



DATE: August 30, 2021

MEMO TO: Terry Wilke, Chair
Planning Committee

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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a potential agreement with the Village of Long Grove to provide additional parking at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: Total cost of the proposed project for material, paving, fencing and labor is estimated at \$20,000. The District's share of this cost would be determined through negotiations with the Village of Long Grove.

BACKGROUND: In April 2000, the District and the County executed an Intergovernmental Agreement that allowed the County, through its Division of Transportation (LCDOT), to design and construct a wetland mitigation bank on the western portion of Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve (Preserve). As part of the IGA, the LCDOT was required to incorporate an additional 1.1-miles of new District trails within their project. At the request of the Village of Long Grove (Village), the new trails included two neighborhood connections and a connection to the Village's existing soccer fields located to the west of the Preserve. The initial mitigation work and the new trails were completed and open for public use in the fall of 2018.

The District currently provides parking at the far eastern side of the Preserve, which is approximately 1-1/2 miles from the new trails constructed by LCDOT and there is no on-street parking permitted along Checker Road or within the adjacent neighborhood streets. Since the completion of the new trails, the District and the Village have received several requests for an additional parking area that would provide convenient access to the new trails and the western portion of the Preserve. In addition, the District and the Village have received several complaints from local residents regarding the unauthorized parking of vehicles within the neighborhood streets and along Checker and Schaeffer Roads. The Village and the District have had preliminary discussions regarding opportunities for providing additional parking, including potential modifications to a vacant portion of an existing entrance drive to the soccer fields.

Staff is looking for direction whether to continue discussions and/or negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Village that would identify the District's and Village's relative obligations related to the design, construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the new parking area. That agreement 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.