



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 5, 2018
MEMO TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: John E. Nelson
Director of Operations and Infrastructure

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Update on Winter 2018-19 Snowmobile Trail Locations.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact.

BACKGROUND: In 1983, the Board adopted a Trail Policy regarding the development and use of District trails. The Trail Policy includes the following section on use by snowmobiles:

“The District will allow motorized use of any trails only for surveillance, maintenance, and emergency equipment, with the exception of snowmobiles on certain trails the use of which conforms with:

- 1) The District will abide by all local city and park district regulations regarding trail use of public lands wherever District trails pass through incorporated areas.
- 2) Providing a link on public land for the Northeastern Illinois Association of Snowmobile Club’s trail system established on private lands.”

Since that time the District has collaborated with the Northeastern Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (NIASC) on snowmobile trails on District property. In the fall of 2016, the District was notified by representatives of the local snowmobile clubs that the Northeastern Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs (NIASC) had disbanded. For the past two winters of 2016-17 and 2017-18, the District has collaborated with representatives of two active local clubs (Riverbend Benders and Sno-Kommanders of Lake County) that had been members of NIASC on the marking of trails.

This coming winter 2018-19, the two local clubs will mark snowmobile trails at eight (8) preserves: Black Crown, Grant Woods, Lakewood, Nippersink, Sedge Meadow, Singing Hills, Wadsworth Savanna, and Van Patten Woods. A 4-inch snow base and frozen ground are required to open snowmobile trails. Snowmobile trails will not open until December 10th, even if there is snow before this date.

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