



Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF JENS JENSEN GRASSLAND AND WOODLAND AS AN ILLINOIS LAND AND WATER RESERVE BY THE ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2017, at the 225th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland was approved for dedication as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve; and

WHEREAS, dedication of a site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve provides a high level of protection for land in Illinois, and is granted only to natural areas of regional and state-wide ecological significance; and

WHEREAS, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve is an approximately 220 acre, high quality portion of the larger Jens Jensen preserve also known as Deer Grove East located in the Village of Palatine in northwest Cook County. The site consists of remnant mesic woodlands and sedge meadows, along with reconstructed prairie and wetlands supporting 398 species of native plants and 25 bird species recognized as species in greatest need of conservation; and

WHEREAS, the namesake for this designation is Jens Jensen, a devout conservationist who was instrumental in the creation of the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, extensive restoration has been underway at the site since 2007 in partnership with Openlands as a part of an O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account project, which provides mitigation of off-site wetland impacts resulting from the O'Hare Modernization Program; and

WHEREAS, this large-scale habitat restoration initiative was undertaken in conjunction and in cooperation with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Chicago Department of Aviation; and

WHEREAS, restoration efforts have focused on restoring hydrology in degraded wetlands and adjacent uplands, as well as the removal of invasive brush and vegetation impacting the site via prescribed fire and reintroduction of native plants; and

WHEREAS, storm water modeling that encompassed the Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve has shown a significant increase in the amount of storm water staying on site because of the previously mentioned hydrologic and plant community restoration activities; and

WHEREAS, Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland Land and Water Reserve has also benefitted from extensive long-term volunteer stewardship by the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, whose countless hours of service and dedication have helped make the site what it is today and will help it continue to thrive into the future; and

WHEREAS, dedication of Jens Jensen Grassland and Woodland as a Land and Water Reserve advances the goal set forward in the Next Century Conservation Plan to dedicate 20,000 acres as Illinois Nature Preserve protected land by 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County does hereby acknowledge this momentous dedication and the Forest Preserves' steadfast commitment to protect and

restore our region's significant natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, Openlands, the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Chicago Department of Aviation as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves and the residents of Cook County.