



Legislation Text

File #: 15-0620, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Resource Management

Vendor: Openlands, Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Large-scale restoration services at Deer Grove West, to be funded through the O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account

Contract Value: No financial impact

Contract period: Sixty (60) months from notice to proceed

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Accounts: N/A

Contract Number(s): N/A

Concurrences:

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

District(s): 14

Summary: On 2/11/2015, the Board of Commissioners approved the development of a large-scale management and monitoring plan to facilitate restoration of valuable remnant wetland communities and the surrounding watershed at Deer Grove West.

The Project will be funded via the O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA), which provides mitigation of off-site wetland impacts associated with the airport expansion under the O'Hare Modernization Program. Openlands, in conjunction with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will act as the contracting agent and financial administrator for the project. The Project will be implemented at no cost to the Preserves.

The work plan will involve improving the ecological function of existing wetland and upland plant communities through removal of invasive species, canopy thinning to increase ambient light levels, natural revegetation of the site with diverse native species, and hydrological restoration initiatives. Management practices proposed for implementation on the Project site are consistent with objectives for restoring and improving wetland function through wetland and surrounding watershed restoration. Restoration strategies on the Project site will work toward accomplishing goals for the conservation of existing vegetative and wildlife resources, including at least thirteen state-listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species which are documented at the site.

Situated in northwestern Cook County, Deer Grove was the first preserve acquired by the Forest Preserve District, beginning with 500 acres in 1916. The Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan determined Deer Grove West to be among the top five priorities for restoration in the District.

The project referenced in this board item advances the goals of the Next Century Conservation Plan.