



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** May 6, 2019

**MEMO TO:** John Wasik, Chair  
Planning Committee

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution for the Dedication of 279.2 Acres of Grant Woods Forest Preserve as Nature Preserve Buffer and of 3.3 acres of Grant Woods Forest Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve, all adjacent to the existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve at Grant Woods Forest Preserve.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Conservation; Leadership;

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The financial impact for this dedication is nominal and consists of staff time for boundary marking, preparation of a land management plan and submission of annual reports, as required by the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, and is included as part of the adopted FY 2018/2019 Land Development Levy Fund Budget for Habitat Restoration (20104100-803200-60004). Long-term management will be funded by the Natural Resource Department annual operating budget.

**BACKGROUND:** Grant Woods Forest Preserve is part of the Green Infrastructure Management and Strategy (GIMS) Chain O' Lakes Strategic Habitat Conservation Area. This preserve provides habitat for 12 State Endangered and seven State Threatened plant species. Grant Woods is adjacent to the 148-acre State Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve, which supports regionally rare bog and high quality prairie communities. The proposed 279.2-acre buffer borders the northern and eastern boundaries of Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve, where active restoration work by staff and volunteers is expanding habitat for rare natural communities, plants and wildlife. The proposed buffer area includes prairie, savanna and marsh communities that provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife species. Dedication as a Nature Preserve of an additional 3 acres of Grant Woods directly adjacent to Gavin Bog Nature Preserve would complete protection of the entire bog community.

When the District dedicates property as an Illinois Nature Preserve, the District retains fee simple ownership of the property, but dedicates rights to the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission (INPC) in the nature of a negative easement, that give the INPC a certain level of control over the property. For example, dedication will require the District to (i) prepare and receive approval from the INPC of a nature preserve management plan and a master plan for any improvements, (ii) mark boundaries, (iii) assign District staff as a custodian, and (iv) submit annual reports for the dedicated portion of the preserve. Future activities and structures not identified in an approved master plan (including access roads, trail, permits for research and collecting, easements, rights-of-way, entrance and interpretive signage, and any other structure and improvements) will be prohibited, unless approved by the INPC.

Under applicable statutes (i) a “nature preserve” is “a natural area . . . to be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural condition and to be used in a manner and under limitations consistent with its continued preservation, without impairment, disturbance or artificial development, for the public purposes of present and future scientific research, education, esthetic enjoyment and providing habitat for plant and animal species and communities and other natural objects” and (ii) a "buffer area" is “an area of land . . . which has been dedicated . . . as a buffer area because it protects, provides access to or otherwise serves as a necessary adjunct to a nature preserve or registered natural area or because in the opinion of the Commission it will, with protection, become a natural area suitable for dedication as a nature preserve in the future.” 525 ILCS 30/3.02 and 3.11.

INPC requires that the District’s Board of Commissioners approve a resolution dedicating the nature preserve and buffer area before the INPC can consider this dedication proposal at its Commission meeting. Upon approval of the dedication by the INPC, a final instrument of dedication will be forwarded to the District.

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



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

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING DEDICATION OF 279.2 ACRES OF GRANT WOODS  
FOREST PRESERVE AS NATURE PRESERVE BUFFER AND 3.3 ACRES OF GRANT  
WOODS FOREST PRESERVE AS AN ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVE, ALL  
ADJACENT TO THE STATE GAVIN BOG AND PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) is the owner of certain land commonly known as Grant Woods Forest Preserve (the “Subject Property”), which is located in or near the Village of Ingleside, Grant Township, Lake County, Illinois and adjacent to the State of Illinois’ 148-acre Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of the Subject Property is generally depicted as the “Proposed Nature Preserve”, and a portion of the Subject Property is generally depicted as the “Proposed Nature Preserve Buffer”, on the map attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the District desires to dedicate the Proposed Nature Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve and the Proposed Nature Preserve Buffer as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as provided in the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, 525 ILCS 30/1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has the authority to dedicate areas as nature preserves or nature preserve buffers, as provided in the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and pursuant to Section 6a of the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act, 70 ILCS 805/6a; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission has the authority to seek and approve the dedication of nature preserves and nature preserve buffers pursuant to Section 6.02 of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, 525 ILCS 30/6.02 and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has the authority to acquire real property by dedication pursuant to Section 7.05 of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, 525 ILCS 30/7.05 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the District to dedicate the Proposed Nature Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve and the Proposed Nature Preserve Buffer as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer by approving and executing one or more instruments of dedication (collectively, the “Dedication Instrument”);

**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. Authority to Dedicate.** The President of the District, or his designee, is hereby authorized to approve and execute a Dedication Instrument in a form approved by the District’s Corporate Counsel, dedicating the Proposed Nature Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve and the Proposed Nature Preserve Buffer as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer. The President is further authorized to execute, or cause the execution of, such other documents as are necessary, if any, to complete such dedication.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

AYES:

NAYS:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

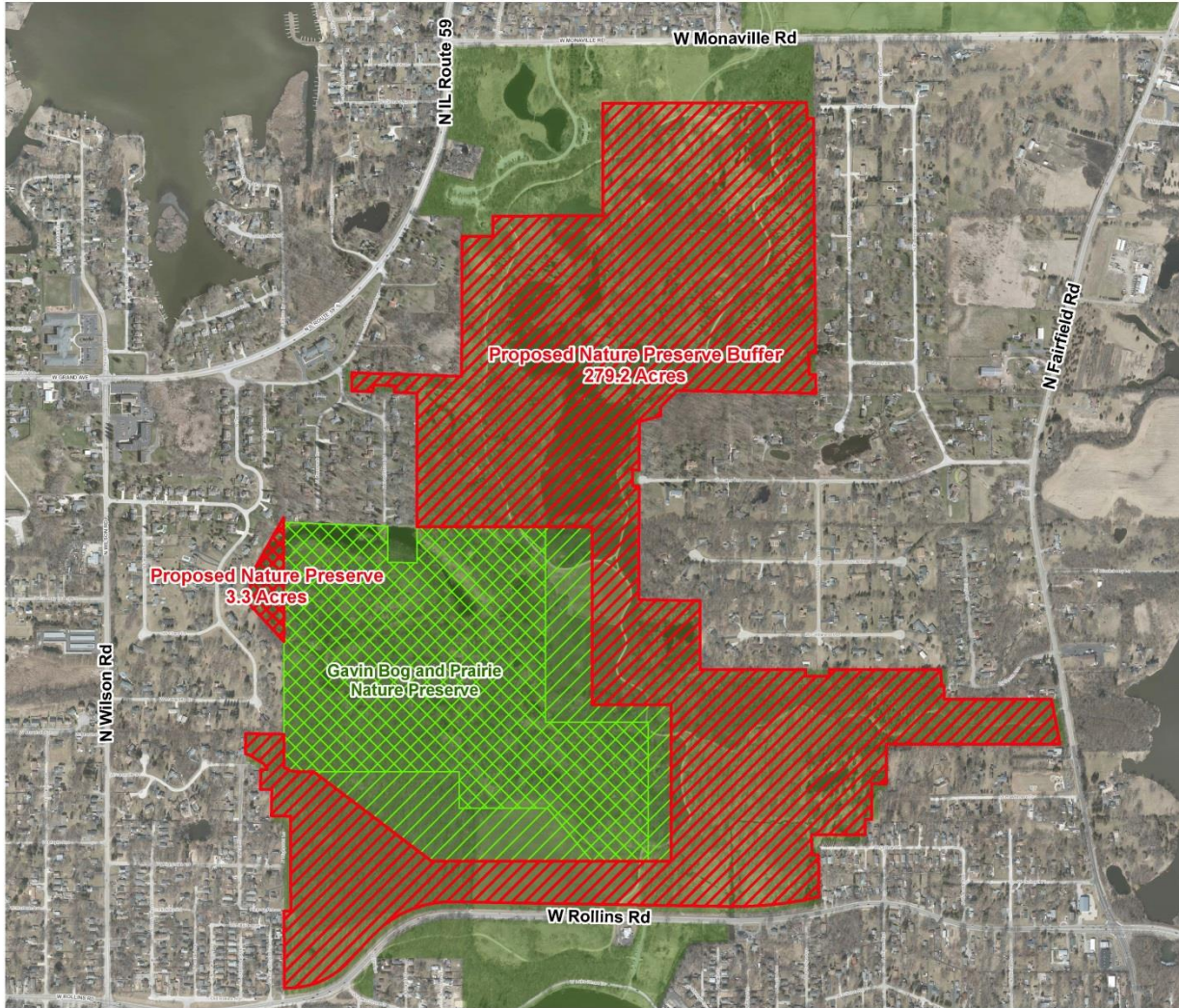
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

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

EXHIBIT A  
 PROPOSED NATURE PRESERVE

**Grant Woods - Proposed Nature Preserve**



Lake County Forest Preserve District  
 1899 W Winchester Rd  
 Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
 847-985-3331  
 www.lcfdpd.org

0 375 750 1,500 Feet



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|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Proposed Nature Preserve        |  | Existing Nature Preserve        |  | Forest Preserve Property |
|  | Proposed Nature Preserve Buffer |  | Existing Nature Preserve Buffer |  | Forest Preserve Easement |

PLEASE NOTE:  
 The Proposed Nature Preserves represent approximate boundaries and have not been finalized or include offsets near existing rights-of-way.

2018 Aerial Photo

Prepared using information from:  
 Lake County Department of Information & Technology, GIS/Mapping Division  
 18 North County Street  
 Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4357  
 847-377-2373

Map Prepared 17 April 2019