



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

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

10:00 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118
North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois
(Board Room Closed to Public - Meeting
Virtual for Public)**

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2) excused

A motion was made by Commissioner BILL LOWRY, seconded by Commissioner SEAN M. MORRISON, to allow for remote participation in the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

1. Ben Helphand- NeighborSpace
2. Ken Bedford- Worlds Largest Steppers Set
3. Frank Wants- Chicagoland Toys for Tots
4. Megan Theisen- Friends of the Forest Preserves
5. Angela Rodgers- Greencorps Chicago
6. Liita Forsyth
7. Les Golden
8. Jesse Thompson
9. Angelina Varbucci
10. Carol Milan
11. Campsie Grothendieck
12. Brittany Michelson- In Defense of Animals
13. Irene Sewell- Chicago Alliance for Animals
14. Gail Garza
15. Jodie Wederkehr
16. Ester Gonzalez
17. Hannah Nelson
18. Stacy Sherlock

PRESIDENT

[22-0497](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AMENDMENTS TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS FOR TRADES

WHEREAS, on 4/5/2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved Collective Bargaining Agreements for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024 for the following four trades: (1) Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local No. 73, (2) Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130, U.A., (3) International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council #14, and (4) International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134 (Board Item Nos. 22-0128, 22-0129, 22-0130, 22-0131) (Collectively, the “Trade Agreements”); and

WHEREAS, while the Trade Agreements covered prevailing wages and healthcare plans, such agreements did not cover one-time payments; and

WHEREAS, on 6/14/2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved salary schedules, wage adjustments and healthcare plans, including one-time payments for non-union employees and Teamsters Local 700 bargaining unit members (Board Item Nos. 22-0118 and 22-0132); and

WHEREAS, representatives of the respective trades have requested one-time payments of One-Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for each bargaining unit member, which is estimated to equal in total an amount not to exceed Twenty-Thousand Dollars (\$20,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve an amendment to each Trade Agreement to allow for a single one-time payment of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to each full-time bargaining unit member of each trade in an active status as of the date this resolution is approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves Director of Human Resources, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller are hereby authorized to implement the above-referenced one-time payments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 22-0497 to the Labor Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[22-0365](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Jacqui Ulrich, Director, Department of Conservation & Experiential Programming

Position: Member of the Board

Department/Board/Commission: NeighborSpace Board of Directors

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: Two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2024

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) requests approval of the reappointment of Jacqui Ulrich, Director of the Conservation and Experiential Programing Department (“CEP”) to the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace, an affiliate partner of the Forest Preserves.

NeighborSpace is a nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. NeighborSpace owns and manages property so that community groups can focus on gardening. NeighborSpace-protected gardens give young and old alike an opportunity to get their hands in the earth and enjoy nature, right in their own neighborhoods.

CEP connects diverse audiences to nature through a wide range of educational and outdoor recreation experiences and is also responsible for community engagement and committed to developing relationships with citizens to energize them and connect them to nature. CEP works with program partners at the local level on programming, building relationships with groups to become long-term advocates, stewards and ambassadors of the Forest Preserves.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Park District worked together to establish NeighborSpace as a non-profit in 1997. These three (3) governmental agencies continue to provide leadership and financial support to protect community-managed open spaces in Chicago.

The Forest Preserves is also represented on the NeighborSpace Board by Commissioner Dennis Deer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0365. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0527](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Department of Law Enforcement

Other Part(ies): Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to

enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to receive a grant

Goods or Services: Grant not to exceed \$75,000.00 for one (1) K-9 vehicle to support law enforcement efforts

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: 12/13/2022 - 8/31/2023

Fiscal Impact: Grant Revenue up to \$75,000.00

Accounts: Grant 51010.560265

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been sub-awarded a \$75,000.00 grant through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security to support the purchase of one (1) police canine vehicle. The vehicle will assist in law enforcement efforts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0527. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0520](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Permits, Rentals and Concessions

Vendor: Penn and Associates, Cleveland, Ohio

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Customer satisfaction surveys

Contract Value: \$46,375.00

Contract Period: Thirty-six (36) months from the issuance of the purchase order with one (1) 2-year optional renewal at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2023 \$9,275.00, FY 2024 \$9,275.00, FY 2025 \$9,275.00, FY 2026 \$9,275.00 (optional), FY 2027 \$9,275.00 (optional)

Accounts: Professional Services Account 51001.520830

Contract Number(s): #74000011558 issued under RFP #22-40-409

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

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: A Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted through the Forest Preserves website to obtain a consultant to survey patrons about their experiences holding picnics and other permitted events in the Forest Preserves. The consultant will analyze the survey responses, will identify trends, and will make recommendations to improve customer service. The Forest Preserves has been conducting these surveys for the past seven (7) years.

A selection committee determined that Penn and Associates was the most qualified of the three (3) respondents to provide these survey services. Penn and Associates was awarded the previous RFP to survey our permit patrons in 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0520. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0524](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Friends of the Forest Preserves, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Forest Preserves Experience Program

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$1,170,000.00 (\$1,120,000.00 grant funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), plus up to \$50,000.00 contingency)

Contract Period: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2023 \$25,000.00, FY 2024 \$25,000.00

Accounts: ARPA Conservation Corps 51032.521444; Professional Services 51031.520840; and all future Co-Op Programs and Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000011530 issued under RFP #22-31-116

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement 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): 4, 5, 6, 17

Summary: The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking firm(s) to co-facilitate job training and employment programs that utilize a Conservation Corps model, with financial support provided by federal stimulus funds allocated to Cook County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to assist the region in its recovery from the economic and health effects caused by COVID-19. Conservation Corps programs must provide participants with paid, field-based ecological restoration experiences that train participants to restore the land as directed. Programs for high school participants must include environmental education and soft skills trainings to prepare youth for future employment in any field of study. This RFP partners with Cook County’s Bureau of Economic Development to expand and create corps programs that benefit people who are of low income, who have suffered from historical disenfranchisement, and whose communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental justice issues. A total of three (3) responses were received for this project, all of whom were found to be responsive and subsequently awarded a portion of the overall funding available. Proposals were evaluated on their experience and expertise with similar projects, proposed approach, cost proposal, and capacity to perform all aspects of the work.

The Forest Preserves Experience program is a summer youth employment program that will provide conservation and job skills training to high-school youth, ages 15 to 19, from south and west suburban Cook County whose families are clients of the Housing Authority of Cook County. This five (5) week program will engage approximately seventy-two (72) youth participants and sixteen (16) adult field leaders annually in hands-on conservation activities including, but not limited to, invasive species removal and shoreline clean-up along the Forest Preserves’ many lakes and waterways. Participants will gain environmental awareness and basic job skills training supplemented by hands-on nature-based enrichment activities. The program will promote enjoyment and appreciation for nature and teaches participants how healthy forest preserves contribute to their community and quality of life.

This proposal leverages at least \$170,000.00 in direct partner match from a variety of sources including the Forest Preserves Foundation and Housing Authority of Cook County. Total program costs are not to exceed \$1,170,000.00, of which the Forest Preserves is requesting authority to contribute up to \$50,000.00 direct match to allow for additional flexibility, if needed. Conservation Corps programs advance the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan by mobilizing people to heal and nurture the lands through a paid conservation corps model.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0524. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0525](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Student Conservation Association, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the ‘Forest Preserves’) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Chicago Conservation Corps young adult gap year program

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$465,000.00 (\$415,000.00 grant funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), plus up to \$50,000.00 contingency)

Contract Period: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2023 \$25,000.00, FY 2024 \$25,000.00

Accounts: ARPA Conservation Corps 51032.521444; Professional Services 51031.520840; and all future Co-Op Programs and Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000011523 issued under RFP #22-31-116

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement 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 (RFP) seeking firm(s) to co-facilitate job training and employment programs that utilize a Conservation Corps model, with financial support provided by federal stimulus funds allocated to Cook County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to assist the region in its recovery from the economic and health effects caused by COVID-19. Conservation Corps programs must provide participants with paid, field-based ecological restoration experiences that train participants to restore the land as directed. Programs feature environmental education and soft skills trainings to prepare participants for future employment in any field of study. This RFP partners with Cook County’s Bureau of Economic Development to expand and create corps programs that benefit people who are of low income, who have suffered from historical disenfranchisement, and whose communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental justice issues. A total of three (3) responses were received for this project, all of whom were found to be responsive and subsequently awarded a portion of the overall funding available. Proposals were evaluated on their experience and expertise with similar projects, proposed approach, cost proposal, and capacity to perform all aspects of the work.

The Student Conservation Association’s mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. The organization provides opportunities for thousands of young people to explore career pathways to green careers, strengthen their leadership and basic jobs skills, and deepen their sense of responsibility to others and to the planet. This six (6) month program will engage approximately seven (7) young adult participants annually in hands-on conservation activities including, but not limited to, invasive species removal, assistance with prescribed burns, and seed collecting along with exploration of conservation careers and post-secondary education opportunities in environmental fields. This program will serve as a critical steppingstone program for young adults ages 18 to 23 years who have successfully graduated from conservation corps high school programs and who are not currently pursuing full-time secondary education. There is a recognized lack of conservation programs for this demographic and this program serves to help address this challenge of supporting young adults who are interested in conservation as a possible career path.

This proposal leverages \$46,581.82 in direct partner match contributed by the Student Conservation Association. Total program costs are not to exceed \$465,000.00, of which the Forest Preserves is requesting authority to contribute up to \$50,000.00 direct match to allow for additional flexibility, if needed. Conservation Corps programs advance the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan by mobilizing people to heal and nurture the lands through a paid conservation corps model.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0525. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0526](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Greencorps Chicago Program

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$1,350,000.00 (\$1,300,000.00 grant funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), plus up to \$50,000.00 contingency)

Contract Period: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2024

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2023 \$25,000.00, FY 2024 \$25,000.00

Accounts: ARPA Conservation Corps 51032.521444; Professional Services 51031.520840; and all future Co-Op Programs and Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000011524 issued under RFP #22-31-116

Concurrences: The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement 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 (RFP) seeking firm(s) to co-facilitate job training and employment programs that utilize a Conservation Corps model, with financial support provided by federal stimulus funds allocated to Cook County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to assist the region in its recovery from the economic and health effects caused by COVID-19. Conservation Corps programs must provide participants with paid, field-based ecological restoration experiences that train participants to restore the land as directed. Programs feature environmental education and soft skills trainings to prepare participants for future employment in any field of study. This RFP partners with Cook County’s Bureau of Economic Development to expand and create corps programs that benefit people who are of low income, who have suffered from historical disenfranchisement, and whose communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental justice issues. A total of three (3) responses were received for this project, all of whom were found to be responsive and subsequently awarded a portion of the overall funding available. Proposals were evaluated on their experience and expertise with similar projects, proposed approach, cost proposal, and capacity to perform all aspects of the work.

Greencorps Chicago is the City of Chicago’s green-industry employment program with on-the-job training for individuals with barriers to employment. The program promotes environmental stewardship in the Forest Preserves by maintaining and restoring the land through hands-on involvement with program participants. The outcome is healthier, safer, and more engaged communities and individuals who are prepared for employment through practical field experience and technical training in a variety of environmentally related jobs. Greencorps Chicago is a public/private partnership between the Chicago Department of Transportation and WRD Environmental. This nine (9) month program will engage approximately sixty-five (65) adult participants annually in hands-on conservation activities including, but not limited to, invasive species removal, assistance with prescribed burns, and seed collecting.

This proposal leverages \$333,250.00 in direct partner match contributed by the Chicago Department of Transportation. Total program costs are not to exceed \$1,350,000.00, of which the Forest Preserves is requesting authority to contribute up to \$50,000.00 direct match to allow for additional flexibility, if needed. Conservation Corps programs advance the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan by mobilizing people to heal and nurture the lands through a paid conservation corps model.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0526. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0424](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Friends of the Forest Preserves, Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): North Branch Conservation Corps Crew

Original Contract Period: 1/9/2018 - 12/31/2019; Board Approved Extension 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2021; Administrative Extension 1/1/2022 - 12/31/2022

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$780,000.00

Original Approval: 1/9/2018, \$300,000.00

Previous Increase(s): 12/17/2019, \$300,000.00; 4/5/2022, \$180,000.00

This Increase Requested: Not to exceed \$180,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2023, \$180,000.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51031.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840; and all future Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000004350

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

District(s): 9, 10, 12, 13, 14

Summary: The Forest Preserves is requesting to add \$180,000.00 in authority and extend the North Branch Conservation Corps program through the end of 2023. The proposed extension will allow for continuity of existing professional development programs funded directly by the Forest Preserves and avoid conflict with the simultaneous bidding and deployment of new Conservation Corps programs funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Forest Preserves intends to issue a separate Request for Proposals (“RFP”) seeking proposals for new, longer term Conservation Corps program opportunities which would be funded in-part through the Forest Preserves’ annual budget starting in 2024.

Conservation Corps programs are part of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Expansion Strategy for the Conservation Corps, which defines conservation corps as paid employment that mobilizes people who reflect the diversity of Cook County to maintain and restore the land to ecological health. The North Branch Conservation Corps program engages up to four (4) participants, one (1) crew manager, and one (1) assistant crew manager in hands-on ecological restoration activities including invasive species control, herbicide application, seed collection and dispersal, and prescribed fire within preserves surrounding the North Branch of the Chicago River. Participants receive the training and technical expertise necessary to pursue a long-term career in ecological restoration and related fields. The North Branch Conservation Corps program is administered by Friends of the Forest Preserves through a contract which was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 1/9/2018 (Board Item No. 18-0113), and subsequently amended on 12/17/2019 (Board Item No. 19-0497) and 4/5/2022 (Board Item No. 22-0210). Conservation Corps programs provide youth and adult participants with paid environmental education and job skills training within the conservation field, with a focus on ecological restoration in the Forest Preserves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0424. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0521](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Request: Approve

Item Number: 22-0444

Original Text of Item:

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a Partnership Agreement with The Field Museum of Natural History and Artist Christine Perri for building a Gathering Space at the Beaubien Wood Boat Launch

Reason: On 10/5/2021, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved a partnership agreement with Openlands for restoration work and a community gathering space at Beaubien Woods (Board Item No. 21-0453). It was determined that a separate partnership agreement with the Field Museum and Artist Christine Perri was required for the final design, installation and maintenance of the gathering space. To build on the community engagement work centered around Beaubien Woods and the Beaubien Woods Boat Launch, the Field Museum, with support from the Forest Preserves, led a community process for the design and development of the gathering space at the Beaubien Woods Boat Launch.

As part of the community-based curatorial process Artist Christine Perri was chosen to create a gathering space arts feature called “Prairie Boat.” Artist Perri has worked with, and may continue to work with, Imani Village (a community organization group) and partner companies in the design, installation, and maintenance of the gathering space. The gathering space installation will be owned by the ~~Artist Christine Perri. She will be responsible for maintenance of the gathering space and its safety for public use. The gathering space will be removed by the artist after approximately five (5) years.~~ Forest Preserves. Artist Perri shall ensure that *Prairie Boat* is properly affixed to Forest Preserves property and that design safety and structural integrity reviews are completed to the satisfaction of Forest Preserves engineers. The Forest Preserves will be responsible for maintenance of the gathering space and its safety for public use. Artist Perri may assist with maintenance at the request of the Forest Preserves. In the event it is practicable, the Forest Preserves will notify Artist Perri prior to removal of the gathering space and provide the artist with the opportunity to reclaim any pieces of the artwork at the artist’s own expense.

The Forest Preserves will have the right to use images of the gathering space. Wood materials to be used in the gathering space may be donated by the Forest Preserves, as well as other in-kind support. There is no direct cost to the Forest Preserves for this project. Upon approval of the proposed agreement, it is respectfully requested that the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County be authorized to execute, on behalf of the Forest Preserves, such agreement.

Contract Period: ~~10/20/2022~~ 12/13/2022 - 12/31/2027

Fiscal Impact: N/A. The project will be conducted at no direct cost to the Forest Preserves, which may provide in-kind contributions.

Account(s): N/A

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

District(s): 4, 5

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0521. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0546](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: Refer to Capital Development and Ecological Restoration Committee

Report Title: 2023 Update to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Report Period: Five (5) Years, 2023-2027

Summary: This report is an update of capital improvement projects and funding needs for the next five (5) years (2023-2027). Capital improvement needs were identified by Forest Preserves’ staff, partner organizations and members of the public. The draft report can be downloaded from the Forest Preserves’ website. Comments can be submitted on that web page and a final report will be issued in January.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to refer 22-0546 to the Capital Development Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0531](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursements Report

Report Period: 10/1/2022 - 10/31/2022

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursements Report for the period of October 2022. 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 Deer, to receive and file 22-0531. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0528](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - October 2022

Report Period: 10/1/2022 - 10/31/2022

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of October 2022. Payments total \$139,586.49 for October 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and file 22-0528. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0541](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar: 12/13/2022 - 1/24/2023

Please check the Forest Preserve of Cook County’s website for updates and changes.

Wednesday, 12/14; 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Knitting in Nature Workshop, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

With nature as our backdrop, learn how to knit a cowl using natural fibers. *Supplies, instruction provided. Ages 10 and up with adult. Registration required.*

Saturday, 12/17; 3:30pm - 7pm

Winter Bonfire, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of winter with a large bonfire, artmaking, nature walks and more.

Saturday, 12/17; 9:30am - 11:30am

Clear the Ski Trail, Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont

Help maintain Sagawau ski trails by cutting and removing brush. *Tools and safety gear are provided. Ages 10 and up. Registration and facemasks required.*

Saturday, 12/17; 10:30am

Winter Dog Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest

This hike is for the dog walkers! Join a naturalist as you and your (leashed) friend go on a nature walk. *Ages 18 and up. Registration required. Call 708-366-6530.*

Saturday, 12/17; Workshop 1: 9:30am - 10:30am; Workshop 2: 11am - 12pm

Winter Workshop-Cozy Creatives, Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) Chicago

Calling all creatives! Join us we explore nature journaling and watercolors. Register for one or both sessions. *Ages 13 and up. Registration required.*

Sunday, 12/18; 9:30am - 11:30am**Clear the Ski Trail, Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont**

Help maintain Sagawau ski trails by cutting and removing brush. *Tools and safety gear are provided. Ages 10 and up. Registration required.*

Sunday, 12/18; 10am - 11am**Yoga In the Woods; Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs**

Enjoy an all-levels yoga class with a certified instructor. Bring a yoga mat/beach towel and water. Afterwards, enjoy a self-guided walk. *Ages 18 and up. Registration required.*

Sunday, 12/18; 1:30pm**Whoooo Are the Owls in Your Neighborhood? River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us and a special guest for a talk about owls.

Sunday, 12/18; 5:30am**Dawn Owl Prowl, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Listen for owls on our trails as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count, with John Elliot from Chicago Audubon. *Ages 10 and up. Registration required. Call 708-366-6530.*

Sunday, 12/18; 1pm**Frozen Alive, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Cold blooded animals can survive freezing temperatures and then emerge the following spring without any injury! Learn more about the unique processes during this guided walk.

Wednesday, 12/21; 6:30pm - 9pm**Winter Solstice Night of Lights Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs**

Take a candlelit walk and enjoy a bonfire with some hot chocolate. *Registration required.*

Thursday, 12/22; 6pm**Winter Fire Building Workshop, Camp Dan Beard, Northbrook**

Learn fire building skills and stick around for a story and s'mores around the fire. *All ages. Registration required.*

Thursday, 12/22; 10am - 1pm**Winter Break-Out Adventure, Schiller Woods, Chicago**

In partnership with the American Indian Center, come out for fun and adventure during winter break. Snowshoeing (conditions permitting), hikes, solstice storytelling and other winter-related activities will be offered. The American Indian Center presents Native Storytelling-Winter Solstice Edition. During the long winter months, families gather, to tell and listen to stories. It is said that stories are told in the winter once the first snow has fallen. These stories are told about the power of our animal relatives, Mother Earth, and our plant people, the stories have been passed on by our Elders and are still being told today. We invite you to join us for a cup of cedar tea and enjoy a piece of our culture being brought to you in a good way.

Thursday, 12/22; 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Loteria (Bingo), Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Come play this traditional, fun Mexican game, with a nature twist. *All ages welcome. Bilingual. Registration required.*

Saturday, 12/24; 10am - 12pm

Winter Nature Play, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Drop by for outdoor family-friendly nature activities on the front lawn.

Tuesday, 12/27; 1pm

Snowshoe Walk, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Enjoy the preserves in snowshoes. *Registration required. Snowshoes provided; 4" of snow required. If snowshoeing is not possible, walks and other activities will be offered. All ages.*

Wednesday, 12/28; 10am

Winter Walk (No Snow), Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont

Enjoy a trail walk with a naturalist.

Wednesday, 12/28; 1:30pm

Winter Secrets Hike, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Winter can appear barren of wildlife, but much is happening above, within, and beneath snow. Join us for a walk to see what is happening! *Family program. Registration required. Call 708-366-6530.*

Wednesday, 12/28; 11am - 2pm

Winter Exploration Day, Dan Ryan Woods, Chicago

This is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy snowshoeing (weather permitting), nature hikes, art making, campfires and more!

Saturday, 12/31; 10am

New Year's Wellness Walk; Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Kick off your resolution of being more active by taking a hike with a naturalist on New Year's Eve morning!

Saturday, 12/31; 10am

Renew, Rejuvenate, Restore, Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs

Renew, rejuvenate, and restore your mind, body, and spirit. Followed by a bonfire and hot chocolate.

Monday, 1/2; 11am

Resolution Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Take steps towards your health goals during this light 1-mile nature walk.

Monday, 1/2; 10am

New Year's Resolution Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Fulfill your resolution of being more active by taking a brisk guided walk. *Ages 18 and up. Registration required. Call 708-366-6530.*

Thursday, 1/5; 6pm - 8pm

Winter Workshop: Woodworking, Rolling Knolls, Elgin

Create a walking stick from buckthorn. *Ages 10 and up. Registration required.*

Friday, 1/6; 6pm

Winter Fire Building Workshop, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Learn fire building skills and stick around for a story and s'mores around the fire. *All ages. Registration required.*

Saturday, 1/7; 10am - 12pm

Pinecone Suet Feeders, Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs

Learn about birds that call Cook County home during winter and leave with a feeder. *Ages 6 and up.*

Saturdays and Sundays, 1/7 through 2/26; 9am

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons-Snow, Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont

Learn to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. *\$20 per person. Ages 12 and up. Registration required (link on website) beginning the Sunday prior to the lesson week.*

Saturdays and Sundays, 1/7 through 2/26; 9am

Cross-Country Ski Seminar-No Snow, Sagawau Nature Center, Lemont

Learn to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. *\$20 per person. Ages 12 and up. Registration required (link on website) beginning the Sunday prior to the lesson week.*

Sunday, 1/8; 9:30am - 12pm

Cold Weather Crafting, Swallow Cliff Woods, Palos Park

Enjoy a cozy winter morning inside listening to the crackle of a fire while creating nature-themed art.

Thursday, 1/12; 6:30pm - 8pm

Conservation@Home: Native Gardens for Urban Landscapes, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Get organized for spring with this intro to native plant landscaping taught by a University of Illinois Extension volunteer and landscape designer. *Registration required by 1/5. Ages 13 and up.*

Saturday, 1/14; 10am - 12pm

Explore: Horsetail Lake, Horsetail Lake, Palos Park

Adults and families, grab a self-guided exploration activity or join a guided hike. Help with litter pickup, warm up by a fire, and enjoy a fun nature craft.

Saturday, 1/14; 10am - 1pm

MLK Service Day Celebration, Rolling Knolls, Elgin

Partake in restoration, celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and warm up with hot beverages. *Restoration for ages 10 and up. For group registration, please call 773-758-8899.*

Monday, 1/16; 10am - 3pm

MLK Day of Service, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Stop by the nature center to participate in a self-led litter pick-up. Garbage bags and disposable gloves available.

Monday, 1/16; 10am - 12pm

MLK Day of Service, Miller Meadow-North, Forest Park

Give back this MLK day. Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Drop-in event.*

Monday, 1/16; 10am - 12pm

MLK Day of Service, Dan Ryan Woods, Chicago

Give back this MLK day. Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Drop-in event.*

Monday, 1/16; 10am - 12pm

MLK Day of Service, Schubert's Woods, Chicago

Give back this MLK day. Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Drop-in event.*

Friday, 1/20; 1pm - 3pm

Bird Painting Workshop Step-by-Step: Black-capped Chickadee, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Sketch and paint a black-capped chickadee. For beginners and experienced artists. *Registration required. Call 708-366-6530. Ages 13 and up. Materials provided. \$5 per person.*

Saturday, 1/21; 10am

Surviving Phantom; Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for a fast-paced 3-mile winter hike around Phantom Prairie loop. *Ages 18 and up.*

Saturday, 1/21; 1pm - 3pm

Snow Snake Workshop, Schiller Woods, Chicago

Join the American Indian Center for a workshop on Snow Snake, a Native American winter sport. Enjoy storytelling, stick making and the formation of Snow Snake itself, weather permitting.

Saturday, 1/21; 7pm

A "Winters" Night, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Learn about nocturnal animals. Afterwards, brave the cold for a guided walk. *Cost:\$3 per person. Registration required by 1/19.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and file 22-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[22-0529](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 11/15/2022

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

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2022 to Present: \$3,707,000.00

Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$220,000.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2022 to Present: \$718,161.74

Legal Fees for 11/15/2022 to Be Approved: \$46,656.85

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0529. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0441](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 12/13/2022

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2022 to present: \$388,007.62
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved: \$132,720.66

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 22-0441. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

[22-0530](#)

Presented by: ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2022 - 10/31/2022

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for October 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and file 22-0530. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

RULES COMMITTEE

[22-0549](#)

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 11/15/2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 22-0549. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

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

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

NEW ITEMS

[22-0551](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET DEGNEN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A TWELVE WEEK PAID PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY FINANCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS AND REPORT

WHEREAS, the United States is the only high-income country, and one of only seven countries in the world that does not mandate paid maternity leave; and

WHEREAS, beginning on January 1 of 2023, City of Chicago employees will be entitled to twelve weeks of paid parental leave for both birthing and non-birthing parents. This is an increase from the previously allowed four to six weeks of paid leave for the birthing parent and two weeks of leave for non-birthing parents; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County provides employees with four weeks of paid leave for a birthing parent that delivers non-surgically and six weeks for a surgical delivery. Non-birthing parents are entitled to two weeks of paid leave. Employees that adopt a child are entitled to two weeks of paid

leave; and

WHEREAS, paid parental leave correlates with reduced financial stress, and enhanced mental and physical health outcomes for parents and children. Studies make a correlative finding between longer leave time and overall improved family benefit; and

WHEREAS, less than eight weeks of paid leave is linked to a reduction in overall health status and increased depression for birthing parents. For every week of paid leave allotted to a mother, there is a two percent reduction in her likelihood of designating her mental health as poor. Research shows that when the birthing parents have paid time off, there is a 51% decrease in the risk of rehospitalization due to complications. When the non-birthing parent also takes parental leave, both caregivers see an increased benefit to their family health from lower stress levels, leading to reduced physical complications and improved health benefits to babies; and

WHEREAS, studies identify the link between parent-child bonding during the first months of life and increased cognitive brain function in babies as a crucial identifier in overall positive health outcomes. This link also improves the baby’s behavioral and socioemotional skills, confirming adequate paid parental leave can improve mental health over the life span of a child. Paid leave is also associated with better language skills in toddlers; and

WHEREAS, health outcomes are better for babies in areas where there are longer paid parental leave policies. Paid leave greater than 12 weeks increases timely infant vaccination, and parents have been found to be more likely to take their infants to all child wellness check-ups in their first year. These health benefits for infants carry on into their childhood and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that underprivileged families may benefit the most from longer parental leave policies, due to better birth outcomes, fewer early term births, increased access to medical care, and more economic stability. One study found that the introduction of paid maternity leave in five states (California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island) led to a reduction in low birthweight and preterm births, especially for Black mothers; and

WHEREAS, a consistent parental paid leave policy for all parents regardless of how an employee chooses to become a parent leads to equitability for all family structures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s Finance and Administration Department prepare a fiscal note assessing the financial impact to the Forest Preserves of a blanket 12-week paid parental leave policy for full-time Forest Preserves of Cook County employees. The fiscal note shall be submitted to the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners on or before the previously scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to refer 22-0551 to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Johnson and Morrison (2)

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne M. Turner
Secretary

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

Journal #23-0150