



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 23-0223, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

**Other Part(ies):** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a sponsored research agreement

**Goods or Services:** Research study investigating the first human occupants of Cook County, including modeling, public outreach, and archaeological field surveys of key glacial landscapes contained within the Forest Preserves

**Agreement Number(s):** #74000011983

**Agreement Period:** 3/14/2023 - 1/31/2026

**Fiscal Impact:** \$299,826.00 (FY 2023 \$101,480.00; FY 2024 \$100,124.00; FY 2025 \$98,222.00)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51033.520840; and all future Construction and Development funds

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves seeks to partner with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign through the Illinois State Archaeological Survey to conduct a study titled “First People in a New Landscape: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Ice Age Cook County.” This multi-year research project will synthesize geological, paleontological, archaeological, and climatological data from the late Pleistocene/early Holocene periods to investigate how early humans, as well as the native communities of plants and animals on which they depended, adapted to climate change at the end of the last ice age.

Researchers will conduct field surveys to identify previously unrecorded archaeological sites and develop a predictive model to help inform current land management practices and future land acquisitions. Descendant communities will be consulted for input throughout the project, and a public webpage summarizing the research results will be developed.

Over half of all known archaeological sites within Cook County are protected within the Forest Preserves, the preservation of which provides invaluable information about our region’s rich cultural heritage. This project advances the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan and is aligned with the “Amplifying Diversity and Inclusion in the Forest Preserves of Cook County” position paper. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.