

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 visiting 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.” It introduced the family to trees 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: 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
Pension

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.

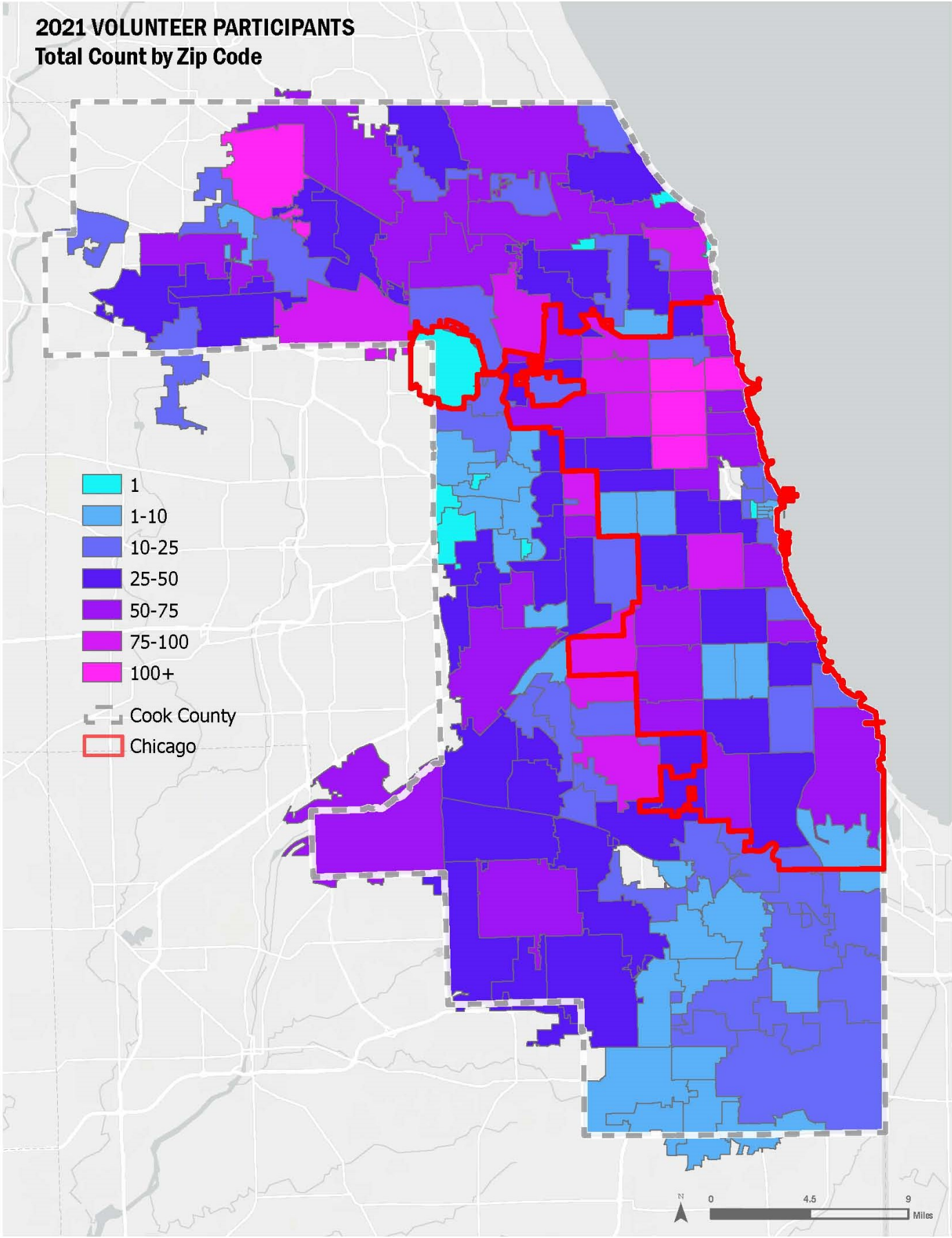
As a government entity, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and Cook County overall have a responsibility to understand such issues and move to implement measures that prioritize accountability and are nimble to the evolving challenges and needs of the people we serve. As the Cook County Commissioner 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,

Alma E. Anaya
Cook County Commissioner, 7th District

Attachment 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%



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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



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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	\$4.58	\$1.88	\$114,884,400
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	\$11.58	\$4.76	\$138,982,041
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.								



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Step 2 – Public Opinion Survey

Methodology: random, sample, voters, telephone

Why poll?

- reality test
- perspective
- messages and messengers

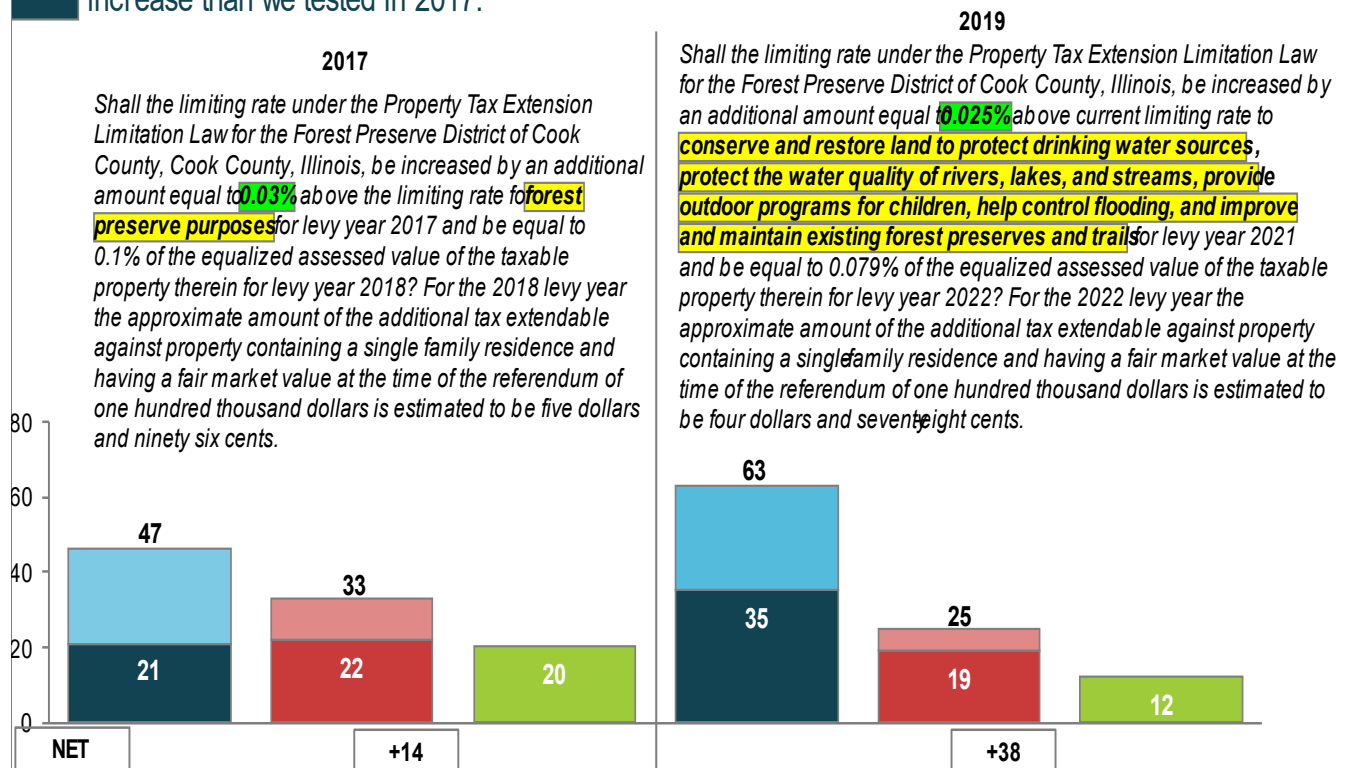
Polling goals

- 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 4: Meeting Attendees

Alan Bell, Council	John McCabe, FPCC
Anival Vega	Laura Milkert, Field Museum
Arnold Randall, FPCC	Laurel Ross, Council
Avani Kalra, Chicago Documenters	Leah Mooney, CTA
Benjamin Cox, FOTFP	Margaret Macpherson
Bob Megquier, Openlands	Maria Pesqueira, Council
Carl Vogel, FPCC	Mark Templeton, Council
Cathy Geraghty, FPCC	Michelle Parker, Great Lakes Audubon
Chip O'Leary, FPCC	Mike DeSantiago, Council
Chris Adas, FPCC	Nicole Pierson, FPCC
Cicely Fleming, Office of Commissioner Suffredin	Nina Baki, FPCC
Commissioner Stanley Moore	Patrick Dunn, CTA
Damon Howell, FPCC	Representative of Commissioner Suffredin
Delio Calzolari, FPCC	Robin ?
Eileen Figel, FPCC	Sonali Tandon, CTA
Emily Harris, Council	Steve Hughes, FPCC
Greg Mueller, Chicago Botanic Garden	Terry Guen, Council
Hank Saunders, Council	Victoria Moreno, Office of Commissioner Anaya
Jane Balaban, Key Steward	Will Abberger, TPL
Jen Baader, Brookfield Zoo	

Attachment 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 critism 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!