



Legislation Text

File #: 17-0413, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY, THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BARBARA BIRMINGHAM, VOLUNTEER STEWARD, FOR RECEIVING BEST OF THE BEST AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2017, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Cook County Department of Public Health, and volunteer steward Barbara Birmingham were honored with Best of the Best awards from the Illinois Association of Park Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Cook County Department of Public Health received the Intergovernmental Agreement Award for their partnership to connect residents to the physical, emotional and mental benefits of spending time in nature; and

WHEREAS, this partnership enabled the Forest Preserves to implement its Gateway Master Plan, build new and strategic relationships with healthcare providers, expand its reach and leverage key resources; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Cook County Department of Public Health will continue to seek resources that would allow this partnership to continue and advance health and nature initiatives that benefit the people of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Birmingham received the Outstanding Citizen Volunteer Award for being an exceptional force for the Forest Preserves and tireless advocate for nature; and

WHEREAS, for the last 25 years Barbara Birmingham has volunteered as a dedicated Site Steward at Theodore Stone Prairie, lovingly protecting and restoring this preserve. Theodore Stone Prairie is a 142-acre forest preserve in southwest Cook County that contains a globally rare dolomite prairie, upland and remnant oak woodlands and prairie; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Birmingham was also a lead regional steward and organized the Des Plaines River Valley Restoration Project, a stewardship group that volunteers at Theodore Stone Prairie and other forest preserves; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Birmingham is known for her generosity in sharing knowledge and introducing people to Illinois' natural heritage. Her kindness and enthusiasm bridges gaps and inspires people to care about nature. Theodore Stone Prairie continues to thrive because of her leadership and dedication; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves thank and congratulate the Forest Preserves and the Cook County Department of Public Health, and Barbara Birmingham for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves and the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

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