



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** June 3, 2019

**MEMO TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee

John Wasik, Chair  
Planning Committee

Terry Wilke, Chair  
Finance Committee

**FROM:** Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and comment on the proposed changes to the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will then be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration as part of the FY2020 budget process.

**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, staff is requesting that all three Committees, at the June 3 Joint Committee meeting, review and provide comments on the 10-year CIP and the list of potential unfunded capital improvement projects. Based on the Committees' discussions, staff will then prepare a revised draft CIP and present it to the Finance Committee, which will then review the CIP and determine whether to recommend approval of a CIP to the full Board of Commissioners that it approve the FY2020 CIP. Under the District's budget process, the Board approves an updated 10-year CIP, prior to its review and approval of 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) Millennium Trail - Route 173 - (\$13,095.00). This project was completed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) through its Intergovernmental Agreement with the District. Under that IGA, the District's local share obligation was estimated at \$30,000.00. Because of favorable bid pricing, the District's final cost obligations came in under the original cost share estimate. Therefore, the project budget can be reduced and closed. This change has no impacts to the annual operating costs.

- 2) Millennium Trail - Wilson Road Crossing – (\$149,532.00). The District received federal funding assistance for this project through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ) administered through IDOT. The project was completed and opened to the public in October 2015. As part of IDOT’s closeout procedures, the final local share requirement has been identified. Because the District’s final cost obligations came in under the original cost share estimate, the project budget can be reduced and closed. This change has no impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 3) Duck Farm - Munn Road Access - \$75,000.00. As part of IDOT’s planned improvements to IL Route 132, the District negotiated an Intergovernmental Agreement to have the relocation of the existing vehicular entrance to the Dog Exercise Area included within the overall road improvement project. IDOT has awarded the contract for their planned road improvements and the bid line items associated with the District’s parking lot entrance relocation have come in higher than the original cost share estimate. Additional funding is needed to fulfill the District’s local share requirement. This change has no impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 4) Habitat Restoration - \$363,640.00. To account for long term cost escalation, it is recommended that additional funding be added to the FY2028 and FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 5) Preserve Tree Planting - \$45,460.00. To account for long term cost escalation, it is recommended that additional funding be added to the FY2028 and FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 6) District-wide Reforestation - \$90,900.00. To account for long term cost escalation, it is recommended that additional funding be added to the FY2028 and FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 7) Repair Existing Roads/Parking - \$487,659.00. To account for long term cost escalation, it is recommended that a 6% increase of additional funding be added each year to the FY2025 through FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 8) Facility and Infrastructure Improvements - \$107,842.00. To account for long term cost escalation, it is recommended that a 2% increase of additional funding be added each year to FY2025 through FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 9) District-wide Accessibility Improvements - \$450,000.00. Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code, the District has been evaluating all of its facilities, preserves, programs, services, and communications to identify ways to enhance accessibility to individuals with disabilities. After reviewing the access audit and draft report, it is recommended that \$50,000 of additional funding be added each year to the FY2021 through FY2029 budget for this on-going initiative.
- 10) Ryerson Barn – Education Classroom – (\$175,000.00). Based on the District-wide facility and infrastructure assessment, the District has been working with an architect to develop conceptual plans to relocate the education classrooms from their present location in the cabins to the main barn. As the conceptual planning progressed and cost estimates were prepared, it was determined that the proposed improvements would be significantly higher than the available budget. To allow sufficient time to re-evaluate options, it is recommended that this project be removed from the CIP and placed on the list of unfunded CIP projects.

Projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP:

- 1) 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. Local residents and the Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance have recently expressed concerns about further shoreline erosion. Staff recommends that the CIP allocate funding for an engineering study and seed money for potential grant applications to complete the stabilization of the remaining 835 feet of the District's shoreline. This change has minimal impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 2) Dutch Gap - ACOE 206 Restoration. As part of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 206, Water Resources Development Act, the District is working with the USACE on potential funding for aquatic restoration of a portion of Dutch Gap Forest Preserve. Restoration activities will focus on restoring native plant communities of marsh, wet meadow, wet prairie, mesic and dry prairie and dry savanna areas. If funding is approved, District staff has communicated to ACOE (consistent with Committee policy direction) that the District's participation is contingency upon including District land values to satisfy the local funding match. It is recommended that this project be added to the CIP because staff resources will be applied to this project. Estimated annual operating costs are \$8,900.

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



**UNFUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 3, 2019

The following is a list of potential unfunded projects to consider for possible future inclusion into the 10-year CIP. This list was originally developed during the FY 2015/2016 budget discussions, and the proposed changes are a result of discussions in Committee and with staff, and requests from the community over the past year.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS & HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS TO CONSIDER:**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance</b>	<b>POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING</b>	<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>
	\$	\$	\$
Dog Exercise Area Access Improvements - Prairie Wolf, Lakewood, Independence Grove	580,000	0	Maintenance Reduction
Ray Lake-Fort Hill Trail Extension	650,000	325,000	10,900
Millennium Trail-Round Lake Section	4,185,000	2,885,000	TBD
Millennium Trail-Ethel's Woods to Pine Dunes	3,852,000	2,632,000	34,000
Millennium Trail-McDonald Woods to Raven Glen	475,000	355,000	TBD
Middlefork Trail and Greenway (Scope Reduction)	1,550,000	979,000	19,800
Chain O' Lakes Bike Path-Bluebird Meadow	1,650,000	1,050,000	13,500
<b>Lakewood Complex</b>			
1. <i>Broberg Marsh Phase II</i>	448,600	100,000	10,000
2. <i>Lakewood South – 1,000 Acre Woodland</i>	1,435,400	500,000	20,000
3. <i>Ray Lake Upland Restoration</i>	1,735,225	1,250,000	10,000
4. <i>Wauconda Bog</i>	245,000	100,000	8,000
5. <i>Ray Lake Hydrological Investigation</i>	250,000	50,000	0
6. <i>Smooth Green Snake Reintroduction</i>	20,000	0	0
<b>Southern Des Plaines River Complex</b>			
1. <i>Woodland Amphibian Reintroduction</i>	50,000	0	1,500
2. <i>Woodland Habitat Restoration Phase III Assessment</i>	110,000	55,000	3,000
3. <i>Old School Phase II Restoration</i>	324,500	100,000	500
4. <i>Cahokia Flatwoods Restoration</i>	693,000	350,000	20,000
<b>North Central Grassland Ecosystem Complex</b>			
1. <i>Wadsworth Savanna Restoration</i>	690,000	100,000	8,000
2. <i>Ethel's Woods Restoration</i>	314,250	100,000	15,000
3. <i>Van Patten Restoration</i>	719,500	250,000	8,000
4. <i>Pine Dunes Wetland Restoration</i>	225,000	225,000	5,000
5. <i>Dutch Gap Grassland Restoration</i>	665,000	400,000	25,000
6. <i>Prairie Stream Grassland Restoration</i>	484,000	240,000	15,000
Waukegan Savanna Regional Trail (Green Bay to Wadsworth Rd.)	7,500,000	5,285,000	13,500
Chain O'Lakes Bike Path-Grant Woods Trail Surfacing	500,000	0	3,240
Van Patten Woods-Equestrian & Public Parking	300,000	200,000	2,500
Lake Carina-DPR Trail Bridge & Equestrian Parking	1,651,000	200,000	2,500

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance</b> \$	<b>POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING</b> \$	<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b> \$
Lake Marie Public Access	105,000	50,000	40,000
Fort Sheridan-Phase II Master Plan Improvements	860,000	400,000	1,500
Gander Mountain Habitat Restoration	466,200	100,000	4,000
Fourth Lake Habitat Restoration	509,000	250,000	10,000
Fox River Addition (north of Roberts Road)	1,200,000	400,000	50,000
Grand Illinois Trail-Singing Hills to McHenry County	TBD		TBD
Mill Creek Master Plan	TBD		TBD
Ryerson Bridge Connection-Linking Ryerson to DPR Trail	1,500,000	400,000	1,500
Heron Creek Phase II-Trail Addition	650,000	325,000	5,400
Independence Grove-Playground Shade Structure	40,000	0	Minimal Impacts
District-wide Accessibility Improvements	6,871,650		TBD
Ryerson Barn-Education Classroom	TBD		TBD
Solar Energy Opportunities	TBD		TBD
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43,504,325</b>	<b>19,656,000</b>	