves’ largest energy-using buildings to identify energy and building envelope strategies to address energy efficiency challenges. The resulting studies were used to develop a Clean Energy Action Plan (completed in 2023) with specific scopes of work and strategies to solicit future professional services along with the development of Green Building Standards for both the rehabilitation of existing buildings and for new construction, which are still in process.

This requested extension and increase will be used for additional prioritization of energy-related improvements, as well as monitoring recommendation results and adjustments to the overall implementation plans as needed.

The contract was originally awarded by the Board on 2/24/2021 (Board Item No. 21-0128). Additional work would be most efficiently completed by extending and increasing the current consultant contract.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0135. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0142](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS ITEM OF BUSINESS**



**Department:** Office of the General Superintendent

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

**Fiscal Impact:** \$300,000.00 per year for up to two (2) years, for a total of \$600,000.00

**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 \$300,000.00 per year for up to two years, totaling up to \$600,000.00, beginning March 1, 2024, and ending February 28, 2026, 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 communications goals of the Forest Preserves, which include focused geographic and demographic outreach to communities and populations in Cook County impacted by a history of racial inequity.

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0142. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0137](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**EASEMENT REQUEST**

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to grant a temporary easement to the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) at 123rd Street in

Palos Hills for 0.082 Acres or 3,572 square feet for construction access. The construction would impact twenty-two (22) living trees and two (2) dead trees, resulting in tree mitigation fees. In practice, more trees may need to be removed than originally estimated. Any increase in the tree mitigation fee will be in accordance with the Tree Mitigation Plan (see Board Item No. 20-0279), and if such increase is more than 20% of the original estimate, then approval will be sought from the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**Reason:** IDOT intends to replace an existing culvert under the road at 123rd Street and 93rd Avenue in Palos Hills and requests this temporary easement for site access. The term of the temporary easement is five (5) years, or completion of construction, whichever comes first.

The area needed for construction access will not require a permanent easement but only a temporary easement of approximately 0.082 acres. IDOT indicates that twenty-four (24) trees are expected to be removed for this project.

**Easement Fee:** \$1,400.00

**Tree Mitigation Fee:** \$233,343.78

**Concurrence(s):** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final easement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 17

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 24-0137 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0062](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Procurement and Disbursement Report

**Report Period:** 12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of December 2023. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District’s Code of Ordinances.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0062. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0130](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Workers’ Compensation Report - December 2023

**Report Period:** 12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers’ Compensation Claim Payments for the month of December 2023. Payments total \$127,796.21 for December 2023.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0130. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

[24-0124](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

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**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Department:** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Summary:** Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 2/27/2024 - 3/12/2024

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.

**Wednesday, 2/28; 8am - 9am**

**Mingle in the Morning: Senior Walking Club, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Come meet and mingle with members of the community with a shared interest in health, wellness, and the outdoors. *Registration required. Please call (312)415-2970.*

**Wednesday, 2/28; 2pm**

**2 at 2 Wednesday Prairie Hike, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Career naturalist, Cyndi Duda, will lead a hike on the 2-mile Phantom Prairie Trail on Wednesdays. *Please be prepared to be outside for up to an hour. We recommend calling ahead before arriving as the hike will only occur in good weather conditions. Call (847)381-6598.*

**Saturday, 3/2; 9am**

**Walk and Talk: Women in Conservation, LaBagh Woods, Chicago**

Walk and Talk Hikes are for the curious mind who wants to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. *Grove 1. Registration required. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

**Saturday, 3/2 through Sunday, 3/3; 10:30am**

**Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Walk in the sugar maple forest as winter comes to an end and learn about the sweet history of maple syrup making. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Saturday, 3/2; 1pm**

**Women Naturalists, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Celebrate Women's History Month on a spring stroll discussing inspiring women who impacted our natural world. *Registration required. Please call (847)381-6598.*

**Saturday, 3/2; 1pm - 2:30pm**

**Ambassador Animals, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Learn what, why and how staff feed the animal ambassadors at the nature center. *Registration*

required. Please call (708)839-6897.

**Saturday, 3/2 through Sunday, 3/3; 1:30pm**

**Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Walk in the sugar maple forest as winter comes to an end and learn about the sweet history of maple syrup making. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Sunday, 3/3; 1pm - 3pm**

**Litter Picking, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us each month as we care for the Sand Ridge Campus with a variety of activities! Earn service-learning hours. *Registration required. All ages. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Sunday, 3/3; 2pm**

**"Mysteries of Animal Migration" Talk, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Explore what scientists know about animal migration. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Wednesday, 3/6; 10am**

**Women in Conservation Walk, Bemis Woods-South, Western Springs**

Join us for a 1.2-mile walk and discussion about women who have made significant contributions in the fields of conservation, environmental activism, and science. *Grove 7. Please call (312)533-5751 for more information.*

**Thursday, 3/7; 11am - 1pm**

**Forest Therapy, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with nature. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (773)758-8899.*

**Friday, 3/8; 5:30pm**

**Outdoor Cooking, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Cooking outdoors is easy and fun! Learn how to prepare food both over a fire and on a stove. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Ages 12-17 with an adult. Please visit the website for registration and more information.*

**Friday, 3/8; 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Starry Night Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for a guided walk and night sky observations as we admire the stars and learn about astronomy. *Registration required. All ages. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Saturday, 3/9; 10am**

**Women's Walk, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

In celebration of Women's Heritage Month, join us as we highlight conservation leader Isabel Bassett Wasson and her work and discoveries at Thatcher Woods and around the country. *Please call (312)533-5751 for more information.*

**Saturday, 3/9; 10am - 12pm**

**Wellness in the Woods: Nature as Your Stage, Beaubien Woods-Flatfoot Lake, Chicago**

Warm up with a quick walk on the trail then get down with dance.

**Saturday, 3/9 through Sunday, 3/10; 10:30am**

**Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Walk in the sugar maple forest as winter comes to an end and learn about the sweet history of maple syrup making. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Saturday, 3/9; 11am - 1pm**

**Prehistoric Play Day, Volunteer Resource Center, Chicago**

Learn about the amazing world of Ice Age Illinois with family-oriented games and activities. *Ages 5 and up. Please call (773)758-8899 for more information.*

**Saturday, 3/9; 1pm - 2:30pm**

**Zoo Adventure Passport!(ZAP!): Conservation Science Adventures, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Explore through play-based learning and discovery. In collaboration with Brookfield Zoo. *Please call (708) 366-6530 for more information.*

**Saturday, 3/9 through Sunday, 3/10; 1:30pm**

**Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Walk in the sugar maple forest as winter comes to an end and learn about the sweet history of maple syrup making. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

**Saturday, 3/9; 6pm**

**Star Watch and Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Star light, star bright, soak in the sounds and stars at Crabtree tonight. *Registration required. Please call (847)381-6598.*

**Sunday, 3/10; 6:45am**

**Sunrise Walks, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us for a “before hours” walk to experience the dawning of a new day.

**Sunday, 3/10; 10am**

**Maple Tree Tapping Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Learn the history of tree tapping. You can tap a maple tree and taste fresh sap and maple syrup. *Registration required. Family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Sunday, 3/10; 12pm - 3pm**

**Selfie Scavenger Hunt for Teens, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Drop in for a fun and unique scavenger hunt while discovering fascinating plants and animals. *Ages 12-17. Please call (847)381-6598 for more information.*

**Sunday, 3/10; 1pm - 3pm**

**Litter Picking, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us each month as we care for the Sand Ridge Campus with a variety of activities! Earn service-learning hours. *Registration required. All ages. Ages under 18 with an adult. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Sunday, 3/10; 2pm**

**Maple Tree Tapping Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Learn the history of tree tapping. You can tap a maple tree and taste fresh sap and maple syrup. *Registration required. Family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Tuesday, 3/12; 7pm - 8:30pm**

**National Girl Scout Birthday Evening Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Enjoy an evening walk through the woods. *Registration required. Open to all levels of Girl Scout Troops. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 24-0124. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**RULES COMMITTEE**

[24-0147](#)

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 01/23/24.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to concur with the recommendation of the Rules Committee to approve 24-0147. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

[24-0128](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 2/27/2024

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

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present: \$0.00

Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present: \$61,672.51

Legal Fees for 2/27/2024 to Be Approved: \$109,584.00

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve 24-0128. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)



[24-0073](#)

**Presented by:** EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

**Report Period:** 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

**Summary:** Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for December 2023.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Committee to receive and file 24-0073. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

[24-0075](#)

**Presented by:** (Inactive) ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Law Enforcement

**Request:** Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

**Report Title:** Model Policing

**Report Period:** October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

**Summary:** Report on the status to achieve the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Aguilar, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to concur with the recommendation of the Law Enforcement committee to receive and file 24-0075. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

[24-0053](#)

**Presented by:** MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the County Auditor

**Request:** Refer to Audit Committee

**Report Title:** OCA FPD FY23 4th Quarter Open Recommendations

**Report Period:** December 2023

**Summary:** Status Report on Open Recommendations regarding Forest Preserves of Cook County.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to concur with the recommendation of the Audit Committee to receive and file 24-0053. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner BILL LOWRY, seconded by Commissioner SCOTT R. BRITTON, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita,  
Morrison, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

**Absent:** Daley and Deer (2) excused

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynne M. Turner*

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Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.

*Journal # 24-0203*