



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** March 7, 2019  
**MEMO TO:** Terry Wilke, Chair  
Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

**Agenda Item#** 9.1

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan and the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Organizational Sustainability; Public Access and Connections; Leadership; Conservation.

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

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) is in the midst of transitioning from a July-to-June fiscal year to a calendar fiscal year. As part of that transition, the District’s current fiscal year (FY 2018/2019) is an 18-month period, expiring December 31, 2019. The District’s budget and the short-term provisions of its 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) are both timed to the District’s fiscal year. Because of the relative length of the current fiscal year (18 months), staff reviewed potential changes to the 10-year CIP at a joint meeting of the Operations, Planning and Finance Committees on January 28. A draft ordinance approving amendments to the CIP and budget was then presented to, and recommended by, the Finance Committee on February 7, and then sent for final review by the Board of Commissioners at its February 12 meeting. At this meeting, the full Board of Commissioners voted to refer the ordinance back to the Finance Committee to consider the addition of the three projects highlighted below.

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 DEA Accessibility - \$60,000.00. As part of the initial design phase it was determined that the existing restroom facility should be replaced now when the surrounding area undergoes accessibility improvements. Additional funding is needed for a new evaporator restroom and to provide accessible surfacing around the restroom. A reduction in the annual operating costs is anticipated.
  - 2) Fort Sheridan Public Access Improvements – \$80,560.00. After receiving higher than expected bids for refurbishing the existing steel bridge, it was determined that additional funding is needed to prepare more detailed engineering documents and to cover the costs for the repairs. The existing bridge is located along the grass birding loop which is scheduled to open to the public in the summer 2019. There is no impact to the annual operating costs.

- 3) Millennium Trail-McDonald Woods to Route 45 - \$25,000.00. In June 2017, the District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding the planned improvements to US Route 45, more commonly known as the Millburn Bypass project. As part of the IGA, the District committed to funding the 20% local share of the construction costs for the portion of the planned shared use path and sidewalk along only the District's frontage at McDonald Woods Forest Preserve. The local share of remaining sections of the planned shared use path through the Bypass project will be funded by the Village of Lindenhurst and will become the Millennium Trail. Additional funding is needed to cover the District's portion of the estimated local share including any changes that may occur during construction. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs are anticipated.
  - 4) Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area – (\$85,860.00). This project was completed in October 2019 and the project budget can be reduced due to excellent bid pricing and construction management.
- Projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP:
    - 1) General Offices - Front Entry Safety Bollards - \$25,000.00. After an internal safety audit, it was determined that there are currently no safety barriers protecting the main entrance to the General Offices from either accidental or intended vehicle penetration. As an alternate to the standard looking urban bollards the District's planning staff has designed a more natural solution through the use of native boulders. Additional funding is needed to purchase and install the boulders. No impacts to the annual operating costs are anticipated.
    - 2) Greenbelt - Habitat Restoration - \$77,000.00. In 2010 the District began a multi-departmental effort to restore habitat for shrubland birds at Greenbelt Forest Preserve, which is located within the Lake Michigan watershed. Shrubland birds have been identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Wilderness, Audubon Great Lakes and the Bird Conservation Network as a Species of Conservation Concern. Since 2010, the District has partnered with nine different partners to provide \$645,000 in funding (\$312,000 grant funds) for 140 acres of natural resource restoration and stewardship work at Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Future work will be funded by available grants and funds currently in the Development Levy (Habitat Restoration). It is recommended that this project be added to the CIP because staff resources will be applied to this project. Estimated annual operating costs is \$22,000.00.
    - 3) Greenbelt - Entrance Sign Modifications - \$50,000.00. The electronic messaging sign at the Cultural Center reached the end of its useful life and was no longer functional. The technology used by the sign was obsolete and no longer available. Staff removed the electronic element of and redesigned the sign as a static entry sign in 2018. In order to provide the dynamic messaging desired to market and promote events and programs at the Cultural Center funding is needed to install a new more efficient electronic messaging sign. Minimal impacts to the annual operating costs are anticipated.
    - 4) Grant Woods – Long Lake Shoreline Stabilization - \$400,000.00. Due to extensive shoreline erosion issues along the District owned portion of Long Lake at Grant Woods Forest Preserve, the District completed shoreline stabilization and restoration work in 2008 on the most severely affected areas. After receiving recent concerns from local residents and the Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance, funding is needed to perform an engineering study and to set aside seed money for potential grant applications to complete the stabilization of the remaining portion of the District's shoreline. No impacts to the annual operating costs are anticipated.

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





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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, on February 13, 2018, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) Board of Commissioners approved a Resolution approving the District’s Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan (the “CIP”); and

**WHEREAS**, on May 18, 2018, the District Board of Commissioners approved an Ordinance approving the District’s Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19 (the "2019 Budget"), which includes funds budgeted for certain projects identified in the CIP; and

**WHEREAS**, based on discussions at a joint meeting of the Finance, Operations, and Planning Committees of the District, the District staff recommends approval of the following amendments to the CIP and 2019 Budget (collectively, the “Amendments”):

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Budget Impact Increase/(Decrease)</u>
Duck Farm DEA Accessibility (existing project)	\$60,000
Ft. Sheridan Public Access Improvements (existing project)	80,560
Millennium Trail – McDonald Woods to Rt. 45 (existing project)	25,000
Greenbelt – Habitat Restoration (new project)	77,000
Spring Bluff Wildlife Observation Area (existing project)	(85,860)
General Offices – Front Entry Safety Bollards	25,000
Greenbelt – Entrance Sign Modifications	50,000
Grant Woods – Long Lake Shoreline Stabilization	400,000

and

**WHEREAS**, the Amendments will not require any change to the District’s Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2018/19, adopted by the District Board of Commissioners on May 18, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the District to approve the Amendments to the 2019 Budget and CIP;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** 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 Ordinance by this reference.

**Section 2: Approval of Amendments.** The Amendments are hereby approved. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to make, or cause to be made, such revisions to the 2019 Budget and CIP that are necessary and appropriate to effectuate the Amendments.

**Section 3: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

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Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

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Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_