



Legislation Text

File #: 19-0412, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING JOHN McCABE, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, John McCabe is recognized for 25 years of full time service with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and for being an effective advocate for conservation in the region; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe began his career as a Student Forester for the Forest Preserves while pursuing a degree in Forestry at Michigan Technological University; and

WHEREAS, he served in a variety of roles including Woodsman, Forester, Resource Manager, Safety and Training Coordinator, Deputy Director, and currently as the Director of Resource Management; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Department of Resource Management has revitalized land management programs, initiated strategic restoration at an unprecedented scale in Forest Preserve history, and attained other significant accomplishments including enacting new tree protection and mitigation policies, expanding the prescribed fire program, and implementing the Conservation Corps job training programs for over 2,000 youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, he coordinated many projects and created networks with volunteers, municipalities, partner organizations, contractors and interns to ensure responsible and effective habitat management; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe serves as the co-chair of the Next Century Conservation Plan's Nature Committee and was a key proponent for the creation of the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan, which has led to the creation of the Forest Preserves' first seed sourcing policy, comprehensive descriptions of the Forest Preserves' natural and cultural resources, and prioritized restoration plans for ensuring effective conservation of those resources into the future; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in over 600 prescribed fires during his tenure, he is a recognized expert in conducting prescribed burns in the urban environment, and he has held leadership positions that have influenced fire management across the State of Illinois, including serving as a director of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council and lead instructor for the Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member training course; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe is responsible for initiating a formal safety and training program, which now offers over 100 environmental education and field training opportunities annually for staff, partners, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to the Forest Preserves is evidenced further through his roles as an Incident Commander, Trail Watch volunteer, and ecological stewardship volunteer; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe is a tireless advocate for nature, and has made it his mission to restore and protect our region's natural areas and the flora and fauna preserved within them, working tirelessly to prioritize safe and accessible trails and recreational opportunities connecting Cook County residents and visitors to nature; and

WHEREAS, John McCabe represents the very best of public service and his leadership will continue to benefit the people, animals, and plants of Cook County for generations to come; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves recognize John McCabe for his steadfast dedication to the Forest Preserves, the milestones he has achieved and those still to come; and

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