



**DATE:** November 2, 2020

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

**FROM:** Randall L. Seebach  
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding a request for buffer plantings within the County of Lake's (the "County") wetland mitigation bank at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve and to authorize negotiations of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Long Grove and the County.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Public Access and Connections.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Under the proposed IGA, each party will contribute 1/3 of the cost for the purchase and installation of the buffer plantings, currently estimated at \$90,000.00. The District would purchase the trees and shrubs as its contribution. The funding for the purchase of the plant material will come from the approved FY2020 and FY2021 CIP annual preserve tree planting fund with an estimated available budget of \$189,311.00.

**BACKGROUND:** In October 2016, the District and the County entered into an intergovernmental agreement and license agreement that granted a license to the County for the construction and operation of a wetland mitigation bank on the western-most portion of Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. As part of the mitigation bank plan, several low quality trees and shrubs were removed to establish the proposed wetland restoration areas. Also included in the mitigation bank work was the construction of approximately 1.1 miles of new trails with two neighborhood connections to the County Club Estates subdivision to the north. Since completion of the wetland bank project in 2018, the County, the District, and the Village of Long Grove (the "Village") have received several complaints from Country Club Estates residents that the tree removals have opened up unwanted views to Lake Cook Road and the noise from the road has increased within their neighborhood.

Since completion of the project, the County, the Village and the District have met several times to discuss ways to address the resident concerns. In an effort to respond to those concerns, District staff prepared a preliminary buffer planting plan and a cost estimate that would screen the unwanted views and possibly reduce some of the noise. Staff is looking for direction on whether to contribute additional staff time and funds for the procurement and installation of the buffer plantings and authorization to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Village and the County that would be presented to the Planning Committee for review and recommendation at a later date.

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