



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** February 9, 2017

**MEMO TO:** S. Michael Rummel  
Chair, Finance Committee

**FROM:** Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2017-18 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**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, a joint meeting of the Finance, Planning and Operations Committees reviewed and provided comments on the FY2017/18 10-Year CIP and the list of potential unfunded capital improvement projects. There were no changes proposed during the review. The CIP is now being presented to the Finance Committee which will determine whether to recommend to full Board of Commissioners that it approves the CIP. Under the District's budget process, the updated 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



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

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017/18  
10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”), the District’s Finance Committee is responsible for recommending the preparation of budgets and appropriations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee has submitted a list of capital improvement projects to the other Standing Committees of the District to be considered; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the Standing Committees have reviewed and recommended approval of the prioritized Fiscal Year 2017/18 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan attached hereto (the “CIP”), which includes a list of capital improvement projects (the “CIP Projects”); and

**WHEREAS**, the CIP Projects meet the criteria for organizational sustainability, conservation and public access and connections; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIP will provide an important and useful planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance;

**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 a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of the CIP. The CIP is hereby approved in the form attached hereto. The District’s Board of Commissioners, Standing Committees, and staff shall use the CIP as a planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance.

Section 3. 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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Ann B. Maine, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

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Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit # \_\_\_\_\_

