



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: January 30, 2017

MEMO TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee

Carol Calabresa, Chair
Planning Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will then be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration as part of the FY 2017/2018 budget process.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Conservation; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: As noted in Background (below) and on attached spreadsheet.

BACKGROUND: As part of the annual budget process, staff is requesting that all three Committees review and provide comments on the 10-year CIP and the list of potential unfunded capital improvement projects. The CIP will then be presented to the Finance Committee which will determine whether to recommend to full Board of Commissioners that it approve the CIP. Under the District's budget process, the updated 10-year CIP is approved by the Board prior to approving the District's overall budget.

The staff-recommended adjustments to the CIP fall into two categories: 1) adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP, and 2) new projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP.

Adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP:

- 1) Duck Farm Dog Exercise Area Accessibility Improvements - \$10,000. After further refinement of the improvement plan for the Duck Farm Dog Exercise Area, additional funding is needed. The improvements include a new entrance gate, fencing and accessible surfacing to the drinking fountain and restroom. The work will be coordinated with IDOT's planned improvements to IL Route 132 and the relocation of the District's parking lot entrance. The improvements are expected to occur in FY 2017-18.
- 2) Rollins Savanna – Gurnee Trail Connection - \$75,000. After updating the cost estimate and further refining the planned route, additional funding is needed for the construction of this trail connection. In addition, to coincide with the Village of Gurnee's portion of the connection, it is recommended that the engineering portion of the project be moved up to FY 2017-18.

Projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP:

- 1) Millennium Trail – Route 45 Tunnel - \$75,000. In order to take advantage of the 2018 funding cycle, funding is needed to complete the Phase I engineering and prepare the federal application process. The project includes the construction of a Route 45 underpass and for the Millennium Trail and a 0.25 trail extension that will safely connect Raven Glen and Ethel's Woods Forest Preserves. Estimated annual operating cost is \$2,250.00.
- 2) Nippersink – LCDOT Trail Connection - \$10,000. The Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) is finalizing plans to improve Cedar Lake Road adjacent Nippersink Forest Preserve. The District is partnering with LCDOT to incorporate the District's planned improvements for the preserve including; a 0.75-mile trail connection from the existing preserve trails to Cedar Lake Road and a portion of the demolition of the former RV sales and storage facility, within their road improvement project at no cost to the District. Additional funding is needed following construction to prepare the new trail for public use including signage, fencing and gates. Estimated annual operating cost for the additional trail is \$6,750.00. However, there is reduction in the annual operating cost of \$15,000.00 as a result of the removal of the maintenance facility.
- 3) Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area - \$440,000. The District received notice in August 2016 that the State of Illinois was moving forward with the award of OSLAD funding for this project in the amount of \$263,700.00 which includes the conversion of the existing road to a crushed stone trail and constructing a wildlife observation platform. In September 2016, the Board recommended the acceptance of the OSLAD funding and to place the project on the CIP for FY 2017-18. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 4) Rollins Savanna – Third Lake Trail Improvements - \$30,000. For over seven years the Village of Third Lake has been petitioning the District to consider improvements to the two existing grass trail sections connecting the residential area to the existing crushed stone trails at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. In February 2016, the Planning and Restoration Committee reviewed a letter from the Village offering to provide \$30,000 towards the improvements to the Lake Avenue grass trail connection. While additional funding is needed to complete these improvements, it is recommended that the project be added to the CIP and the District look for alternative options to complete these improvements. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 5) Prairie Wolf – Mitigation Project. - \$500,000. In June 2016, after the proposed Mariano's development was approved by the Village of Bannockburn and received approval from the USACE, the Forest Preserve Board approved an agreement with Continental Beeson Corner, LLC authorizing the acceptance of wetland impact fees in the amount of \$500,000 to be applied to the restoration and enhancement of a wet-savanna area at Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve. It is recommended that this project is being added to the CIP list since the mitigation will restore and enhance 25.3-acres of wet-savanna located north of Old Mill Road. The project is being funded entirely by Permittee-requested-offsite mitigation. Completion is expected in the spring 2022. The operating costs for the first five years will be covered by the mitigation funds after five years annual operating costs will be \$2,000

- 6) Dutch Gap Area – Agricultural BMP’s – \$77,340. This is a grant project being added to the CIP since it is an improvement to the agricultural lands the District currently manages at Pine Dunes, Prairie Stream and Dutch Gap Forest Preserves. In collaboration with Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) graded-vegetation swales and other best management practices are being implemented on current agricultural lands. Grant funding from SMC and in-kind services will cover the cost of the project. No impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 7) Fourth Lake - Hepatica Restoration - \$49,637. This is a private donation project that is being added to the CIP list since it will restore a unique population of round-leaved hepatica, a very rare early spring wildflower at Fourth Lake Forest Preserve. Funding is provided by a private donor and covers the entire cost.
- 8) Buffalo Creek Mitigation - Wright Woods - \$400,000. As part of MWRD’s reservoir expansion project at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve, the USACE is requiring mitigation of the existing wetland’s impacted by the project. It has been determined that the best opportunity for offsite mitigation is the restoration and enhancement of 90 –acres of northern flatwoods and wet woods at Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve (CDWW). This project builds upon the recent restoration of over 250 acres of northern flatwoods and dry mesic upland woodland within the CDWW and Grainger Woods Forest Preserve complex and is part of the District’s Woodland Habitat Restoration Project. The project is being funded entirely by Permittee-requested-offsite mitigation and in-kind services. Completion is expected in the spring 2022. Annual operating costs will be \$2,500.
- 9) Spring Bluff Coastal Habitat Restoration – \$80,000. This project is being added to the CIP list since it enhances 35 acres of coastal sedge meadow and emergent marsh, 8 acres of coastal sand savanna, and allows for control of isolated wetland invasive plants across over 100 acres to improve habitat for the direct benefit of ten (10) coastal wetland dependent bird and reptile species and six (6) upland bird species. This project helps complete the final phase of wetland invasive plant control needed within Spring Bluff and adds to the coordinated work of five major landowners within the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain. This project is funded by a US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant and District matching funds from the FY16/17 Habitat Restoration Fund. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 10) Spring Bluff - Lake Michigan Strike Team - \$397,264. This project is being added to the CIP list since the Lake Michigan Invasive Plant Strike Team Project under Forest Preserve leadership provides watershed landowners a means to effectively and efficiently control a suite of 18 priority invasive plant species across 400 populations within 5,400 acres of high quality coastal natural areas in Kenosha County Wisconsin and Lake County Illinois, complementing on-going habitat restoration work and expanding the reach of a regional Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) strategy in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin thereby greatly enhancing the Wisconsin-Illinois Lake Plain Ramsar site along Lake Michigan. Funding has been provided by several partners with cash or in-kind dollars and a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the District has provided in-kind services but no District funds are being expended for this project. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.

Strategic plan objectives recommended to be added to the CIP:

Following phase I and II of the strategic planning process, staff developed (with approval from the Board) 13 objectives to move the District toward its strategic directions over the next five to ten years. The following objectives represent significant public access and habitat restoration projects. It is recommended that they be added to the CIP and that they become major fundraising objectives for the Preservation Foundation.

- 11) Oak Woodland and Ecological Complexes. The location of the four ecological complexes has been identified through the Green Infrastructure Model and Vision. The location of the potential 1,000-acre oak woodland will also be determined by the GIV. Staff resources will be applied and a funding strategy will be developed through the Preservation Foundation.
- 12) Middlefork Savanna - Buckthorn Pilot Project - \$174,545. District staff and Commissioners have assembled partners and donors to begin work on this 2,900-acre pilot project to control buckthorn on public and private lands in and around Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. Staff will continue to provide leadership on the project and seek private funding through the Preservation Foundation to advance this objective.
- 13) Lake County Destination. Staff resources will be applied to develop a vision, master plan, and funding strategy to establish a new Lake County destination to tell our intertwined natural and human history. The location of the new destination will be determined by the GIV.
- 14) North-Central Preserve Connections. Staff resources will be applied to develop a master plan for connecting the preserves of north-central Lake County and a funding strategy to implement the plan.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Director of Planning and Land Preservation, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Operations and Infrastructure, Director of Facilities, Corporate Counsel

POTENTIAL UNFUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

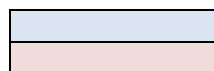
January 30, 2017

The following is a list of potential unfunded projects to consider for possible future inclusion into the 10-year CIP.

This list was originally developed during the FY 2015/2016 budget discussions and the proposed changes are a result of discussions in Committee and with staff, and requests from the community over the past year.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS & HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS TO CONSIDER:

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/Funding Assistance	ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS
	\$	\$	\$
TIER #1			
Dog Exercise Area Improvements - Prairie Wolf, Lakewood, Independence Grove	580,000	580,000	Maintenance Reduction
Millennium Trail-Rte. 45 Tunnel & Trail (Ethel's Woods)	4,300,000	1,350,000	6,500
Rollins Savanna Trail Connection	100,000	100,000	Minimal Impacts
Ray Lake-Fort Hill Trail Extension	650,000	650,000	10,900
Millennium Trail-Round Lake Section	4,185,000	1,300,000	TBD
Millennium Trail-Ethel's Woods to Pine Dunes	3,852,000	1,220,000	34,000
Millennium Trail-McDonald Woods to Raven Glen	475,000	120,000	TBD
Middlefork Trail and Greenway (Scope Reduction)	1,550,000	581,000	19,800
Chain O' Lakes Bike Path-Bluebird Meadow	1,650,000	600,000	13,500
Southern Des Plaines River Woodland Restoration – Ph II	1,650,000	1,650,000	5,000
Lakewood Complex-Lg Scale Woodland/Wetland Restore-Ph I	1,000,000	1,000,000	TBD
TIER #1 TOTALS	19,992,000	9,151,000	
TIER #2			
Waukegan Savanna Regional Trail (Green Bay to Wadsworth Rd.)	7,500,000	2,215,000	13,500
Chain O'Lakes Bike Path-Grant Woods Trail Surfacing	500,000	500,000	3,240
Van Patten Woods-Equestrian & Public Parking	300,000		2,500
Lake Carina-DPR Trail Bridge & Equestrian Parking	1,651,000		2,500
Lake Marie Public Access	105,000		40,000
Ethel's Woods Additional Restore	251,000		Minimal Impacts
Fort Sheridan-Phase II Master Plan Improvements	860,000		1,500
Northern Des Plaines-Sedge Meadow/Oak Savanna Restore	TBD w/ GIMS		TBD
Gander Mountain Habitat Restoration	1,750,000		8,000
TIER #3			
Fox River Addition (north of Roberts Road)	1,200,000		50,000
Grand Illinois Trail-Singing Hills to McHenry County	TBD		TBD
Mill Creek Master Plan	TBD		TBD
North Mill Creek Corridor Restoration	TBD w/GIMS		TBD
Ryerson Bridge Connection-Linking Ryerson to DPR Trail	1,500,000		1,500
Heron Creek Phase II-Trail Addition	650,000		5,400
Independence Grove-Playground Shade Structure	40,000		Minimal Impacts
Upper DPR – USACE Phase II Ecosystem Restore	3,000,000		106,000
ALL TIERS TOTAL	39,299,000		
DPR Trail-Wilmot Woods	34,500		TBD
Nippersink Trail Connection	400,000		4,500
Rollins Savanna-Boardwalk	350,000		Minimal Impacts
Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area	600,000		5,000
Tanager Kames – Parking Lot	25,000		10,000
Dutch Gap Area Master Plan	TBD		TBD



Recommended additions to the Unfunded Project List
 Recommended deletions from the Unfunded Project List

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance \$	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/Funding Assistance \$	ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS \$
Lakewood NW – Broberg Marsh Phase II Restoration	200,000	200,000	9,500
Lakewood SW – Schreiber Bog Phase II Restoration	500,000	500,000	8,000
Van Patten Woods-Des Plaines River Woodlands Restore	2,650,000		9,000
Wadsworth Savanna Habitat Restore	1,700,000		10,000
Ray Lake (requires acquisition)	TBD		TBD

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Recommended deletions from the Unfunded Project List

