



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: February 29, 2016

MEMO TO: Carol Calabresa, Chair
Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

FROM: Alex Ty Kovach
Executive Director

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 61.8-acre parcel of property in Fremont Township known as the White property for approximately \$2,008,500 as an addition to Ray Lake Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Conservation; Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: The purchase price is approximately \$2,008,500.00, which is funded from the 2008 Referendum Bonds and is included in the adopted FY 2014/15 Budget (Series 2015A) account number 31314100-801000.

BACKGROUND: At the direction of the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee, District staff has reviewed the White property to determine the property's suitability for acquisition for District purposes. In staff's opinion, the acquisition, protection and management of this property will meet the District's adopted land acquisition goals of adding to existing preserves, protecting wildlife habitat, protecting against flooding and providing trails and scenic vistas. Acquisition of this property will increase the potential for trail connections, and expand the District's ability to offer access to recreational uses in this part of the County.

The property is located on both sides of Erhart Road northeast of the Ray Lake Forest Preserve main entrance and parking lot. The property is nearly surrounded by existing forest preserve property.

A contract to purchase the property has been negotiated by District staff and has been signed by the owner. Pursuant to the contract, the District would pay \$32,500.00 per acre for the Property. At the time the contract was executed, a land survey was not available to determine the exact acreage of the parcel. Therefore, when the final acreage is determined by an ALTA land survey, the acreage may be slightly different than the current estimate of 61.8 acres and the purchase price may be different than the estimate of approximately \$2,008,500.00.

The property includes a single family residence, barn and outbuildings. It is recommended that buildings that have no programmatic purpose or significant historic value be salvaged, recycled and removed.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Committee and Board approval is required in accordance with District policy.

REVIEWED BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Director of Planning and Land Preservation and Corporate Counsel

PRESENTER: Alex Ty Kovach

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AN APPROXIMATELY
61.8-ACRE PARCEL AS AN ADDITION TO RAY LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
(WHITE PROPERTY)**

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee (the "Committee") of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") has reviewed certain land in Fremont Township and within the corporate limits of the District, which land includes approximately 61.8 acres, is known as the White property, and is depicted in Exhibit A attached hereto (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the District's Department of Planning and Land Preservation has negotiated a sale and purchase agreement with the owner of the Property pursuant to which the District would purchase the Property from the owner (the "Purchase Agreement") and the owner of the Property has executed the Purchase Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has recommended that the District approve the Purchase Agreement and purchase the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that (i) Property is suitable for District purposes, (ii) acquisition of the Property would expand upon and enhance the holdings of Ray Lake Forest Preserve, protect wildlife habitat, protect against flooding, provide expanded trail opportunities and scenic vistas, and serve as a visual, topographic and ecologic extension of adjoining District properties, and (iii) it is in the best interests of the District to approve the Purchase Agreement and acquire the Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of Purchase Agreement. The Purchase Agreement is hereby approved. The District shall purchase the Property from the owners, upon the terms and conditions of the Purchase Agreement and such other terms and conditions as shall be approved by the District, for \$32,500.00 per acre. The President, Secretary, and Executive Director (and his designees) of the District are hereby authorized and directed (i) to execute and attest to, on behalf of the District, the Purchase Agreement and all other documents that are necessary to complete the acquisition of the Property provided that any documents have first been approved by the District's Land Acquisition Counsel or the District's Corporate Counsel and (ii) to take such other actions as may be necessary to complete such acquisition.

Section 3. Authority to Pay Owner. The Treasurer of the District is hereby authorized to pay for the Property, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Purchase Agreement.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2016

Ayes:

Nays:

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2016

APPROVED:

Ann B. Maine, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

Exhibit A

Lake County Forest Preserve District
Land Preservation and Special Projects
1899 W Winchester Rd
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-968-3351



Legend



Forest Preserve Boundary



Subject Property

Courtesy Copy Only.
Property boundaries indicated are provided for general location purposes. Wetland and flood limits shown are approximate and should not be used to determine setbacks for structure or as a basis for purchasing property.

2014 Aerial Photo

Prepared using information from:
Lake County Department of Information & Technology: GIS/Mapping Division
18 North County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4357
847-377-2373

Map Prepared 15 February 2016

