



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-0119, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING THE NAMING OF THREE (3) FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY NATURE CENTERS TO AMERICANTOWNS MEDIA'S LIST OF THE 10 BEST NATURE CENTERS IN ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, Best of Illinois, a subsidiary of AmericanTowns Media, has compiled and published a list of "The 10 Best Nature Centers in Illinois"; and

**WHEREAS**, AmericanTowns Media is an online network of local lifestyle community guides that creates, curates, and distributes local content for over 29,000 communities across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, nature centers are a valuable means of educating the public on the importance of preserving and respecting local natural areas, and encourage exploration and lifelong learning about our region's native habitats and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, Sand Ridge Nature Center, Crabtree Nature Center, and Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center have each been named to this list of the ten (10) best nature centers in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland stands on a 6000-year-old broad, low ridge of sand and water polished pebbles surrounded by 235 acres of woodlands, oak savannas and wetlands. The center features exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the Calumet region, and offers a number of special events annually, including Illinois Archaeology Day and Settlers' Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington Hills features 1,182 acres of woodlands, prairies, and wetlands which were shaped by glaciers and provide an important rest stop for migratory birds, attracting a wide variety of users and birding enthusiasts. Over 260 species have been recorded using these habitats, with at least 89 species breeding onsite; and

**WHEREAS**, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center in Willow Springs offers a glimpse into the historic past of the Palos Hills of southwestern Cook County. The center's grounds include attractions such as an orchard planted by early settlers in 1906, and an 1886 schoolhouse from which the center gains its namesake. The recently constructed visitor center features a variety of live animal exhibits and a children's activity room; and

**WHEREAS**, the full list of honorees can be viewed online at: <http://bestthingsil.com/nature-centers/>.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County does hereby acknowledge and congratulate the Forest Preserves and its nature center staff on this achievement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented for display at each of the nature centers being honored in recognition of their contributions to the intrinsic value of nature centers as institutions that inspire conservation and an appreciation of our region's many natural resources.