



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: August 28, 2017

MEMO TO: Carol Calabresa, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Randall L. Seebach
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Village of Lake Barrington to allow bicycle access on the trails at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: In December 1989 the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Lake Barrington (Village) regarding the acquisition of certain lands within the Village limits and within one and one-half miles of the corporate limits. The IGA also identifies certain limitations and conditions on the development of the acquired lands that have now become known as Grassy Lake Forest Preserve (Preserve). Those limitations include a restriction on active recreational activities, facilities, opportunities and/or equipment within the Preserve and on any future land acquired by the District in and adjacent to the Village. Domestic animals (including dogs), bicycling and the development of bike paths were just a few of the limitations and restricted activities.

There have been two amendments to the IGA with the second occurring in October 2003 that addressed the Villages desire to allow dogs controlled by leash within the Preserve and a stipulation that the Village pay all reasonable costs related to any improvements to the existing paths and changes to signage and brochures, should the Village desire to allow bicycling as an approved activity in the future.

Since the Preserve trails were completed in 2002, the District has received numerous requests from local residents to allow bicycles on the trails and those residents have been politely directed to the Village as this was a Village required restriction. Last month the District received a formal request from the Village to allow bicycles on the Preserve trails as a test with the stipulation that the Village be allowed to revert back to the present status in the event that they receive complaints that cyclists are not sharing the trail or other issues surface.

Staff is seeking direction on (i) the possible allowance of bicycle access on the existing trails within the Preserve, (ii) whether to continue discussions with the Village, (iii) whether there are other desired revisions to the IGA, and (iv) whether to authorize negotiations on a third amendment to the IGA.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel