



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-0386, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Resource Management

**Vendor:** Friends of the Forest Preserves, Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Chicago Conservation Leadership Corps

**Contract Value:** Not to exceed \$300,000.00 per year, or \$1,500,000.00 over the five (5) year term

**Contract period:** 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2022

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2018 \$300,000.00, FY 2019 \$300,000.00, FY 2020 \$300,000.00, FY 2021 \$300,000.00, FY 2022 \$300,000.00

**Accounts:** Intern Programs 51009.521525, Habitat Enhancement 51009.521452, Habitat Restoration 51009.521444, Grant and Mitigation Accounts: 51010.29982 and 51010.22522

**Contract Number(s):** 17-31-117

**Concurrences:**

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Contract 17-31-117 consists of a variety of Conservation Corps internship programs focused on ecological restoration throughout the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Preserves"). The Conservation Corps co-facilitates innovative job training and employment programs that provide participants with paid, hands-on experiences in conservation that train the next generation to restore and be responsible stewards of the land. The Preserves issued a Request for Proposals, and received a total of nine (9) proposals from three (3) vendors for this project.

The Preserves assembled a review panel consisting of various Preserve staff that considered Friends of the Forest Preserves' proposal one of the most responsive including particular strengths in experience, match contribution, program scalability, and performance capacity as it relates to the work requested in the proposal. The Chicago Conservation Leadership Corp internship program will engage approximately eighty-eight (88) high school students, seventeen (17) adult leaders, and eight (8) assistant field leaders annually in hands-on ecological restoration activities including invasive species control. The program is an intensive six week paid summer internship that will promote stewardship of natural lands by the next generation of conservation leaders through ecologically based educational activities, conservation awareness, hands-on restoration and enjoyment of the forest preserves.

The Preserves believe it is critical to engage individuals from Cook County's diverse communities in conservation jobs at the Preserves. Conservation Corps programs have been very successful in engaging participants from a wide range of

socioeconomic backgrounds, ages and ethnicities. Corps demographic data from 2007 to 2016 show that on average 54% of participants were African American, 23% Caucasian, 18% Latino, 3% biracial, and 2% Asian.

Total project costs are \$699,632.00 annually, with \$200,000.00 in investment by the Preserves leveraging \$499,632.00 in partner match. The overall annual contract authority was increased in anticipation of additional funding opportunities. This program advances the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan.