

**DATE:** June 1, 2020

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

John Wasik, Chair  
Planning Committee

Terry Wilke, Chair  
Finance Committee

**FROM:** Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend Approval of a Resolution Approving the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the 2021 fiscal year budget.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Public Access and Connections; Conservation; Leadership; Organizational Sustainability; Communication, Education and Outreach.

**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 review and provide comments on, and recommend approval to the Board of the 10-year CIP and the list of potential unfunded capital improvement projects. 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 three categories: 1) adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP, 2) prior Board-approved adjustments and additions to the CIP resulting from a donation from the Preservation Foundation and the expenditure of the Surplus Debt Service Funds and 3) new projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP.

Adjustments to existing funded projects on the CIP:

- 1) Ethel's Woods–Public Access Improvements - (\$100,000.00). These improvements were required as part of a land acquisition grant from the Open Lands Trust Fund. This project was completed in October 2019 and the budget can be reduced due to favorable bid pricing and good construction management. No impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 2) Wright Woods–Everett Road Trail Connection - (\$385,869.00). This project, part of an overall effort to connect the Village of Riverwoods bike paths to the existing trails at Captain Daniel Wrights Woods and the Des Plaines River Trail, was completed in partnership with the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) in the fall 2019. Through an intergovernmental agreement with LCDOT, the District's funding obligation was eliminated for the portion of the project within the right-of-way and the project budget can be reduced and closed out accordingly. No impacts to the annual operating costs.

- 3) Millennium Trail–Van Patten Woods Connection - (\$294,826.00). This project represented a partnership with LCDOT to extend the Millennium Trail and connect Pine Dunes to Van Patten Woods and the Des Plaines River Trail. The project received federal funding assistance through the Recreational Trails Program and was completed in the fall 2018. Due to favorable bid pricing and good project management the project budget can be reduced and closed out. No impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 4) Nippersink–LCDOT Trail Connection - (\$10,000.00). This project, part of an effort to connect the existing loop trail at Nippersink Forest Preserve to Cedar Lake Road, was completed in partnership with LCDOT and incorporated within the road improvements. The project was completed in the spring 2019 and the project budget can be reduced and closed out. No impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 5) Rollins Savanna–Third Lake Trail Improvements - (\$11,740.00). The District partnered with the Village of Third Lake to complete a gravel surfaced trail from Lake Avenue to the existing trail loop at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve and the Millennium Trail. Under an intergovernmental agreement, the District provided all labor and equipment and the Village provided reimbursement for all required materials to complete the connection. The project was completed in the spring 2019 and the project budget can be reduced and closed out. No impacts to the annual operating costs.
- 6) Grant Woods Restoration - \$388,067.00. An anonymous donation of \$522,202 was received for the continued restoration of prairie, savanna, ravine and wetland habitats at Grant Woods Forest Preserve. \$134,135 of the donation will be used to match a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund for the restoration of agricultural fields at Grant Woods north. The estimated annual management costs have already been accounted for as part of the overall restoration work within the preserve.
- 7) Middlefork Savanna–Buckthorn Eradication Pilot Project - \$421,146.00. Since 2015, the District and partners have worked to eradicate buckthorn on nearly 112 acres, with 528 acres remaining unmanaged almost entirely on private land within the identified project boundary. Additional funding of \$171,145 was secured through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant. District matching funds totaling \$225,000 will be committed from surplus debt service funds. The estimated annual management costs have already been accounted for as part of the overall restoration work within the preserve.
- 8) Spring Bluff–Connecting Wetlands - \$85,000.00. District staff have been working with public and private partners to restore wetland and upland areas within the Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain. The partnership was recently awarded additional funding from the Illinois Coastal Management Grant Program for further control of invasive species within the Illinois Lake Plain and the project budget requires adjustment to accommodate this new funding. These funds are being used for the on-going management costs.
- 9) Greenbelt Restoration – \$100,000.00. The District has applied for grant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$100,000.00 for a total project cost of \$248,168. It is recommended that \$100,000.00 be transferred from the Grassy Lake Improvement project to this project to serve as a local match for the grant (see item 10 below). If the grant is awarded, the habitat restoration work will build upon the District’s large scale habitat restoration efforts to expand the habitat for 11 bird species identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan’s Greatest Nee. The District’s contiguous and on-going restoration work now encompasses 195 acres. The estimated annual management costs have already been accounted for as part of the overall restoration work within the preserve.

- 10) Grassy Lake Improvements – (\$155,000.00) As the restoration work at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve nears completion there is \$155,000.00 in funding that is not needed and available for reallocation. Staff is recommended that these available funds be transferred to the ongoing restoration projects at Cuba Marsh and Greenbelt Forest Preserves where additional funding is needed. It is recommended that \$55,000 be transferred to the Cuba Marsh Habitat Restoration project (see item 11 below) and \$100,000.00 be transferred to the Greenbelt Restoration project (see item 9 above). The estimated annual management costs have already been accounted for as part of the overall restoration work within the preserve.
- 11) Cuba Marsh Habitat Restoration - \$55,000.00. Additional funding is needed for the continuation of restoration work at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. It is recommended that \$55,000.00 be transferred from the Grassy Lake Improvement project to this project to support the on-going habitat restoration activities (see item 10 above). The estimated annual management costs have already been accounted for as part of the overall restoration work within the preserve.
- 12) Preservation Foundation & Donations - (\$800,000.00). To better align with the current fundraising strategy, this funding source for FY 2029 has been removed from the CIP. The FY 2029 Ongoing Capital Improvement budget lines have been reduced accordingly.
- 13) Preservation Foundation & Donations - (\$200,000.00). To better align with the current fundraising strategy, this funding source for FY 2030 CIP will reduced. The FY 2030 Ongoing Capital Improvement budget lines have been reduced accordingly.

In March and April 2020, the Board approved two Ordinances amending the FY 2020 Budget and the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan to increase expenditures to accommodate a private donation and to designate and authorize expenditure of Surplus Debt Service Funds from retired General Obligation Bonds for capital improvements and land acquisition. The following are adjustments to existing funded projects and projects added to the CIP as authorized by these amendments:

- 1) Ryerson Education Improvements - \$3,200,000.00. Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area has been a center of environmental education programming and public engagement for the District since it became a forest preserve in 1972. Many of the existing educational programming structures are in decline and are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code. The Preservation Foundation recently secured a private donation in the amount of \$200,000.00 to fund the development of a master plan for a portion of Ryerson focusing on environmental education needs. Once the master plan is completed and there is an approved concept for the improvements, staff will pursue an additional private donation for construction, which is currently estimated at \$3,000,000.00.
- 2) Middlefork Savanna–Buckthorn Eradication Pilot Project - \$225,000.00. The District recently received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chi-Cal Rivers Fund grant to continue its efforts to remove buckthorn on lands adjacent to Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. This new funding will serve as the local share needed to satisfy the grant match requirement.
- 3) District-wide Accessibility Improvements - \$705,124.00. In 2018, an evaluation was completed of all District facilities, preserves, programs and communications to determine the necessary improvements required to reach full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code. Additional funding is needed to fulfill the District’s commitment towards reaching full accessibility compliance.

- 4) District-wide Grant Match - \$275,000.00. Additional funding is needed to serve as a local share match should future grant opportunities surface for potential capital improvement projects and land acquisition opportunities. This new funding will be added to the CIP as a funding source under the Ongoing Capital Improvements category.
- 5) Land Acquisition - \$120,000.00. Additional funding is needed for a future land acquisition opportunity.

Projects recommended to be funded or added to the CIP:

- 1) Grant Woods – Creating Ecological & Climate Resiliency - \$350,135.00. This 1,226-acre preserve is made up of 16 different habitat types. Connectivity between these habitats is interrupted by 180 acres of disturbed agricultural fields. In January 2020, the Preservation Foundation received a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund in the amount of \$216,000.00 to restore the agricultural fields using climate-appropriate, locally sourced seed mixtures to increase habitat connectivity and to ensure long-term resilience of this restoration project. The grant funding is matched by a private donation from the Foundation in the amount of \$134,135. Estimated annual management cost is \$5,000.00.
- 2) Cahokia Flatwoods – Oak Ecosystem Restoration - \$60,000.00. The District and several other land management agencies recently received grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with the Morton Arboretum to restore oak ecosystems on publicly protected lands and private lands surrounding those preserves. The total grant award was \$457,000.00 of which \$60,000.00 will be applied to the District’s project. Estimated annual management cost is \$3,300.00.
- 3) Millennium Trail–Ethel’s Woods to Pine Dunes - \$1,350,000.00. In an effort to take advantage of the 2021 federal transportation funding cycle, additional funding is needed to complete the federal application process, Phase I and II engineering and provide the local share of construction. Stretching nearly 4.6 miles, this project represents a partnership with IDOT to complete one of the last remaining sections of the Millennium Trail. The District’s portion of the project includes the construction of 3.1 miles of trail that will safely connect Ethel’s Woods and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves. Estimated annual operating cost is \$27,900.00.
- 4) Ray Lake Trail Connection - \$275,000.00. In 2019, the District received grant funding assistance through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to purchase a 99-acre parcel at Ray Lake Forest Preserve. The LWCF grant requires public access improvements on the parcel, including a trail connection to the Fort Hill Trail and a scenic overlook. Funding is needed for the engineering, permitting and construction of these improvements. Estimated annual operating cost is \$2,700.00.
- 5) Ryerson - Welcome Center Solar Photovoltaic System - \$100,000.00. Staff is in conversation with a prospective donor for a solar photovoltaic system at the Ryerson Welcome Center. The estimated cost of the system is \$100,000. The donor would potentially provide the required matching funds if the District is successful in a grant application to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. A reduction in the annual operating costs is anticipated.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
REGULAR JUNE MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2020**

**MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, PLANNING COMMITTEE** and **FINANCE COMMITTEE** present herewith “A Resolution Approving the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget,” and request its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes:\_\_\_\_ Nays:\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:\_\_\_\_

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes:\_\_\_\_ Nays:\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:\_\_\_\_

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes:\_\_\_\_ Nays:\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:\_\_\_\_

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

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”), the District’s Finance Committee is responsible for recommending budget and appropriations ordinances to the District’s Board of Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s Standing Committees have reviewed and recommend approval of the prioritized 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan attached hereto (the “CIP”), which includes a list of capital improvement projects (the “CIP Projects”); and

**WHEREAS**, the CIP Projects meet the criteria for public access and connections, conservation, leadership, organizational sustainability, communication, education and outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIP will provide an important and useful planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance;

**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: Approval of the CIP.** The CIP is hereby approved in the form attached hereto. The Districts’ Board of Commissioners, Standing Committees, and staff shall use the CIP as a planning guide for the preparation and approval of the District’s annual budget ordinance.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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

ATTEST:

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

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



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

June 1, 2020

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:**

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance	POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING	ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS
	\$	\$	\$
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-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
Lakewood Complex			
1. Broberg Marsh Phase II	448,600	100,000	10,000
2. Lakewood South – 1,000 Acre Woodland	1,435,400	500,000	20,000
3. Ray Lake Upland Restoration	1,735,225	1,250,000	10,000
4. Wauconda Bog	245,000	100,000	8,000
5. Ray Lake Hydrological Investigation	250,000	50,000	0
6. Smooth Green Snake Reintroduction	20,000	0	0
Southern Des Plaines River Complex			
1. Woodland Amphibian Reintroduction	50,000	0	1,500
2. Woodland Habitat Restoration Phase III Assessment	110,000	55,000	3,000
3. Old School Phase II Restoration	324,500	100,000	500
4. Cahokia Flatwoods Restoration	633,000	350,000	20,000
North Central Grassland Ecosystem Complex			
1. Wadsworth Savanna Restoration	690,000	100,000	8,000
2. Ethel's Woods Restoration	314,250	100,000	15,000
3. Van Patten Restoration	719,500	250,000	8,000
4. Pine Dunes Wetland Restoration	225,000	225,000	5,000
5. Dutch Gap Grassland Restoration	665,000	400,000	25,000
6. Prairie Stream Grassland Restoration	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-Bridge & DPR Trail Connection	1,651,000	200,000	2,500
Lake Marie Public Access	105,000	50,000	40,000



<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS w/o Funding Assistance</b> \$	<b>POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING</b> \$	<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b> \$
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	6,166,526		TBD
Solar Energy Opportunities	TBD		TBD
General Offices-Museum Expansion	550,000		TBD
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39,437,201</b>	<b>17,024,000</b>