

US Department of Veterans Affairs

4.7-acre request for

# Fort Sheridan National Cemetery at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve



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## Public Comment and Correspondence

received at District Offices between  
March 23, 2022 and June 20, 2022

US Department of Veterans Affairs 4.7-acre request for

# **Fort Sheridan National Cemetery** at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve



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# Open House Summary

## U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs request to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve



A public Open House was held April 26, 2022, at the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory in Highwood. The purpose of the Open House was to provide the public the opportunity to gather information regarding the VA's request for 4.7 acres of District property with which to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. District staff and Commissioners were available to provide information, answer questions, and listen to thoughts and concerns. In addition, six representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), five of whom were from the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), were also available to answer specific questions about the VA's request and the need for the expansion. Approximately 77 visitors attended the event, in addition to others who may have bypassed the sign-in table.

In addition to boards explaining the VA's reason for the request and maps showing the boundaries of the requested property, photos of sample columbaria and a Committal Shelter were available for review and discussion. Guests also had the opportunity to view a PowerPoint presentation from the VA about its request, and a NCA video describing its mission of honoring Veterans with their service to the nation.



Attendees were able to provide immediate feedback via Comment Cards, of which a total of 42 were submitted.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> the District launched a dedicated web page regarding the Open House; since going live, it has been accessed more than 2,500 times. It presents a brief synopsis of the information available at the Open House, and provided viewers the opportunity to submit comments. A total of 382 comments were submitted from that page between its establishment and the end of the Public Comment period on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Since then, letters and comments have continued to be received regarding the VA's request.



## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
3/30/2022	Elliot Rossen	I fully support the addition of the columbarium as it is a much better use of land for interments. My only concern is that there will sufficient planting between the new facility to fully screen it from the open lands and trails in the forest preserve. And it should be plantings that screen it sufficiently at inception and doesn't require a long time to grow into a proper screen.
4/2/2022	Colin Cosgrove	Can we consider a different, more environmentally sensitive path? Some people may find beauty in a columbarium, however, I would see this as a loss to the natural beauty of the forest preserve and a challenge to the LCFPD vision: "EXCELLENCE IS IN OUR NATURE We envision that 100 years from now, Lake County will be a healthy and resilient landscape with restored and preserved natural lands, waters and cultural assets." <a href="https://www.betterplaceforests.com/blog/articles/what-is-a-green-burial/">https://www.betterplaceforests.com/blog/articles/what-is-a-green-burial/</a>
4/2/2022	Cody Leach	It definitely makes sense to transfer the proposed area to the southwest of the cemetery. It is already separated from the rest of the forest preserve by the road and parking lot to the cemetery. The proposed area to the northeast of the cemetery is closer to the forest preserve trail, so it makes more sense to remain as part of the forest preserve, but if needed, I have no issues with it being transferred as well.
4/8/2022	Art Ellingsen, OS/2, USNR, 1969-1975	As Commander of the American Legion Post 216 in Elk Grove Village, I believe another larger National Cemetery is needed closer to the North side of Chicago and in the North and/or Northwestern Suburbs. I heard about plans a year or two ago about something being built in the Barrington area, but nothing has happened with that. The Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery is nice, but it is nearly 100 miles away. We need something closer. Respectfully submitted, Art Ellingsen, Vietnam Vet
4/9/2022	Alexander G. Brenke	I can think of no better use of this public land than a place to honor those that have served our nation.
4/11/2022	Marybeth Curry	I will eventually be buried here and was sorry that the columbaria were not available when choosing to bury my husband. I am glad the VA has accepted the responsibility for caretaking of the graves. I think they should also consider upgrading the entrance. It looks as though it were an afterthought with its design. Maybe a similar design as the entrance to the village of Fort Sheridan. Thank you
4/11/2022	Dean Farr	As an area Army veteran I think expanding the Ft. Sheridan military cemetery is a great idea. Nice to offer veterans a final resting place amongst their fellow veterans and be close to families in the Lake and north Cook Counties area. I fully support and hope the civilian community does as well.
4/12/2022	Fred Walcott	I support the expansion of the cemetery. It is essential to get the additional land because there are many individuals who want to be able to plan for their interment here. The site is beautiful and has a very noteworthy history. Having such property adjacent to the current cemetery is an opportunity that can not be missed.
4/12/2022	Darlene Shackelford	This is a wonderful proposed solution to so many of the northern suburban families who loved ones deserve the honor of a national cemetery. I have visited ALNC in Elwood which is a beautiful hallowed grounds but so far away for loved ones from our area. We have a lot of forest preserve land and what could be better than to honor those who have served with greater accessibility to families from the northern suburbs. Please the 4.7 acres could not go to any better use.
4/12/2022	Robert Troxel	As a local resident of Lake Forest, IL, and a Viet Nam Veteran-We totally are in support of this request to expand the Cemetery. Best regards, Rob and Rosemary Troxel
4/14/2022	Ben Ellis	Hello, I am going to attend the open house, but wanted to raise three points in advance: 1) Will there be a hard commitment not to close or damage any of the walking trails while construction is completed? 2) The whole point of this area is harmony with nature. The Columbarium layout seems very "overengineered". Basically dropping a whole lot of concrete into an area of natural beauty. It looks lovely and serene now, why do we need all this brick and concrete? 3) to follow
4/15/2022	Alyssa Smolensky	Ft. Sheridan is an ecological treasure that provides desperately needed ecosystem services and ecological benefits to residents of the highly developed Lake & Cook counties. Releasing acreage out of the forest preserve sets a dangerous precedent for replacing the incredibly rare and extremely valuable habitat with further development. I hope the land is not transferred to the VA, but in case it is, the design should utilize green infrastructure to support native species & protect water quality.
4/19/2022	Jane Mikulski	I am very opposed to expansion of the cemetery at Fort Sheridan for the following reasons: 1. Fort Sheridan preserve is one of the busiest preserves and it is already congested. Removing land from this relatively small, highly used preserve is not appropriate 2. Parking is a problem at Fort Sheridan cars currently park in the Town of Fort Sheridan residential areas. There is no parking for families who want to visit the additional columbaria 3. Too much concrete for site. Heat sink.
4/19/2022	Kenneth Porrello	We are 22 + years as residents of Ft Sheridan and frequently use the lake county preserve trail system. We fully support the planned expansion of the cemetery. Ken Porrello and Sherry McFall
4/20/2022	Zephyr Alleshouse	Why not plant a tree for every veteran who would be buried there? So that future generations and future veterans could seek comfort in its beauty, seek relief in its shade, seek joy in the birdsongs, and seek connection to the wonders of the universe through looking up through a clear unpolluted sky at the billions of stars looking back at us?
4/20/2022	Linda M Waycie	Hi LCFPreserve, I oppose the transfer of 4.7 acres for use of a cemetery. In more recent years after redevelopment by Lake County, the East section was created to be an oak savanna. Trees and native grasses have grown here to provide cover and necessary food for grassland birds and other migratory birds! Don't take this away! This is a hot spot for birders, walkers, and lovers of nature! Keep your commitment to the environment and the promise that this land would be protected. No transfers!
4/21/2022	Patricia Rich	Please DO NOT expand the cemetery into the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve land. Once land is taken and re-purposed for a cemetery, it will never be returned to its natural state. If this land had been developed into a golf course as originally planned a few years ago, would you now be thinking about re-purposing it for a cemetery? Please leave the land that is natural alone. Thank you.
4/21/2022	Mia Hirschel	While I respect the significance of the current cemetery, I am against the appropriation of what are now public lands. Please do not approve this!
4/21/2022	K. Jones	Please approve the transfer of land for the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. The land was given to the forest preserve district at no cost by the Army, and giving up less than five acres for the burial of Veterans is the right thing to do. Anyone who opposes the transfer likely never served, The Vets who would be buried there were promised burial benefits, and what better place than a former Army base?
4/22/2022	Roger A Johnson	Fort Sheridan has always been such a beautiful place with a storied history. Knowing that our final resting place would be there would hopefully bring us some additional peace that so many of us have been searching for for so long. Roger A Johnson Viet Nam Veteran '68/'69
4/22/2022	Timothy Glover	My wife and I plan to attend. We are excited about the prospect of a military burial site much closer to us in NE Illinois than the Abraham Lincoln site near Joliet where we had previously made plans for interment. Our first choice would have been Ft Sheridan and now it can be.
4/22/2022	Albert L Custer	This sounds like a very doable project and close to home, so to speak. Sounds wonderful. Our service people deserve this. They have a beautiful place in Tennessee. My son is buried there. It has a place as described here for the committal ceremony. I am all for this.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
4/22/2022	Joan Glover	I am e pleased to hear about the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Will this expansion include additional space for unground interment of casketed remains or is it only for those who choose cremation?
4/22/2022	David Markowicz	I'm a 26-year USN(Ret) veteran living in Waukegan. Sorry I can't make it to the open house, but my survivors will probably move to make it my permanent address when my heart stops beating.
4/22/2022	Phillip DeRuntz	"We have come to dedicate a portion of this field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that our nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract." Abe Lincoln All gave some, and some gave all. We should honor our veterans with a final resting place
4/22/2022	Terry Harrison	I think it will be a wonderful addition to this area. Now veterans will not have to go all the way to the Joliet area. Thank you
4/22/2022	John J Erwin	As a retired combat veteran of the US Army, I humbly request that this expansion of the National Cemetery at Ft. Sheridan be approved. We continue to lose more veterans every year, and we need more room. This expansion will do just that for the next 50 years. It is important for our families to have a place close to home in Chicago to provide a proper and honorable burial for their loved ones. Thank you, MAJ John J. Erwin US Army (Retired)
4/22/2022	stephen Martin	I strongly support expansion of the cemetery.
4/22/2022	Richard N Lester BTCM USN Retired	My late wife is buried there at this time and I will be laid to rest there with her sometime in the future. I wish you were able to acquire even more land . I always Though the National Cemetery should have been at Fort Sheridan in the first place. Fort Sheridan is a beautiful place for my final resting place.
4/22/2022	gene black	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT EXPANDED . BECAUSE MYSELF AND WIFE NEED A RESTING PLACE. SERVE AT THE FORT IN 1959 TO 1960.
4/22/2022	Lisa Nicole Kinnie-Neal	I am a Navy Veteran and I'm interested in learning more about the planning for this expansion.
4/22/2022	Ann Harness	I'm not happy about losing ANY of the preserve's area, but if it must be done, the west would seem to be less damaging than the east, which is a good, wooded area for birds close to the trail.
4/22/2022	Ted Witt	This is an excellent idea. As a retired veteran and Naval officer with a close connection to both Great Lakes and Fort Sheridan, I am delighted that the VA is contemplating the expansion of the cemetery at Fort Sheridan. This will recognize and memorialize the service of countless Northern Illinois veterans, and will provide them a final resting place that is close to family and friends. I most heartily approve of this endeavor.
4/22/2022	Michael Dacey	I am in total support of the planned expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. I find it comforting to know that our final resting place is close to home and easy for family and friends to get to. Thank You for the opportunity to comment.
4/23/2022	Virginia Scoville	My husband Robert was in the Navy from 1961 from 1966. It was extended a year. I have his ashes and I haven't yet decided we're to bury his ashes. I don't want to bury him in Frankfort cause that is too far. I am so glad they are having vet cemetery In high wood IL. Thank you.
4/23/2022	Bertram T Robins	I think it's a great opportunity for a closer resting place
4/23/2022	Judy Smith Vega	Unable to attend cause out of state but very interested in the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. U.S. Navy Retired - Service Connected Veteran
4/24/2022	Cecile Mikulski	The cemetery's increase in size is not in keeping with the purpose of the Lake County Forest Preserve. It's one of the few areas with lake front property open to the public. Also there is parking problem now and it will only get worse.
4/24/2022	Kenneth R Kasel	As a Vietnam veteran and lifelong Illinois resident, I would welcome the opportunity of being interred at Ft Sheridan. After being discharged from the Army, I served some time in the Army reserve at Ft Sheridan. My brother, a Vietnam veteran, is buried there. I attended many Memorial Day services at the cemetery. I believe expanding the cemetery would be positive for the veterans of northern Illinois and also alleviate some of the demand at Lincoln National Cemetery.
4/24/2022	LTC George E. Duberstein, retired	I think expanding the Fort Sheridan Cemetery, especially now that it is a recognized National Cemetery under the auspices of the NCA, is a great idea. I wished to be buried in a National Cemetery and was considering the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois. However, it is a sufficient distance from my current residence in Hainesville, Illinois as to create logistical obstacles to my family. A closer National Cemetery would be for their benefit.
4/25/2022	Wayne K. kern	Brilliant idea!
4/25/2022	James Mikulski	I am writing to file my objection to the use of almost 5 acres of Forest Preserve land at Fort Sheridan for and expansion of the existing military cemetery. While on the surface the utilization appears commendable it ignores the use of the land and the access to the lakefront and the view of Lake Michigan which would be lost to the public. The needs for the land for that usage should be in the primary purpose of the District and the conditions under which the grant of Fort Sheridan was meant.
4/25/2022	Mary Mays	I oppose ceding Forest Preserve land to the northeast of the cemetery; this prairie offers a visual corridor east to the lake and north to the Openlands Ravine Preserve. The Columbariums would disturb the historical aspect of the cemetery. I believe \$35,000 a year is good value for honoring the Veterans who have already been interred, caring for an important historical site, and keeping a prairie view on Lake Michigan. My father was a veteran, and he would be honored by such preservation.
4/25/2022	Megan Jones	As someone who will laying her father to rest there in July and as someone who walks that Preserve regularly, I am all for this expansions. We traveled to Elwood and chose Fort Sheridan because of travel distance for my elderly mother and veterans who serve our country deserve this land as their finally resting spot for family in this area. They designs are beautiful and would be well welcome in my eyes. Thank you to all the veterans for your service.
4/25/2022	Whitney Hovan-Lee	Is it possible to only convert a portion of the parcel proposed for the cemetery? The south west chunk is already segregated from the reserve due to the road and that makes sense to convert to me. The north east parcel though encroaches more into the natural preserve. We should think strongly about giving up the forest space because once it's gone it can't be recovered.
4/25/2022	Janet Carlson	I believe this expansion is needed. Veterans deserve to have burial sites that are convenient for families.
4/25/2022	Jeff Bilsky	We respect the historic nature of the Preserve and the agreement to perpetually maintain the National Cemetery. But expansion has not been part of the deal. Expanding the cemetery into the proposed east section cuts directly into the only-recently established (and planted) oak savanna. The west section that is proposed to be made into a cemetery holds great potential for multiple natural uses including a native seed nursery, group gathering area (off the parking lot) or other unexplored options.
4/26/2022	Major General William D. R. Waff, US Army (Retired)	Fully support the expansion for both in-ground and columbarium internments as this will provide a more accessible northeastern Illinois (Lake County/northern Cook County) option to the Lincoln National Cemetery.
4/26/2022	DAVID R HARTNETT	Well I was going to come but after talking to the place, I founf out that they have ramps but the doors will have to be held open by someone. I hate building that want me to hold my own door open and wheel my chair in. I am in favor for the expansion. I am a Veit Nam vet.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
4/26/2022	Michelle Franck	It is unclear what the boundary will be between the proposed new sections of the cemetery and the trail. It would be unfortunate to have a fence or wall that separates the two spaces, especially considering that the new boundary appears quite close to the existing trail. The open nature of the space should be maintained. This forest preserve and access/proximity to the lake is invaluable to the area and all efforts should be made to keep the trails fully open during construction.
4/26/2022	Michelle Franck	Parking is already an issue for the preserve and the popularity of the area to visitors in the COVID era has had a significant and often negative impact on Fort residents (i.e. noise, trash, traffic, etc.). If the existing small parking lot for the cemetery will be closed, even temporarily during construction, it will have a negative impact on the community. I hope steps will be taken to minimize such impacts and address future needs of the area.
4/26/2022	R Duresa	If this expansion goes through, I would like to see comparable grounds keeping as what's provided at Lincoln, Ft. Bliss, Great Lakes, Arlington, or Snake River Canyon for instance. The grounds at Ft Sheridan are kept at a subpar level, basically minimal care which DOES NOT properly represent the National Cemetery or those who are interred/inured there. Turf cuttings are splattered on headstones/footstones, ruts are left behind from mowing equipment, and turf is not regular trimmed by plots.
4/26/2022	Michelle Franck	I am generally in support of the proposal to expand the cemetery, but I do wonder if it makes the most sense given that eventually, they will again be facing capacity issues and there is finite space available. Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve is a truly special place, and I hope only that all effort is made to balance the value of this space to the public against the desire to expand the cemetery. I wonder if perhaps it may be more prudent to divert cemetery resources to a new, larger site.
4/26/2022	Thomas Strossner	I am a Vietnam veteran and I am in favor of the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. I am planning on being interred at Lincoln National Cemetery. As long as we continue to have veterans we need to have the availability in National Cemeteries. These cemeteries are a dignified and serene resting place.
4/27/2022	Jacqueline Walton	My husband Robert's last assignment w/ the Army was in 1970-1971 w/ the 204th MP group & he was assigned to Fort Sheridan. We have lived in Lake County for 35 years & it would make it much easier for family to visit the grave site. How fitting that he could choose to be buried there when he passes. He had plans to be buried at Abraham Lincoln because they still allow for casket burials. It would be nice if more property would become available for casket burials at Fort Sheridan. Thank u for caring.
4/27/2022	Brian J Loshbough	As the area WEST of the current cemetery has been already manipulated, changed and re-contoured by the history of military use, that should be the only part available to the Cemetery to use as needed. The area to the EAST, though no doubt also with a history of manipulation, is true wetland and a relatively 'natural area' of the LCFP, and should NOT be for Cemetery use. It is a good transition area from the Cemetery to the rest of the Ft Sheridan FP. (I use/access Ft Sher. FP, nearly daily)
4/27/2022	Brian J Loshbough	The Fed Gov (Army Reserve and National Cemetery) would best NOT USE ANY of this proposed land for cemetery function: rather, the large empty, un-used parking lots of the Army Reserve should be used by the Fed gov for cemetery needs. Also the Fed gov needs to be a leader in space conservation - the columbarium/grave spots can be much more condensed, using up less land. Best to NOT DONATE ANY of this LCFP land to Fed gov. / (I volunteer with LCFP regularly)
4/27/2022	David C	As a veteran and resident of lake county, I support the transfer from both sides. As a Veteran having interment areas is beneficial as this is not a large VA Cemetery. As a resident, the annual maintenance cost is not cheap and it will save operational dollars and staff time.
4/27/2022	ROBERT STANLEY	While I have great respect for the historic Ft. Sheridan Cemetery and the service of those interred there, I also greatly value the increasingly rare native landscapes that are rapidly being destroyed. There is already so very little of predevelopment Illinois left that we must jealously guard and protect those few threatened natural areas that remain. The blufftop prairie and oak savanna at Lake County's Ft. Sheridan Preserve is priceless and should not be turned into a turf-covered cemetery.
4/27/2022	John Grandfield	As an officer in both the VFW post 4551 and the American Legion post 748, I would like you to know that I wholeheartedly support this addition to the Fort Sheridan Cemetery. I believe it's a much needed addition for future years
4/28/2022	tommy k yamashita	Sir, I am a veteran having served in the Marines Corps from 1962 till 1966. I live in Kane county and feel that an expanded Military cemetery in Northern Il. would be beneficial for others like myself. Thank you for your time.
4/28/2022	Mary Mueller	It looks like a lovely addition to the existing cemetery. I especially like the Columbaria, the Committal Shelter & the additional trees. The cemetery needs more trees & landscaping to enhance the property & give it a more pastoral atmosphere. I think these additions will add to the honor & solemnity of the men who are interred here.
4/29/2022	Stanley Dietzel	I'm fine with the expansion on the west side of the current cemetery boundary. If you need more space, you should take more land on the west or north and west, where the parking lots are, rather than expanding to the east. The parking lots are never used much anyway. Tearing up the space to the east will have an impact on the hiking in the forest preserve and will only enable a small expansion of the cemetery. Please consider expanding only west and northwest, and leaving the east be.
4/29/2022	Janet Lapinski	I'm not sure how I feel about this. Ft Sheridan Cemetery is a peaceful and solemn place. The only sound you hear is the birds singing in the trees (especially the Hawks). The current parking is also not enough for what you are planning on building. Ft Sheridan is an important fly way for migratory birds. If you cut down the big trees and plow down the prairie what will be the environmental impact? Also, Abraham Lincoln NC is huge! Why do you need to destroy the character of Ft Sheridan?
4/29/2022	Bernadette Moran	Fort Sheridan is a haven for living veterans. The grounds have been a source of peace and mental health for so many. Please do not take that away from the living veterans who walk the paths and also the public who seek refuge and contentment. The veterans and community need this safe place now more than ever. It shows respect to supply veterans with as much beautiful nature as possible in gratitude for their service. We need to be sensitive to their needs. Isn't this what they fought for?
4/30/2022	Gustavus Bahr	There are several homes to the north of the cemetery, and the army corps and open lands have had several projects that have removed significant trees, and now exposes those home to views of the cemetery. Any growth in the cemetery should incorporate designs that buffer those views, such as heavy landscaping to the northern ends, smaller structures that blend into the natural environment, and parking areas that are hidden from the residential areas, for example maintaining them to the south end.
4/30/2022	Stephen Ryan	To: Lake County Board Members I live in Lake Bluff and I attended the open house for the Ft Sheridan Cemetery, viewed the exhibits and spoke with NCA, VA & LCFPD folks. I regularly have hiked and walked my dog at Ft Sheridan since 1999. Much effort on the part of many people, organizations and public funds have gone into making the preserve an exceptional natural area. It should remain such. I am totally opposed to expansion of the cemetery here, there are more appropriate places in Illinois.
5/1/2022	Michael Peck	On behalf of the island lake memorial VFW post 2486 and it's 300 members we support the transfer of 50 acres to the VA national cemetery. In light of what's happened at the Abraham Lincoln national cemetery the Care being given to Fort Sheridan has been very appropriate

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/1/2022	reid	Test
5/3/2022	Donnie Dann	Strongly oppose the destruction of natural habitat for the cemetery expansion. There are other options as per the public comment by Sonny Cohen, with whom I fully agree.
5/4/2022	Mary Lou Mellon	I strongly oppose the transfer of Lake County Forest Preserve District Land to the Veteran's Administration.
5/4/2022	Patrick G Sullivan	I am opposed to this ill conceived plan.
5/4/2022	Nancy Tikalsky	I strongly oppose the transfer of LCFPD land at Ft. Sheridan to the Veteran's administration(VA)!! Replacing portions of the bluff-top prairie and oak savanna with cement structures is not consistent with the LCFPD mission. This hard-fought-for preserve is an invaluable and diminishing refuge for native plants and animals. The US govt has adjacent property in an unused Nat'l Guard lot; there are 155 national cemeteries: 11 are in Illinois (7% of total) and 5 of these have available burial. Nancy
5/4/2022	Lisa Maier	I want to add my voice in opposition to the proposed cemetery expansion. It appears the construction will add a lot on concrete to a natural area. Fort Sheridan is such a rare, high quality nature preserve in a crowded area that any part of it should be kept natural. It is home to many species of plants, animals and hosts a slough of migratory and nesting birds. I doubt this is the only option the VA has and should explore nearby lots that don't involve destroying part of a nature preserve.
5/4/2022	Daniel Suarez	I strongly oppose the transfer of public land, even if it is for a noble cause like in this case. It sets a terrible precedent that can be used in the future to further diminish the already small fraction of conservation lands left in our region. Under no circumstances should public land, paid for by taxpayer dollars, be turned over for development. It goes against the mission of the Lake County Forest Preserves and signals to the public that our natural heritage is dispensable.
5/4/2022	Vera Miller	As a Chicago-area resident who values our treasured forest preserves, I'm writing to urge you to reconsider or pursue other options for expanding the cemetery such that it does not convert adjacent natural land to concrete. With the extreme loss of habitat in Illinois for birds and wildlife, every acre of our preserves that remains in natural condition is of supreme importance for biodiversity. I oppose the transfer of Forest Preserve District Land to the Veterans Administration. Thank you.
5/4/2022	Josh Engel	Please no more development at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve. It's such a special place, with its intact ecosystem and wonderful birdlife and wildlife. Any further removal of wildlife habitat is only a negative for the preserve.
5/4/2022	Dennis Endicott	No. I am opposed to the transfer of the Forest Preserve land back to the US Govt. This is a very important emerging wildlife habitat. Other, less detrimental, options are available for cemetery expansion.
5/4/2022	David Taliaferro	I oppose the plan to transfer Forest Preserve property to the US Government. The proposed use is as a cremation cemetery grounds, which is inconsistent with the existing natural state of the parcel. The VA has plenty of alternate sites, and I have seen no evidence that this is the only site that is suitable. The Forest Preserve should be at the forefront of maintaining every acre it owns.
5/4/2022	Lee Witkowski	I wholeheartedly condemn the selling of Lake County Forest Preserve District property to the Veteran's Administration. Your name states that your "purpose in life" is to preserve forests. Selling natural lands that have already been established and converting it to a park setting with concrete structures is a violation of your charter. Be true to yourself and abandon this foolish endeavor.
5/4/2022	Matthew Morelli	As a Highland Park resident who lives about a few mile from this I support this project.
5/4/2022	Robert F. Kusel	My father was retired Army, Captain who served overseas during World War Two. As such, I am very sympathetic of the need to expand the National Cemetery. At the same time, we must recognize the need to protect the remaining open spaces held in public trust by the Forest Preserve of Cook County. Toward providing critical habitat for our amazing variety of animals and plants during challenging times. Land to the north of the cemetery owned by the Government is a better option. RFK
5/4/2022	jo arceneaux	Awesome!
5/4/2022	Lady	Thank you for giving back to our veterans. The site is beautiful.
5/4/2022	Jackie	I am very proud of LCFP for assisting our VA. The plans are lovely. If you hadn't shared this information with the public, I would have thought it was already part of the national cemetery. This is the perfect location for the columbarium. Thank you for doing this for our veterans and for sharing it with our community.
5/4/2022	Mark Luscombe	I oppose the use of a natural area set aside as a nature preserve for expanding the national cemetery with a columbarium on a concrete slab. Alternative sites are available for the columbarium that would not destroy a natural area.
5/4/2022	Paula Grandolph	Thank you LCFPD for supporting our military. The land surrounding the existing cemetery would appear to already be part of Fort Sheridan Cemetery. The plans to expand it are beautiful. It is commendable that the forest preserve is sharing this information with the community. I wish our Federal government were as forthcoming and transparent. Great job!
5/4/2022	Monique Kane	This site is a beautiful resting place. Thank you for supporting our veterans and their families.
5/4/2022	Brenda Petite	This is a beautiful space. So thrilled to see our military men and women given this lovely area for memorial purposes.
5/5/2022	Julie Bova	Thank you to the veterans for your support and service!
5/5/2022	Patrick Macellaro	I'm a Highland Park resident and I am in support of this initiative for our veterans. Thank you.
5/5/2022	Melissa	Thank you LCFPD! What a wonderful way to honor our Military, such a beautiful place for families to visit and remember their loved ones. The plans for expansion are beautiful. Keep up the good work, and Thank you for what you do for our country and military.
5/5/2022	Emily Kenny	Replacing portions of the bluff-top prairie and oak savanna with cement structures is not consistent with the LCFPD mission. I am against this proposal. There is already a parking lot adjacent to this area that could be built on for this project. Natural open spaces are limited and should be left open.
5/5/2022	John Bisiules	This plan looks great and would be an amazing addition to the community.
5/5/2022	Marci Watts	I fully support the transfer of land to increase the size of our veteran cemetery. Veterans have given so much to us; it is the least we can do to make sure there is a restful final home where family and friends can honor them.
5/5/2022	Malinda Crosby	Great work! This is important well beyond the veteran community and their families. The sacrifice made by this community should be a priority for us all.
5/5/2022	Amy Miller	Leaving a comment in support of this initiative! Thank you for what you are doing for our vets!
5/5/2022	John Murray	The land transfer would allow Veterans their families and widows the opportunity to call Lake County their final resting place. Its paramount for the states second largest Veteran populated county (30,000) to grant this land transfer and have a location for Veterans to visit loved ones and comrades. Lake County also houses the ONLY US Navy Recruit Training Command, a MEPS, Army Reserve Center at Fort, a USMC Reserve Detachment and the Captain James. A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	Michael Peck	325 million Americans owe their freedoms to 3 million young men and women in service today the least we can do is honor them when they make the ultimate sacrifice please continue the spirit of Fort Sheridan And continue ithe cemeteries operation and add the needed land thank you
5/5/2022	Joy Baumunk	As the wife of a 100% Disabled Veteran, who is dealing with Parkinson's disease as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange (Dioxin), I would like to see this expansion as a way to accommodate additional Veterans and their families. I think a Veteran's Cemetery is a much better use of this land than another housing development or playground (park, golf course, etc.) for non-Veterans. There is not enough land set aside now for the Veterans who deserve to be buried in a Veterans Cemetery.
5/5/2022	Paul Baumunk	As a Vietnam veteran who is 100% disabled with Parkinson's Disease as a result of exposure to Agent Orange (Dioxin), I am in favor of this expansion to accommodate additional Veterans and their families. I think a Veteran's Cemetery is a much better use of this land than another housing development or playground (park, golf course, etc.) for non-Veterans. There is currently not enough land set aside for Veterans who deserve to be buried in a National Veterans Cemetery.
5/5/2022	Summer Padoan	With an incredible number of Veterans located in and around Lake and Cook County that want to be buried close for family visitation. Ft. Sheridan has been severely limited for many years. Less space for veterans in Ft. Sheridan means families must either pay for private lots, or veterans must be buried further away in Abraham Lincoln or another VA cemetery. Brining this land back will increase much needed capacity for Veteran burials.
5/5/2022	John DeGroot	Please support the expansion of the cemetery for our nations heroes anything less is unacceptable.
5/5/2022	patrick j mcconnell	I support this. As a 78 year old vet, I would be honored to be buried there assuming I am eligible.
5/5/2022	ELVIN NICHOLASON FERGUSON	The addition property would be a gift for the service men of northern illinois
5/5/2022	Po Lin Peck	The expansion of Fort Sheridan cemetery is necessary it will provide comfort to the family of the veteran to have their hero close by. We are a free country because of our heroes and they deserve the best we can give
5/5/2022	Greg Padovani	Please move forward with the transfer of land to the Ft Sheridan National Cemetery. This is a VERY importan issue for veterans. Thanks!
5/5/2022	Russell e hengels	I think it's is a good and special time for this to be
5/5/2022	MICHAEL CRAMER	THIS WOULD BE A GODSEND TO MY FAMILY TO HAVE MY TIME IN THE ARMY HONORED BY ALLOWING ME TO BE INTERRED CLOSE TO MY HOME OF ALL MY LIFE... I.E. DEERFIELD....
5/5/2022	Richard WOODRUFF	As a Vietnam Era veteran I am in favor of expanding the Fort Sheridan cemetery. Fort Sheridan is a historical location perfect as a final resting place honoring our veterans.
5/5/2022	David Alexander	I think this land proposal is a great idea. The idea that veterans can be buried locally and relatives can visit their family members graveside is wonderful. Best Regards
5/5/2022	Bruce Luxon	The Ft. Sheridan Nat'l Cemetery is an exceedingly important asset to older veterans such as myself, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. My wife is buried there and it is a beautiful site which is very well maintained. I live in Mundelein and Lake County is privileged to host the National Cemetery. It is my firm opinion that the proposed expansion is very worthwhile and will add immensely to the aesthetics and utility of the site. Please get this proposal approved and implemented.
5/5/2022	Major General (Retired) James H. Mukoyama, Jr.	As a life-long resident of Northern Illinois and a disabled,retired veteran, I hereby submit my support for the extension of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. This part of the nation has had millions of men and women serve in the Armed Forces of our nation and should have the opportunity to be permanently honored by burial in this national cemetery maintained in perpetuity by grateful citizens. It would provide a convenient location for the family and loved ones of the Veterans to visit.
5/5/2022	William A. Hume	I approve of transfer of the property and the Columbarium Layout concept as presented. I am a Viet Nam veteran who has lived in Lake County, IL for over 40 years and would welcome the opportunity for internment close to home in the National Cemetery. I would like to see the Committal Shelters be of significant size to host a gathering of 60 or so people. I am not clear as to the parking situation for services. Is there one large parking lot and attendee's are bused out to the various shelters
5/5/2022	Carlos Perez	As many veterans we have in northern Illinois, the expansion would be a logical solution for our local veterans and loved ones in NE Illinois. Please allow expansion for those who provided for this nation and it's citizens. The proposal benefits all parties involved. Thank you.
5/5/2022	Robert Walter Reczek	I am a veteran, and was considering the Lincoln national cemetery, If this is an option for me, as an alternative, it would be great as it is closer to home for family members to visit. We all live in Arlington Hts., IL.
5/5/2022	Vince Dante	I support it!
5/5/2022	John M DeLapp	Several comrades from the military are buried in th Ft Sheridan cemetery. I have given instructions to my famil that the Ft Sheridan cemetery is my first choice Evan though I am eligible for Arlington National Cemetery I support its expansion John DeLapp Colonel. U. S. Army (ret)
5/5/2022	Eddie Perry	Yes that would be great I'm viet nam disable vet how do I go about getting me an my wife a burial spot there thanks for thinking for us thank you
5/5/2022	Kenneth Ruesch	This design is absolutely beautiful! It is about time! I retired at Ft Sheridan and was absolutely amazed that DOD said the VA didn't offer enough money to purchase the additional at the time the post closed. Way to go!
5/5/2022	John Rosberg	I support this transfer ... good for everyone involved.
5/5/2022	Sal (Terry) Tomaso	As an Honorable Discharged Navy veteran, I had plans upon my death, to be buried at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. My biggest concern was the distance from my residence and the time it would take for my family. I was very pleased to hear about the Fort Sheridan Cemetery and the possible expansion of same. That would be much closer for travel and future visits for family, since we all live in the North and Northwest Suburban areas. I sure hope the proposed transfer occurs.
5/5/2022	Lisa Naftzger-Kang	I concur with the plan to expand the Ft Sheridan National Cemetery to meet the needs of future Veterans in the area.
5/5/2022	Frank Udell	Any time and/or anyway to honor our Veterans is an issue that deserves our utmost and immediate attention. These are young people who have sworn to uphold our constitution and basically are willing to give up their lives if necessary, in support of our country and the citizens of this country. They deserve every consideration.
5/5/2022	John P Marquardt	This is an Honorable Request to show Tribute to our Fallen Soldiers now and in the future. As we all know, and as unfortunate as it will be, we will always have Fallen Hero's that need a final resting place for the families to sit and talk, to their Fathers, Mothers, Husbands, Wife and Sons and Daughters. Some that are not even born yet but we know they will have a place to be Honored.
5/5/2022	Jennifer N. Askin	I'm a USAF Veteran. I served when Fort Sheridan was active as a 5th Army unit. I needed the assistance of the JAG office because I legally enlisted at seventeen years old in 1973. Anyone interred there EARNED the right to be in a NATIONAL CEMETERY and RESPECT of this nation. I think that more than 5 acres should be transferred. The United States has never taken foreign soil after wars for any other purpose than to bury our dead. This should apply as well with no limits to our homeland. Thanks
5/5/2022	William Dearhammer	Anything that can be done to honor our veterans would be most deserved and appreciated. Thank you Lake County for your donation.



## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	Walter G Roth	The plans, as outlined, are beautiful. And the fact that a mere five acres is adequate to allowing for 50 more years of burials is awesome. I have attended a number of burial services at Fort Sheridan and the Columbarium with shelter is a beautiful addition and will provide families with a protected area during services as well as a beautiful area in which to bury their loved ones. There has obviously been some great thought in planning this area.
5/5/2022	Leslie Deffner	I am a third generation Navy veteran, a 20+ year resident of Lake County, a Waukegan, IL homeowner, and active member of the Gurnee American Legion Post 771. I currently serve as my post's Sergeant-At-Arms, and more importantly, the Captain of my post's Honor Guard. I fully support the the transfer of 4.7 acres of the Lake County Forest Preserves. Northern Lake County has a deep and rich veteran community, and their families ought to have someplace close for their loved ones who served.
5/5/2022	Dale Arnold	I believe this is a good idea. We need more cemetery space closer to heavily populated areas and Ft. Sheridan is a beautiful setting.
5/5/2022	Chris McNulty	Please allow the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. This is much needed in our area and will be created and maintained with much respect given to adjoining areas Thank you C. McNulty
5/5/2022	Alexannder Brenke	I think that if the land iss available there could be no better use than to honor those that have servered the country and gave thier life for our freedom.I for one can see no negative to having a place that honors our nations heros.This is the perfect place to teach our children about the sacrifice these men and weman have made for them. Whhen our country called they left jobs and family some never comming back there should be a place for them to rest in eternal peace!
5/5/2022	Col Joe Almodovar (Ret)	I fully support the expansion and proposed design. The ability to gather our veteran community deceased in such a magnificent site/locate is greatly appreciated and needed. I could not be any happier with what is being proposed.
5/5/2022	JOHN A DEREU	This expansion is needed. There are many veterans in the area who voluntarily sacrificed for others. Give them a decent place to rest.
5/5/2022	Robert Colby	I support this expansion. WWII and Korea veterans are dying in record numbers. We need to accommodate these brave individuals. The Cemetary needs more space!
5/5/2022	Jack Bowser,sr	I'm glad to hear that the Ft Sheridan Cemetery is going to be expanded. I would be proud to be interned there with fellow comrades who served our great country. My service was in the Army in the 1960's. Please let me know what is necessary to reserve a place and if spouses can also be buried here. Jack Bowser 1st Lt
5/5/2022	john billis	I believe that this will be a good use of the forest preserve land. It will be used for a good cause.
5/5/2022	Lieutenant Commander Daniel S. McDevitt, U.S. Navy (Retired)	I would strongly support establishment of a National Cemetery at Fort Sheridan. I entered the Navy in 1967 at Great Lakes Naval Base, and ended my career at the Naval Intelligence Center at Fort Sheridan in 1998. The nearest National Cemetery is in Will County, IL, and a location at Fort Sheridan would make it much easier for Veterans and their Family members to travel there. In addition, the fact that Fort Sheridan was an active U.S. Army Base for many years would make it a fitting site.
5/5/2022	Robert Walton	I am glad there is a plan to honor more veterans. I am disappointed that there is no room for in ground burials since my last duty station was the 204th Military Police Company at Fort Sheridan. It would have been an extreme honor to be buried there. I will be buried at Abraham Lincoln instead.
5/5/2022	Tim McNulty	I support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan cemetery
5/5/2022	Bob Brostoski	Pledge my support to use small amount of acreage for our Veterans. It seems like the development adjoining would jump at the chance to provide a resting place to rest those that sacrificed for them to have the freedom to have such nice residences
5/5/2022	Tom Zasadil SFC USA Retired	Great for Vets & family in north part of state. Abe Lincoln over 50 miles away Possibly can be good for Wisconsin & Iowa Vets & family
5/5/2022	William J Dierks	As a Viet Nam veteran I strongly support the plan to expand the cemetery.
5/5/2022	Steven R Baron	I'm in agreement with the proposed exchange plan. It appears well designed and honors the Veterans in our community.
5/5/2022	aa	Test to make sure the link is working
5/5/2022	Rochelle Crump	The National Women Veterans United is in full support of the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Military and veterans long to be among the roots of their military service with their comrades. That is applicable with retired or those who discharged honorably or those who became disabled and utilize the VA services near the Cemetery. So many military veterans and their families in the area would benefit from the expansion as many leave the military and not the area.
5/5/2022	Margaret Totin	Thank you for accommodating the Veterans. I believe that an additional 5 acres would be an excellent idea to honor those veterans who have honored all of us with their service. Thank you for the foresight to honor the veterans.
5/5/2022	JOSEPH J LICCESE	EVERY PERSON WHO WORE A MILITARY UNIFORM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED IS ENTITLED TO A PLOT OF AMERICAN EARTH WHEREVER IT MAY BE WHEN THEY PASS INTO ETERNAL SLEEP. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IF THEY WERE A 2 YEAR DRAFTEE, MAN OR WOMAN, OR A 30 YEAR VOLUNTEER, THEY ACCEPTED "THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE" AS A DUTY OF AN AMERICAN. ALLOW THEM TO REST IN PEACE.
5/5/2022	William Wagner	I agree with the transfer. This not only is reasonable for a veteran to end at a military site but also reduce district costs and lower lake county taxes.
5/5/2022	peter everts	Hi Lake County Forest Preserve District, Thank you for considering this proposal. I recently began taking walks through the Ft Sheridan Forest (Prairie) Preserve. I was flabbergasted to see the beautiful Cemetery for Veterans. I know as a veteran living on the North Shore I was very appreciative. I strongly support the expansion of the cemetery. The Veterans of Lake County deserve this. Many of us have fought in multiple wars. I believe this would enhance the forest preserve.
5/5/2022	Michael Shorten	I think this is a wonderful idea and support it, both as a veteran and citizen living in Lake County, IL.
5/5/2022	Alan A Goldman	I support the expansion of Ft Sheridans Cenetary. Furthermore I desire to be buried there as I also did duty there upon my return from Biet NAM . I urge the swift approval.
5/5/2022	Rich Bowman	The closest Veterans Cemetry to Lake County is in Elwood some 67 miles away. Not very reachable for our veterans in northern Ill. It would be a real blessing to have more avilability for veterans at th Ft. Sheridan facility. I would assume there would be availability for spouses as well. Thanks for your consideratio in this regard. Rich Bowman Vietnam Veteran Captain USAF
5/5/2022	Edward Searing	I grew up on the North Shore communities of Lincolnwood and Skokie. Ft Sheridan would be an ideal place for me to reside when the time comes. I fully support expansion of the cemetery for veterans. It should be more acreage.
5/5/2022	Dean Van Brunt	Love Veterans and love Forest Preserves. In this case, the Veterans that have given everything need a voice... In favor of VA proposal.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	Gilman L. Clark	I had the honor of serving at Fort Sheridan from 1976 to 1980 and have been concerned about the Cemetery's future. I strongly support the proposed expansion which is badly needed to insure that the remains of deserving military/veterans can be interred there. I have friends buried there and have often placed flags on graves for Memorial Day as a member of American Legion Post 264.
5/5/2022	Ken Yoshitani	I firmly believe that there must be adequate space for the final resting places for our veterans. If the expansion of land that Lake County is willing to donate will assure additional 50 years, I believe and urge that such additional land be accepted and made ready to have additional resting places for the veterans in the future. This is once in the century offer.
5/5/2022	Gary Heriford	I fully support the expansion of this and if necessary any VA cemetery.
5/5/2022	James Tiernan	I fully support this expansion.
5/5/2022	Deborah Nelson	I am a former Lake Forest resident at the time Fort Sheridan was active. I am now an American Legion Auxiliary member based in the Village of Arlington Heights where I serve on the Veterans Memorial Committee. My extended family and I, including my Marine father, wholeheartedly support this project. Let's devote the land that was originally intended for the military (not commercial purposes) to honor our Fallen Heroes. Sincerely, Deborah A. Nelson
5/5/2022	Jim Reynolds	Wood National is closed to interments. This leaves Fort Sheridan as one of the only options for Northeastern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. I feel we owe it the veterans and their families in these areas to increase the capacity of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. This will ensure the Veterans and their families will be able to access the honors the Veteran has earned without traveling up to one hundred miles to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.
5/5/2022	Michael Deets	Please allow the expansion of the Ft Sheridan National Cemetery.
5/5/2022	Daniel Baque	I support the cemetery expansion.
5/5/2022	John Schmidt	I would very much like to see the cemetery expanded. John Schmidt
5/5/2022	WARREN D. CUPLIN	I AM DEFINITELY IN FAVOR OF EXPANDING THE FORT SHERIDAN CEMETERY BY IN EXCESS OF 4 ACRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATION BY THE FEDERAL VA. THIS EXPANSION SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
5/5/2022	Bill Starr	To expand the graveyard for veterans to have a final resting place at Ft Sheridan just makes perfect sense. Veterans from the surrounding Chicago area have for years (even generations) identified with Ft Sheridan. My parents were married in the Ft Sheridan chapel. As a retired ARMY LTC, I could go to Arlington or, of course, Joliet. But I certainly would rather be buried at a location where my children and grandchildren can actually visit my grave. Please expand the area.
5/5/2022	Eldon Wilson	Approx 13% of the total U.S. population are veterans that have served, protected, sacrificed and died so that others can live peacefully in the greatest country the world has ever know. While some have avoided service for various reasons, let those that have served rest in honorable and in peace. It's just property, so protest if you may, but it will be here long after we are gone,
5/5/2022	Joseph Trimble	I am ecstatic to hear that you are going to expand the Ft Sheridan Cemetery! I just wish that you could expand even bigger in order to go past the projected 50 year planned occupancy and insure that it will be available to veterans even more into the future. Both of my parents are interred in the cemetery (both are WWII veterans), and I & my wife would like to join them when it's our time. Thank you
5/5/2022	Lawrence Uelk	When DeGaulle told Eisenhower he wanted the American GI's out of his country, Secretary of State Dulles wanted to know if that included all the buried Americans in French Cemeteries, as well. That also applies in this country, as well. We all enjoy the freedoms given to us by the American Servicemen but there are some who don't wish to be reminded of the sacrifice of others! Are these the draft dodgers or simply the Illinois elite? All gave some. Some gave all. Don't forget it.
5/5/2022	Norris C Aycox	As a 20-year Air Force retiree, I truly understand and support and hope that others support the proposed 4.7-acre transfer which will provide capacity for at least 50 additional years of burial needs for Veterans.
5/5/2022	SMSgt. George R. Macri USAF Ret	I support the expansion of the VA Cemetery of Fort Sheridan.
5/5/2022	Amy Lonergan	I am a Probate attorney and often deal with Veterans of limited means. Most of the time, they are required to be buried at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery which is a long drive from here. Many of their family do not have access to transportation to allow them to go that far to visit their relatives. There should be more spaces available that are accessible to these loved ones in Lake County. If not here, then elsewhere.
5/5/2022	Michael G Bogmenko	Please extend the Veterans Cemetery by Ft Sheridan due to the limited support the State of Illinois gives to career military like myself. A peaceful resting place would be a plus. Sincerely LTC Michael Gustave Bogmenko Ret. USAR
5/5/2022	Ronald S. Mangum	I support the expansion but I am concerned about the release of the perpetual care requirement. \$35,000 is not much money these days, but future caretakers may slack off on the maintenance of the property. Is there a compromise?
5/5/2022	Fergal Gallagher	The Fort Sheridan National Cemetery would be very desirable for veterans and their families because the location in Elwood requires at least a three to four hour trip. I vote for it.
5/5/2022	Brodrick Burmaster	I support the expansion
5/5/2022	Wynn Hulings	I am totally in support of this project!!
5/5/2022	Clifford Hulings	I am in support of this project!! Navy VET.
5/5/2022	Michael L Hirvela	It seems to this veteran that the proposal is a Win-Win for all involved. I recommend proceed with the transfer.
5/5/2022	Jim Morrison	Please support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Thank You!
5/5/2022	Moody Jason	Please expand
5/5/2022	Diane Hicks	I am against the 4.7 acres of district property going to the Federal Government for cemetery use. Instead of using district lands, The US govt has immediately adjacent property in what appears to be a mostly unused Nat'l Guard parking lot. The VA should pursue that option among others.
5/5/2022	James Thies	Hello, As an Army and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, I do support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. It is a good use of the land and does provide a closer cemetery for veterans and their families to visit their loved ones who have served. I really think that it should move forward.
5/5/2022	John Kraft	Please move forwards with transferring the 50 acres of Forest Preserve property to the Fort Sheridan Cemetery. Thanks.
5/5/2022	Jerry Cleveland	I think this initiative is a great undertaking for the benefit of many who served our nation to keep our land and people free.
5/5/2022	Albert R Scott	We need it.....period!! No more comment necessary!
5/5/2022	Jim Browne	Approve the transfer!!!!
5/5/2022	Scott	This is a worthwhile project. Thanks for supporting our veterans.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	James DeRousse	Excellent idea, Hope it happens. I played Golf past the current commentary for years and even lost a few balls in it. Beautiful View for the mourners. Us Vets deserve a nice place to rest in for eternity. Why don't the send the German war prisoners Home that are resting there. I'm sure their relatives would like that.
5/5/2022	Jim Kusper	Glad to this happening. I see a growing need for these services and any added space will be appreciated. At such an historic location makes it all the better. Thank You
5/5/2022	Mike Gray	Grew up at Fort Sheridan and am now vet. There's no reason not to allow this expansion.
5/5/2022	Marieta Maaba Esteban	The expansion project is an excellent idea to thank veterans for serving the country, sacrificing their lives to protect the United States of America.
5/5/2022	Vito Virgilio	I agree with the expansion we should do what ever we can to help our veterans.
5/5/2022	Stan Fleming	These men and women served their country. We need to serve them as well!
5/5/2022	Kenneth Bergo	I support the expansion of Ft. Sheridan National Cemetery..
5/5/2022	Mariya Burke	This is a small price to pay for the heroes who put their lives on the line for our country and our freedom. Please, approve this project - let our heroes rest in peace..
5/5/2022	Eric C Lewis	This cemetery expansion would be extremely important to a vast number of Veterans in this Northern area. Just as important for their love ones, who would not have to go so, so, far to visit their love one when they are gone. It would be an honor for this area to expand the cemetery to support our fallen Soldiers. This would be so much more than just providing extra space, for a military love one. It would be providing a final resting place for many who has given their lives, to this country.
5/5/2022	John Mathson	It's a true privilege to support this honorable expansion. We owe so much to our veterans and this small effort is the least we can do for those who dedicated their lives to us.
5/5/2022	Jan Motsinger	I support the expansion
5/5/2022	Gregory Doerfler	The sacred trust and financial of the district to preserve the veterans cemetery is being lightened by the transfer of only 5 acres of land. A small price to pay for a group of individuals who have sacrificed for their country. The solitude and reflection that can take place for all would be preserved and maintained without expense to the community. Such a small sacrifice by the community to preserve the memories of service members of this country.
5/5/2022	Gina Jeffries	I am in support of this project.
5/5/2022	Leslie scott	Brother was buried at Salisbury National and support was excellent. Better and deserve this type of support considering the service a better an provided
5/5/2022	Martha Jones	Yes definitely use the acreage to further expand the fort Sheridan County veterans cemetery. These men and women served to protect the freedom we all enjoy. That's the least we can do to give them a final resting place.
5/5/2022	Joseph Pasternak	Dear Sirs/Madam As a veteran whom had served at Ft. Sheridan in the past strongly recommending the approval of adding 50 acres to the exciting cemetery for the VA use for veterans burial purposes. This addition will be in a secluded place with no harm done to the rest of your acres or to the public which I am sure would approve of this transfer as well.
5/5/2022	Roger Anthony McGill	I think the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery - is just a Great Idea for those Veterans that want to be buried up here. The Abraham National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. is Great, but a long way for family members to travel to that live in the North part of Chicago and the Northern Burbs - this location would server the Veterans well up in this area, and their family members to visit their loved one Veteran grave site. Thank You. Vietnam Veteran 3/4 Cav Cu Chi Vietnam 25th Inf Division '65-'66
5/5/2022	Jack A. Reiff	I support the VA's request for the transfer of approximately 4.7 acres of District property.
5/5/2022	Kevin Pumphrey	I support the Ft Sheridan expansion.
5/5/2022	Joseph Steinfels	In today's ever-more divided America, the military provides one of the last bastions where Americans are able to effectively transcend the artificial strata we create for ourselves in which to be categorized and excluded. As a 25-year Marine from Chicago, I met and bonded with men and women from across this great nation. A cemetery is not only an opportunity to honor those gone, but also to set an example of service, commitment, and inclusion to tomorrow's leaders.
5/5/2022	Will Mix	I support the cemetery expansion
5/5/2022	Gregory Jones	As a Lake County resident, I support the use of the Lake County Forest property to extend the Veteran's cemetery.
5/5/2022	Kyna M Simpson	I fully support the transfer of 50 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan cemetery. The expansion is necessary to meet the needs of our veterans. As a former Navy Reservist, I understand how important it is for out Veterans to be taken care of, even after death. The Ft Sheridan area is a beautiful place for that.
5/5/2022	Eldridge Chavez	I support the expansion.
5/5/2022	Chris Kramer	I wholeheartedly support this cause to expand this historic cemetery. At the latter portion on my Army career I served on the U.S. Army funeral honors team. I participated in several committal services there. I have made known to my family I want to be buried at Fort Sheridan National Cemetery with my fellow brother's and sister that have gone before me. I am almost 58 years old and at the current rate stated I won't be able to be interred there. Please make this happen.
5/5/2022	Richard E. Johnson	As a 40 year Army veteran the need for those who served in time of war, conflicts and peace should have the opportunity to be buried in a Military Cemetery without complaints from local residences. Illinois has had many people who have served, so respect there wish and their families for a dignified military buriel and being laid to rest with other service members. If the Ukraine situation was in there back yard and complained they would not be around long to receive an answer.
5/5/2022	Earl N. Roden	I support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. A site in the Chicago Greater Metropolitan area is greatly needed and will be greatly appreciated Thank you for moving forward with this project.
5/5/2022	Joseph Clare	Please allow the transfer of your Forest District land to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Our strength and freedoms as a country have always rested on the shoulders of our veterans and they should have a designated solemn place to rest when God takes them to their eternal reward. 4.7 acres is not a lot to ask for when it will provide for years of burial plots for our service men and women. Please allow this land transfer to take place for our esteemed veterans. Thank you.
5/5/2022	Lee E Baker	Please expand the cemetery because there a lot of veterans in the area, and the driving distance is closer than Abraham Lincoln in Edgewood IL My plan is to be buried there, long with my wifr, if allowed
5/5/2022	Frederick Wingfield	They served, gave this country free access to their lives and some sacrificed their lives so we can enjoy our freedoms. These veterans both male and female deserve and should be entitled to a honorable burial.
5/5/2022	James McCurdy	All veterans placed their lives on the line to ensure our freedom. We should provide them a place to rest when that day arrives. It's important that we recognize this fact.
5/5/2022	Michael Hoffman	Fully support the cemetery expansion.
5/5/2022	Conrad Gutraj	I think this is a wonderful idea and project. I fully support it and ask the LCFPD to do the the same. I may choose this cemetery as my final resting place. Thank you for your consideration.
5/5/2022	COL(Retired) Gerry L Suchanek	The additional space is critical for honorable burial of our many Chicago area veterans who served, most in combat areas during recent years. They earned this right and privilege.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	Phil Graver	I fully endorse the transfer for the expansion of the cemetery. The sacrifices of generations of Americans deserve to be honored and acknowledged. The freedom and prosperity enjoyed by its neighbors is only possible because of the sacrifices made by each and every one of the deaths represented by the markers. What a small price to pay for such devotion to America's ideals.
5/5/2022	Fred Woods	If you cannot bury us, do not send us.
5/5/2022	Albert Gentile	I support this! Thankyou, Albert
5/5/2022	Gary Nolan	I support the transfer of district land and the expansion of Ft Sheridan National Cemetery.
5/5/2022	Thomas Bennett	I fully support the expansion of the Ft. Sheridan National Cemetery, as this is very important to ensure that veterans will continue to have a secure location for interment well into the future.
5/5/2022	Charles A. Vassallo	I support theFort Sheridon Veterans cemetery project
5/5/2022	James Singler	The expansion of the Veterans Cemetery in Sheridan IL should be allowed to proceed for the benefit of local veterans families. Otherwise they would need to make a long journey to visit their loved one. Veteran families consideration should come first before any other project. Please give the brave veterans the proper respect.
5/5/2022	Rosemary Connolly	I support the transfer of 50 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan cemetery. The expansion is necessary to meet the needs of our veterans. The property being transferred is peaceful and secluded ~ a respect to our veterans.
5/5/2022	Philip Patterson	Expand the Fort Sheridan Cemetery
5/5/2022	Robert Neve	My brother Ronald Dale Neve Jr is buried in the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery and as a veteran I will be entitled to be buried there too...but only if there is room. We have gave everything for this nation and we are repaid with a subpar health care system a decent home buying program and the right to be buried in a national cemetery. Allow for area military families to be buried together in Fort Sheridan. Our service split our families in life, allow us to be together in death.
5/5/2022	Hayes Richard J	I fully support this initiative
5/5/2022	David Dory	I support the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. We need area's set aside for veterans.
5/5/2022	Lori Mouritsen	I support this plan. You need to plan for future generations of veterans. God bless America.
5/5/2022	Jacqueline Walton	I totally support the Lake County Forest Preserves transferring land to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Honoring those that served our country is important & a good use of this land esp. next to the historic Fort Sheridan grounds. Please make this happen.
5/5/2022	Dennis Regan	As a retired United States Army Master Sergeant, I served at Fort Sheridan during my career. I heartily endorse the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery in order to honor other veterans by providing them with an appropriate resting place. The Northern Suburbs of the Chicagoland Area needs this cemetery expansion more than the Community needs additional residential development. Thank you for reviewing my statement. Master Sergeant (retired) Dennis Regan
5/5/2022	Julie Pleviak	What is more important? If this land is not going to supporting and honoring veterans, then what is being done with the land? It is ironic that the veterans who made it possible for all American to have their freedoms can't be afforded another 5 acres of burial plot so that they can be honored for their sacrifices. Veterans have been passed over enough. Do the right and honorable thing here. As a veteran I fully support this land/property being used to honor the veterans!! Let us have the land!
5/5/2022	Daniel Tichenor	To whom it may concern: I encourage the District to honor the VA's request to transfer 4.7 acres to the Fort Sheridan Federal Cemetery. I think the trade of land for maintenance costs is more than fair. Especially in light of the sacrifice veterans have made and continue to make for the good of our country. As a former Marine and Viet Nam veteran, I understand the depth and significance of the commitment veterans make for us all. Thank you for allowing me to participate in this process.
5/5/2022	Michael McDorman	As a retired Air Force MSgt and a member of the VFW, American Legion and AMVETS, I support the transfer of 50 acres from the LCFP to the Ft. Sheridan cemetery. Thank you for your consideration.
5/5/2022	John Carobine	Speaking as a Lake County resident, I fully support this proposal and highly encourage every member of the Lake County Board to vote in the affirmative. Our veterans stood up and faithfully served when our nation called. We wouldn't have our democracy without their service and sacrifice. Let us honor their memory in the most visible way possible. It is the least we can and must do. Let us now call upon the Lake County Board to do its duty.
5/5/2022	Robert Chevas	Expand the fort Sheridan cemetery
5/5/2022	Robert Schenck	I have personally known several Lake County veterans who are buried in the Fort Sheridan cemetery. All served honorably defending our country. All veterans who want to so should be able to be buried in Lake County where they lived. In recent years many improvements have been made to this cemetery making it a pleasant place for relatives and friends to visit. This is the least that can be done for those who served our country so well and honorably.
5/5/2022	Shanya Ingram	I'm a fellow veteran who's in favor of the Ft. Sheridan Expansion.
5/5/2022	Amanda W	I support this project.
5/5/2022	Michael Gunter	We have fought in many foreign wars and we have asked for little from our allies or our enemies other than a space to bury our dead and they have always granted our request. Actually they are some of the most beautiful place on foreign soil and I can't see how any American would oppose having their area as the final resting place for our heroes. What was otherwise a preserve would become hallowed grounds that could be visited by their children/grandchildren with a history of their sacrifices
5/5/2022	Darrell Roll	I support the expansion - our veterans deserve our support to the end!
5/5/2022	Rolando Fuentes	WE NEED THE ACERAGE FOR THE VETERANS WHO SIGNED ON THE DATED LINE!!!
5/5/2022	Harry Hoehbauer	I am a VFW life member in Joliet IL. We have been defending Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery from warehouses development cutting off part of the land they are already have. Getting new land must also consider how it will be affected by its neighbors. The lawsuits have so far had caused a 2 year delay from further development but it is a costly issue. In the end the development will start but at a different location and still in interfere with cemetery operations.
5/5/2022	Francine Bentley	Definitely in favor of expanding the Fort Sheridan cemetery. Providing a final resting place for our veterans is the least we can do for them.
5/5/2022	JUAN M VENCES	Please explain Ft. Sheridan.
5/5/2022	WILLIAM ROBERTSON	As an Army Veteran of seventeen years, and have spent time Serving at Ft. Sheridan, I support the expansion of the cemetery
5/5/2022	CW4 Art Dutkovic (RET)	Expansion of the official Ft Sheridan cemetery is long over due and well deserved for all the Veterans that have served. Abraham Lincoln Cemetery is too far and too congested with traffic and Veterans deserve to finally rest in peace please?? Ft Sheridan already thousands of dead buried there from the Spanish flu in mass graves and the long overdue expansion of the official cemetery is truly needed now to meet future needs of Veterans that have given so much and have earned eternal peace.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/5/2022	Jim Parker	My Dad, Lt. Col. James A. Parker (USAF, Ret.), who served in Europe during WWII and in Korea during that war, is buried in a National Cemetery in Florida. As his proud son, I followed his lead when it came time for me to step up. I served in the USAF for seven years, including a tour in Viet Nam (1968-69). As a Chicago area resident for almost 50 years it is my wish to be buried in the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. I feel that the land transfer will ensure this will happen. Thank you. jp
5/5/2022	Patrick Guilfoyle	As a former Marine and disabled veteran i strongly support the addition to the national veterans cemetery. Hell it was theirs to begin with! Helloooo. OUT!!!
5/5/2022	C. Craig Kopstain	I most strongly support this acquisition of land to increase the size of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery, especially given the low overall cost. I am disappointed that full burial using coffins cannot be considered, for perhaps even the next five to fifteen years. The Lincoln National Cemetery near Joliet is so very far away for younger or working families living further north (near the Wisconsin border, or in Western Illinois) to visit. It is a beautiful National Cemetery tho.
5/5/2022	Joseph Geraci	Please allow the expansion of the Ft. Sheridan Cemetery to proceed without delay. Illinois Veterans have a long history of service to our Nation. Illinois Veterans preserved our Union during the Civil war and have taken part of virtually every conflict since. Their legacy and what it means to serve this nation and state should be forever honored on this hallowed ground..
5/6/2022	Donald O'Reilly	I was sworn in to the US Army 7/3/42 there and got my 1st uniform and hair cut Don O'Reilly
5/6/2022	Marie Honeywell	As a veteran that will most likely be buried here in Illinois, near family. I would appreciate the expansion of the Ft Seridan Cemetery. My husband and I are both veterans and plan on being laid to rest in the same plot. I would like Ft Sheridan Cemetery as a possibility for my final resting place.
5/6/2022	Diego	If in 15 years the NCA space will be depleted. This will be much need space. I do hope this plan gets approve, so the family of vets have not to worry where to lay their family member who have scarifies time with them to protect this country and state.
5/6/2022	Marc Brandt	Expansion of Ft Sheridan Nat'l Cemetery is a practical idea and one of the few ways we can forever honor the sacrifice of Veterans and their families. Lake County has benefitted financially from the privatization of the many acres of land that formerly comprised much of Ft. Sheridan. Transferring 4.7 acres, less land than many single family homes in the County have, is a small but meaningful way for our NE IL communities to say "Thank You" to Veterans for bearing the burden, now "Rest in Peace".
5/6/2022	Stephen J. Corcoran	I support the cemetery expansion
5/6/2022	David Serikaku	This land should be transferred back to VA control as a national cemetery as it originally belonged to the Army. It will serve the veterans of the area that need a National Cemetery. As it will also relieve the park district of the cost of maintaining the cemetery, it will enable the park to spend the money elsewhere for improvements.
5/6/2022	Bill shockley. USN Retired	I'm all for the expansion thanks.
5/6/2022	Michael Snow	Please allow the 4.7 acres of land adjacent to Fort Sheridan National Cemetery be added to the Cemetery in order for Veterans to be buried for the next 50 years.
5/6/2022	Kimberly Fuiten	Expansion is needed to help serve veterans.
5/6/2022	Robert Meyers	Totally support this effort for Veterans.
5/6/2022	Mitch Nihart	Please support the needs of this expansion as the aging population of veterans increase everyday, many carrier Ft Sheridan soldiers would like to be this their final resting place... This is the human, dignified and correct thing to do. Sincerely, Mitch Nihart Sr
5/6/2022	David P. Kno;, sr.	Long over due!!! I'm all for it.
5/6/2022	Howard A. Fry	As a veteran who participated in the Viet Nam War, I fully support the transfer of Lake County Forest Preserve property to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Both my parents and my wife's parents are interred at the Lincoln National Cemetery. All veterans deserve a a resting place at a national cemetery.
5/6/2022	Ron Phillips	As a veteran myself, I am for expansion.
5/6/2022	Bob Hunkele	I support the expansion
5/6/2022	Joseph L. Draugelis	4.7 acres is nothing who have money. It is our duty as Americans to honor and provide a final resting place for those who gave their lives for our country. I am a Vietnam Vet who sat off the coast of North Vietnam on a guided missile destroyer getting shot at on three different occasions. I answered my countries call and if those who weren't alive back then and are so worried about a plot of 4.7 acres to show respect for those who served and died, I feel sorry for you.
5/6/2022	Steve Michaels, CAPT, USN	I'm pleased to see this planned expansion. Been performing military funeral honors here for a few years and it is clear that we are running out of space. The expansion areas do not interfere with the beauty of the hiking trail or surrounding woods.
5/6/2022	SFC (Retired) Thomas Hunkele	Our veterans have suffered enough in the giving of service to our country. Allow the transfer of land to give those who have served a place to rest externally
5/6/2022	Jeff Cambora	I like what the VFW is doing' and as always no one can match what our organization dose for Veterans. Thank You for your continuous efforts.
5/6/2022	Scott Knoll	I am wholly for this expansion.
5/6/2022	WAYNE VARNER	They Lake County board allowed the golf course that was donated to be destroyed which should have broken any agreement. That land was an Army Post and should have been reverted for Veteran use first! Lake county wants to build million dollars homes on it instead! Sadly veterans needs mean zip to Lake County! Glad I moved from that area! They are not friendly to Veterans and military!
5/6/2022	Phil Harth, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)	I support the expansion of the cemetery, which increases benefits for future generations of veterans and families, and reduces local district operational costs. Opposition to this should include their view of future burials and internments at the site, and how they'll help going forward. Otherwise, it sounds like the VA has a good plan. Thanks for your continued service to our fallen vets. I pass thru there during my occasional visits to the area, and encourage fellow veterans to, as well.
5/6/2022	John Fairgrieve	I am a Vietnam Veteran and live in Lake County. I support the plan to transfer the forest preserve property to the VA. It is important that surviving relatives are able to honor their deceased veterans by visiting their final resting places. VA has presented a very attractive plan.
5/6/2022	Leonard Lanni	Please continue with cemetery planes we need to continue with honoring the deceased vets.
5/6/2022	MICHAEL F HULLIHAN	Not sure if I understand. The Army closes Ft Sheridan and gives 250 acres to the Forest Preserve. The National Cemetery asks for less than 5 acres back. The surrounding community objects. Why? Could it be that the vets to be interred grew up in less desirable areas of metro Chicago, like me? Kind of makes sense. Who cares about some veteran who grew up in a shoddy Southside suburb? Let 'em keep the land, just so none of them ever says "Thankyou for your service" again.
5/6/2022	Nathaniel Harris	This expansion will mean so much to many military service members to have an honorable place of interment.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/6/2022	Carl L Sorensen	I grew up in Mundelein, and served in the US Air Force from July, 1963 until November, 1966. I worked at Ft Sheridan while attending classes at W.R Harper college and since it has opened as a VA National Cemetery, decided I wished it to be my final resting place. While I have lived elsewhere, I have always returned to Lake County since this is where my friends, my memories and I couldn't think of a better place to be interred. I urge you to approve the addition to Ft Sheridan.
5/6/2022	Earl D. Scott	I support this project. Let get it done for the families of veterans.
5/6/2022	Gerald Celano	Our Veterans deserve everything. They have given us the freedom that we take for granted. Through every conflict and every war they served with courage and honor. The least we can do is give them a place to rest for eternity.
5/6/2022	Joseph Inserro	Please do your best to convince the local residents to allow the expansion of the Fort Sheridan cemetery.
5/6/2022	Brian Meek	I support this project
5/6/2022	Joe Bartley	I support the expansion
5/6/2022	Roger Roess	I support the transfer of property to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Kind regards Roger Roess
5/6/2022	Byron Hopkins	I am in support of this project as a way of ensuring we take care of those who put their lives on the line to protect our country!
5/6/2022	Lyle Swanson	As a Navy retiree I support the fort Sheridan expansion.
5/6/2022	Connie Smith	I oppose the transfer of Lake County Forest Preserve District Land to the Veteran's Administration. Please use the unused parking lot next to it. People do not park in a lot when visiting graves, they drive to the plot they do not walk! We need to think of conservative ways of Burying the deceased. We are running out of greenspace! We need nature to exist if we keep doing this, we will have nothing but living structures and cemeteries, no trees wildflowers and wildlife.
5/6/2022	Shane Parkman	This is a great idea. With Fort Sheridan and The Naval Station, not to mention Glenview NAS, and Lowell FHCC, Northern Il has a strong tradition of Federal Service. There is also a lot of history in that cemetery. Plus I'd hate to say it but funerals with honors will bring more visitors and more visibility to the area. Well I'm not wrong, that's just how capitalism works. I shoulda gone to college huh?
5/6/2022	Thomas Klepper	Respect must be given to those that sacrificed their youth if not their lives in service to our great nation.
5/6/2022	Michael R Hooper	This is a no-brainer. If there is opposition to this, tell them to take a leap. If our country can't even respectfully bury the defenders of our country, it's time for a new government. Wake the hell up. No, not woke the hell up, WAKE UP.
5/6/2022	Thomas M Vogan	As a veteran that served at Fort Sheridan, I think it is a good idea to expand the cemetery. I've got to believe there are many veterans that live in the Chicago metro area that would like to be buried at site such as Fort Sheridan. I myself have been considering Fort Sheridan for my final resting place.
5/6/2022	James N Hendrickson	The cemetery should be allowed to expand. Veterans absolutely deserve a beautiful resting place after serving in awful places. I find it hard to believe anyone could or would fight against this. We who served truly are, as Trump said, "suckers and losers" if we cannot get a decent burial in our own country anymore.
5/6/2022	Jan DeGroot	I support the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery with the transfer of approximately 4.7 acres of Lake County Forest Preserve District property.
5/6/2022	Ron Austiff	I think this would be a good thing for veterans and the community or Public. There seems to be a lack of communication to the public and too some veterans. Especial though the 800 call numbers. All help would be appreciated and I think it would be a very worth while to try and improve this. Ron Austiff Veteran Vietnam
5/6/2022	John Anderson	Veterans have earned the right for a proper burial. There will always be a need for additional cemetery ground. Small price to pay for what veterans have given.
5/6/2022	Robert Billington	I support the Ft Sheridan Expansion.
5/6/2022	John Studer	I think it's a great idea to use this land to HONOR OR VETERANS! I myself would be Honored to Rest In Peace in this Cemetery. Thanks to all that have made this happen for us Veterans. GMG1 John Studer USN
5/6/2022	Chris Ryan	I support this cause!
5/6/2022	Richard Tapio	This site predates any of the people living around it. It was more than likely set up by GGrand Fathers from the area? Never the less thoughts who have little stake compared to those resting there now should remember the reason they are free to complain. A small footprint to say thank you who be appreciated. Navy vet 27 years.
5/6/2022	Kenneth Sorensen	We need this additional space for Veterans family's located in northern Illinois.
5/6/2022	Les Durov	Keep Fort Sheridan growing. The Veterans need a after home.
5/6/2022	Gregory Farr	My father is a retired Army officer. He served our country for 20 years and for that service earned VA benefits, which includes a free burial at a VA cemetery. For the family Ft. Sheridan would be the logical choice. I fully support expansion of the Ft. Sheridan military cemetery. Area military families will appreciate the forest board's support.
5/6/2022	Thomas Coogan	I support the expansion of Fort Sheridan Cemetery.
5/6/2022	James E Huisel	As a veteran, I support the expansion and proposed improvements of FORT SHERIDAN NATIONAL CEMETERY. Its proximity to the Chicagoland area and its locations at the former Ft. Sheridan, stands as a symbol for current and future generations of the price of freedom and honoring all those who have answered the call to serve our nation.
5/6/2022	James Jesse	I support the VA's request for the transfer of approximately 4.7 acres of District property. This transfer will allow the VA to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery and install columbaria, which are used for the above-ground interment of cremated remains, in order to provide decades of continued future service to the Veteran community. I believe that this arrangement is in the best interests of our veterans, the Veteran's administration and the Lake County Forest Preserve District.
5/6/2022	Wayne Kirkpatrick	An expansion of this facility is a small price to pay for honoring the Veterans who will be buried there. Failure to do so simply reinforces how unimportant Veterans are in today's social environment.
5/6/2022	Lois Kurowski	I urge the District to give the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery the additional land it is requesting. This would give area Veterans the opportunity to be interred closer to where their families live and make visitation more convenient than driving the 50 miles or so to Lincoln National Cemetery.
5/6/2022	Rod Thompson	I support the transfer of 50 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan cemetery. A small price for the community, state and nation to pay for those who served our country in uniform and pledged their lives to secure our freedom. I am a veteran and a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I choose to support our veterans, living and dead, who served our country in war and in peace.
5/6/2022	Kevin Guyot	This transfer seems like a very good idea. The 50 additional years of burial needs for Veterans is very important.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/6/2022	Michael Joseph Roggi	I fully support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. It is a appropriate and necessary resting place for Veterans who want to have their final resting place in such a cemetery. I am a retired Army Veteran and would be honored and appreciative to have the option of being buried at this cemetery. My wife and I have visited it on a couple of occasions and felt very comfortable with the setting and what it represents. We will be moving forth with our decision. Thank you.
5/6/2022	Robert L. Sinnokrak	I am a retiree from the Navy and believe that the country needs to be able to provide sufficient land to allow expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery to allow eligible military veterans to be laid to rest after having served their country for at least another 5 decades.
5/6/2022	Robert F. White	Veterans' are in need of final resting places, and the Fort Sheridan expansion is ideal. Don't deny our United States Veterans' Thank you, Robert F. White
5/6/2022	John Sucansky	I support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.
5/6/2022	Dave Miller	Let's check the military service of every person opposed to this. After serving 23 years of military service I for one am tired of people feeling veterans are getting all these hand outs. We as Americans owe every veteran a grave site to Rest In Peace.
5/6/2022	Bill Robertson	The use of this land to honor our fallen is but a small token of appreciation for their sacrifice. The land would be beautified and a serene quiet place for family and patriots to reflect on their comrades service to the nation. Many people from around that area and the region have served honorably will want to be laid to rest in this beautiful area. We must never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Chicago should be honored and willing let our Vets RIP.
5/6/2022	Norman R. Rees	One of the most beautiful areas of the North Shore I applaud the most generous offer of 4.7 acres given by the Forest Preserve District for Veterans of past and future conflicts to know their souls will rest in eternal peace and one of the most tranquil places I have seen. I would hope the immediate families of the many families will find entry to the National Veterans Cemetery to periodically visit interred Veterans an easy one. "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"
5/6/2022	THOMAS L NELSON	A secluded 4 acers, which politician's or which company wants to develop it. PLEASE disclose that information The only point of debate is WHO IS GOING TO MAKE ANY MONEY ON IT.
5/6/2022	Max Casteleyn	Absolutely agree that the land should be transferred to the VA. why: Cost - reduces tax burden to LC property owners Legacy - veterans from GWOT generation will begin to pass away in 15 years. With a demographic shift to urban areas, a dignified final burial place should be closer to families in northern IL & Southern WI. Further, Lake County has a military legacy & should honor this legacy.
5/6/2022	Brian Drnec	yes I support the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery with the use of Public Forest Preserve land to ensure room for our fellow veteran citizens, which sacrificed so much more, that it is the only ethical moral duty as citizens to ensure WE have enough space for current and hopefully, never a need for future burials. Brian Drnec VFW2604 Life, DAV Life
5/6/2022	Jack hooker	allow cemetary expansion over expansion of new housing
5/6/2022	William Dixon	Our deceased veterans need decent places of interment. Previous forest preserve land seems like an excellent place into which expand the existing cemetery.
5/6/2022	Richard M Ondracek	I am proud to be a veteran of the Air Force, and believe that there should be space for all former service personnel after their life has gone. Without us veterans, our country would not be the FREE place to live for all. Freedom is not FREE, it is because of the many men & women who have put their lives on the line for the many including those who have not. We are ONE country for all, no one should be left out. Military personnel give up having good jobs in the civilian sector to serve.
5/6/2022	Larry Rogers	I support the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery as the final resting place of our veterans. The sacrifices of our men and women who served more than offset any other concerns of citizens living near this area. We should never forget this.
5/6/2022	John C Chojnacki	As a member, to increase the size of the Vwterans Cemetery is a good idea to accomodate more veterans
5/6/2022	Kathy Farr	As a wife of a retired Army member I fully support expansion of the Ft. Sheridan military cemetery. For families that want to intern their love one in local military cemetery Ft. Sheridan offers that opportunity. Service members and their families earned this benefit. I hope the forest preserve and community understands and supports us.
5/6/2022	William Simon	I totally support the expansion of the fort Sheridan veterans cemetery. There are so many veterans who end up paying the price for serving their country who suffer from injuries, ptsd, become homeless and spend most of their lives scarred by their experiences. Supplying a place for them to rest in honor an piece is the very least the country and state can do for those who put their lives on the line. Thank You
5/6/2022	Melody Mittelstadt	Given the sacrifices veterans have made for our country, those serving now or who will serve, it is simply the right thing to do by transferring the park district land to the cemetery as requested. The plan provides a beautiful setting blending in with the surrounding area. A true asset to the area. Surrounding golf clubs should have the decency to honor the request of the VA.
5/6/2022	Steven Schuler	It's sad to know there are people in opposition to this request from the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs. Come on Lake County Forrest Preserve District, do the right thing, support the veterans. Shame on those who are in opposition and don't support the veterans.
5/6/2022	Kenneth R Kasel	As a lifelong resident of Illinois and Lake County, a Vietnam veteran and as a veteran who served some reserve time at Ft Sheridan I am totally in favor of the expansion of the Ft Sheridan cemetery.
5/6/2022	gary l gray	Being a veteran myself if we need the room for future burials then as respect for a veteran than by all means it should be expanded. We lose to many veterans every day and they should be with their brothers and sisters who served and have passed on.
5/6/2022	Irene Hoppe	We fully support this request for transfer to the V.A. and feel honored to have such a wonderful memorial of our heroes so close to home.
5/6/2022	Everett Jacobsen	Being a veteran and a member of our local American Legion's honor guard I have buried veterans at national cemeteries. I find it hard to believe that some people would not support a plan to expand one if it were running out of burial plots. I'm guessing very few, if any of them ever served their country.
5/6/2022	Steven D. Lowther	It is the duty of the US Government to Honor the Veterans of all wars or other actions where ever the US sends us and the, the Honor does not stop when the Veteran dies. If the land is needed to used as burial for Veterans that land should automatically be turned over the Veteran Affairs for that purpose.
5/6/2022	Matt Voss	I support the expansion. Freedom isnt free
5/6/2022	don moran	To me expansion would be a great thing Veterans deserve a place of their own like the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.
5/6/2022	RANDY F JONES	I support the expansion at Fort Sheridan. Such a small thing that this country can do for those men and women that put their lives on the line, to support all the freedoms and rights of Americans, and other countries around the world. Organizations such as this should be ashamed. Semper-Phi
5/6/2022	TOM J MARCICIAK	This is a much better use of the property than just being vacant and unkept. We need to make room for the ones who deserve the right to be buried here. Looks like the structure(s) are all quality designs, make the most of the property and built with matching materials that are already on the grounds. This is no way going to diminish the property concern of the neighboring home owners.
5/6/2022	Paul S. Murray	I support a national cemetery that would be located at Fort Sheridan. With so many veterans around Naval Station Great Lakes, it just makes sense.

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/6/2022	George Tracy	The burial benefit is an extraordinary help for the veteran and spouse at a very difficult time. If the Fort Sheridan expansion can be done it should be done. The veterans deserve the room for their final resting place.
5/6/2022	Stacy Meyers	Openlands urges the Lake County Forest Preserve District to reject the request by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to transfer 4.7 acres of land within the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. The transfer of land is contrary to the mission of the District, sets dangerous precedent, risks federal funding, and would damage natural resources that the District is charged to protect. Openlands submitted additional comments via email for consideration.
5/6/2022	Michelle Raine-Shepherd	I agree with the expansion of the Fort Sheridan Cemetery. Is this purchase affordable considering any tax implications? How is the community impacted by this purchase?
5/6/2022	Janet Pellegrini	I oppose the transfer of Lake County Forest Preserve District Land to the Veteran's Administration. Leave open land open land.
5/6/2022	Vincent De Rosa	I agree with the expansion request. I'm sure it is needed and not for a playground. Thanks
5/6/2022	Kenneth LeRoy Johnson	It is a great and a needed idea. I support it 100% and hope it happens soonest.
5/6/2022	Robert Kusel	Revised Father was retired Army - WW2 overseas. Thus, I'm quite sympathetic re the need to expand the National Cemetery at Ft. Sheridan. Given the unique critical natural habitat at the proposed site and the current profound challenges for flora and fauna, a better option is the currently underutilized Government owned land (parking lot) at the north end of the Cemetery. Respectfully, Lake County Forest Preserve land is held in a public trust and should be conserved as originally intended.
5/6/2022	Don De Lordo	I support the expansion!
5/6/2022	Cindy De Lordo	I support the Expansion!
5/6/2022	Ronald L Saey, Quartermaster VFW Post 8078 Kewanee IL	As per a vote of our membership at monthly meeting of Post 8078 we support the cemetery expansion
5/6/2022	DONALD GUINTA	I believe this land should be used for the Veterans Cemetery.
5/6/2022	Kenneth Nussear	I support the expansion that is in a secluded area so are Vets can have a well-cared for memorial as a final resting place, keeping in mind that as vets we understand that we did fight for their right to disagree, which I see as being somewhat ungrateful, but that's just my opinion. Thanks for listening Ken
5/6/2022	Bob Fisher	For the 2000+ members of the IL Audubon Soc.: The proposed 'unused' land is an irreplaceable refuge for native flora & fauna. Replacing some of the bluff-top prairie/oak savanna with cement structures is inconsistent with the LCFPD mission. Adjacent acreage in a mostly unused Nat'l Guard parking lot should be carefully considered and adopted as an alternative. Why was this not done! We support the concept, but urge a speedy review of the land choice, including a further public comment period!
5/6/2022	Vincent Nylin	I absolutely support this. These men deserve the honor and privilege of resting with their comrades in arms, and this nation absolutely owes them at least that. Those men have sacrificed much for this country and our people. Please, make this transfer happen.
5/6/2022	Edward E. Dixon	Excellent idea. The planning for this expansion really benefits veterans and their spouses.
5/6/2022	Elmer McDuffee	I support the expansion of the Ft Sheridan national cemetery.
5/6/2022	William A Sadowski	I support the expansion of the Ft. Sheridan National Cemetery.
5/6/2022	David D Lindsey	Yes the Ft Sheridan National Cemetery Needs expansion. Last year in 2021 a Jewish American veteran of WWII was died and was promised several years ago by the US Army in an official letter that he could be buried at the Ft Sheridan Army Cemetery near his WWII buddies who were buried at Ft Sheridan.. But when the VA took over the Cemetery, the VA refused to provide a space at Ft Sheridan. They said they had plenty of space near Joliet, IL at the Abe Lincoln Cemetery.
5/6/2022	Rick Middleton	It must be ensured that the transfer of 50 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan cemetery. The expansion is necessary to meet the needs of our veterans.
5/6/2022	Eric Secker	On behalf of the Bird Conservation Network coalition, we urge LCFPD and VA to reconsider the land choice, selecting instead a largely unused National Guard parking lot. This adjacent lot should be adopted as an alternative to the current unaltered natural land in the proposal. BCN supports the expansion concept, but suggests review of the land choice, plus an extension of the public comment period! Eric Secker, President Bird Conservation Network
5/6/2022	PastorChaplain Pj B Banks-Anderson DMin	I support the expansion. Our Veterans earned and appreciate this benefit.
5/6/2022	James Romain	A decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, I served in the Republic of VietNam in 1968 during the TET Offensive and three years total with the US Army. I fully support the expansion of the Ft. Sheridan veterans cemetery. the additional 50 acres is needed for our veterans and their spouses. The organized opposition to the expansion is apparently being run by the same individuals who did not support our troops during the 60's. Most are unamerican "Draft-Dodgers". Shame on Them!
5/6/2022	Cyndi Valencia	This is a wonderful project and I believe well over due. Many of my Northern Illinois Veteran friends have made plans to use Wood National Cemetery in WI, as their final resting spot; because of the lack of space in their closest Illinois National Cemetery, Fort Sheridan. With the expansion, veterans can make there final resting place in there home State.
5/6/2022	Robert Hussey	As a member of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad I know first hand that this expansion needs to be done. To see the look of appreciation on the faces of the families and friends of the veteran being interred is heartwarming. Anyone opposed to this expansion should visit ALNC for the quarterly Direct Burial Service where veterans with no next of kin are being honored with Military Honors. National Cemeteries are the most well kept cemeteries in our Nation. Bob Hussey
5/6/2022	Robert E Dublin	I support the expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Chicagoland area is so large, that having a veteran cemetery, on the North side makes sence.
5/6/2022	Kim Ehrhardt	My family and I fully support this project. Thank you for allowing the Fort Sheridan Veterans Cemetery to expand. It looks very nice.
5/6/2022	Jennifer Stribley	I support the transfer of land for additional burial plot for Veterans
5/6/2022	Shawna	Please let the VA take over this land for our soldiers
5/6/2022	Ed Kristak	It would be wonderful to have a veterans cemetery to serve the the veteran community in the northern suburbs and counties of Illinois.
5/6/2022	John Arthur DeLuca	This seems like an opportunity too good to pass up. Providing more burial sites for up to 50 more years at this location will allow for more veterans and their families to be properly cared for in this area. Perhaps allowing for the a loved ones intrment near by rather than a more distant location.
5/6/2022	Fred Woods	If you can't bury us, don't send us.



## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Website Submissions

Submission Date	Name	Message
5/6/2022	Erik Solomon	I would like to see the veterans cemetery expanded. It is so important to have a cemetery in our area to honor the veterans of our area. Thanks
5/6/2022	gary	EXPAND
5/6/2022	Robert T. Chereck	This email is in support of expanding the Fort Sheridan cemetery. I am a veteran of the US Army and a Viet Nam veteran. I also a member of the Abraham Lincoln veteran cemetery memorial squad. Expanding the Fort Sheridan cemetery with definitely create a resting place for veterans and spouses for the veterans in northern Illinois.
5/6/2022	Betsy Godwin	I oppose the transfer of Lake County Forest Preserve District Land to the Veteran's Administration.. Sincerely Betsy Godwin
5/6/2022	Thos. A. Nicol	I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Ft.Sheridan Cemetery may accept additional interments, pending transfer of 4.7 acres of District land. I'd had duty,during Nam,with Fifth Army HQ HHC at Ft.Sheridan in the Burial Detachment(1971). Eleven months of interments at Ft.Sheridan,as well as Wisc,north to Detroit Lakes, MN, south to Mt.Vernon,IL,and points between. Having lived in this area since 1st B-day,I'd always thought I'd come to rest at Ft.Sheridan. Now maybe. For other area Vets too. Thx
5/6/2022	Frieda Jacobs	I support transfer of the larger parcel (SW) as long as the Forest Preserve entrance, parking, & trailhead are maintained. (I thought that property probably belonged to the Reserve base already.) I oppose transfer of the smaller parcel (NE) which is part of the vista along the treeline out to the lake. Also, VA cemetery guidelines require regular turf care applications of fertilizer and herbicides which are inappropriate for ravine and lake bluff properties draining directly to Lake Michigan.
5/6/2022	Raymond Grenke	As an Army veteran, I support the expansion for the Ft Sheridan Veteran's Cemetery plots.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Col. Lionel J. Rothbard

April 26, 2022

Comments:

We would like to be buried at  
Fort Sheridan;

Col Lloyd + Phyllis Rothbard

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: MARK + KAREN HOFFMANN

April 26, 2022

Comments: We live in Fort Sheridan and moved here for its access  
to the Forest Preserve and beach front. Immediately after our move  
due to an ammunition find from 80-100 years old beach + trails were  
fenced off and have remained that way with little to no public informati-  
on or updates. Now the Veterans want to take more land. If there is  
time to make that happen then the military should make time to  
open the fenced off areas. We cannot support this proposal!

Mark + Karen Hoffmann

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Ginny De Rue April 26, 2022

Comments: The expansion is needed

Keep up the good job

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# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: John DeRue April 26, 2022

Comments: The expansion is absolutely

needed. We have a large and aging

vet population in northern Illinois.

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# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: James Schultz April 26, 2022

Comments: The plan presented was  
outstanding, and as a Lake County  
resident, I see no reason to go  
forward. Furthermore I see no  
reason not to dedicate twice as much  
land for this Cemetery.  
Go Forward ASAP

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: LARRY PASQUESI April 26, 2022

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAKE the Cemetery Bigger than  
what is proposed.  
HAVE WALLS FOR FULL BURIAL.  
QUINCY WAS MOST INFORMATIVE.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Carole Wisner

April 26, 2022

Comments: I live across Sheridan Rd from the  
Cemetery and walk by and visit frequently. I think  
building columbaria is a wonderful idea and support  
the expansion of the cemetery.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Nancy NEGIA

April 26, 2022

Comments: I approve of the proposed plans -  
We need to make sure we honor our service men and women  
who sacrificed for our country.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: B DURESA

April 26, 2022

Comments: PLEASE RESPECT THE PATRIOTS BURIED HERE  
THE CIVIL WAR TO MODERN HEROES WHO SAW THIS  
BEAUTIFUL & SACRED CEMETERY BEFORE THEIR DEATH.  
THIS WAS THE LAST PLACE THEY COULD RELAY ON.  
PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY ALTERATIONS TO THIS  
SACRED LAND - PLEASE LET ALL "REST IN PEACE"  
A BIG PROBLEM IS PARKING DURING WEEKLY WEEKENDS -  
OTHERS WHO USE THE WALKING PATHS DON'T FIND PARKING  
ENOUGH. THE BATHROOMS ARE LIMITED. THE WILDLIFE & AND  
IN THIS NATURAL STATE IS UNUSUAL -

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Andrew Balafas

April 26, 2022

Comments: Fully Support this; I will  
be taking this information back to the  
VAC of Kane CTY; If you need any  
support feel free to contact me

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

.com

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: John Slavin

April 26, 2022

Comments: Enjoyed the visit, most time spent  
was with interesting people to socialize with.

I like the idea of what might be done here.

A deal made with the Forest Preserves and Fort  
Sheridan. The explanation of transfer of about 4.7  
acres of Forest Preserve property, because the remaining  
burial property is expected to be depleted in about 15 years.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Tom D'Donovan

April 26, 2022

Comments: OLD ELM RD. 60055

IN KNOW OF TRANSFER

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Steve MacTavish April 26, 2022

Comments: LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE  
DETAILS. SWEET THIS IS NOW NGA  
DOES THAT MEAN CREMATIONS BURIALS  
WITH HEAD STONE ARE NOW AVAILABLE?  
WHAT IS THE TIME ON THE COLONIA  
TO BE STARTED?

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Timothy C. Glover April 26, 2022

Comments: I truly would like to see an additional  
option for natural "green" burials and/or in ground  
coastal burials closer than Abraham Lincoln - perhaps  
here in the future? Could more space be made  
available?



# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: STUART KOCH

April 26, 2022

Comments: I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF GIVING THIS  
PROPERTY AWAY FOR FREE. IT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE!!  
I WOULD NOT BE IN FAVOR EVEN IF MONEY WAS PAID FOR  
THIS PROPERTY!! ONCE YOU GIVE IT AWAY, YOU CANT  
GET THIS LAND BACK. LCFP HAS ALREADY GONE AGAINST  
THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE WHEN IT TRIED TO KEEP  
PEOPLE OUT OF THIS FOREST PRESERVE.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: RANDY ZMUDKA

April 26, 2022

Comments: I THINK THE PROPOSED CEMETERY PLANS WILL  
MAKE A FINE USE OF FOREST PRESERVE LAND, MY WIFE  
AND I VISITED THE AMERICAN CEMETERY IN NORMANDY  
FRANCE IN 2016. ITS SOLEMN BEAUTY WAS A  
HIGHLIGHT OF OUR TRIP. VISITORS TO THE NORTHSHORE  
AREA WILL PERHAPS STOP AND HONOR VETERANS.  
THANK YOU!

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Laura Farlik

April 26, 2022

Comments: I do not think this wild space should be  
disturbed. Many mature oaks will need to be cut down.  
These are a major carbon sink. These trees sequester  
excess carbon in the air instead of this carbon  
being absorbed into the ocean and further acidifying.  
Please reconsider the location of this building project.  
A disturbed site elsewhere would not ~~disturb~~ be as  
devastating the ecosystem. Please ~~blat~~ do not build  
on this site.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: CHARLES H. PETRON, LTC USAR  
(RET)

April 26, 2022

Comments: I AGREE WITH THE LCFPD TO TRANSFER  
LAND FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION AREA BACK TO THE  
VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION (VA), I WOULD LIKE TO  
BE INTERRED (AFTER CREMATION) IN THE FORT SHERIDAN  
CEMETARY, MY MILITARY/CIVILIAN CAREER HAD ME WORKING  
AT THE NAVY PUBLIC WORKS CENTER, THE NAVAL AIR STATION (GENV)  
AND AT FORT SHERIDAN (1978-2011) PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE  
VETERANS.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Lisa Knight

April 26, 2022

Comments: I believe this endeavor is a beautiful way to honor our veterans and their families. The forest preserve is to be commended for considering the property for a dignified and beautiful location designated for veterans. The cream colored brick will bring the whole site together in a lovely way.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Diane Bugman

April 26, 2022

Comments: I am in favor of designating land for a columbarium, to allow continued burials for our service members. As pictured, the structures are very pleasing. Providing surrounding vegetation that coincides w/ the prairie style of Fort Sheridan would be appreciated.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Ken Johnson (USA, Ret.) April 26, 2022

Comments: THIS HAS TO HAPPEN AT Ft. Sheridan,  
GLANVIEW & NAVY BASE PRODUCED A GREAT NUMBER OF  
VETERANS STILL IN HOMES IN THIS AREA, 4.7 ACRES IS  
A PRETTY SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR LIVES.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Richard Johnson April 26, 2022

Comments: THIS ADDITION IS LONG PAST DUE-  
I AM GLAD THE CEMETERY IS NOW UNDER VA CONTROL  
IT WILL BE BETTER TAKING CARE OR - PERHAPS 10 ACRES  
WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: MIKE SMOGOR April 26, 2022

Comments: AS A VIETNAM VETERAN AND A RESIDENT  
OF GRAYSLAKE, FT. SHERIDAN NAT'L CEMETERY  
IS A MUCH BETTER OPTION FOR MY WIFE AND I  
RATHER THAN ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATL. CEMETERY.  
PLEASE HURRY THE PROCESS! I'M 75 YEARS OLD!!

Thanks  
M. Smogor

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: FREDERICK J SOBEL April 26, 2022

Comments: VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF PROJECT.  
SPOUSE & I HAVE DECIDED ON CREMATION.  
ELWOOD IS TOO FAR SOUTH. FAMILY WOULD  
NOT VISIT. HOPE NEIGHBORS DON'T MIND  
OUR LONG TERM VISIT.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: GUSTAVUS RATHR. April 26, 2022

Comments: PLEASE TAKE THE SIGHTLINES  
OF THE NEIGHBORING HOMES TO THE NORTH  
IN MIND, MINIMIZING THE IMPACT  
AND PLANTING TREES / PLANTS TO  
SOFTEN INTO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Patrick Sean Ginty April 26, 2022

Comments: I support the request for additional  
land for the Ft. Sheridan Cemetery.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Kristine Anderson

April 26, 2022

Comments: I think we should allow more service  
people to be buried here. It is only 4.7 acres! But, most  
importantly, these people have served our country - to  
protect our way of life. Families can easily visit their  
loved ones close to Chicago area and in a beautiful  
location. I do not feel this is intrusive. Rather it's our  
responsibility as a US citizen to honor our service men & women!

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: RAMON PRIETO  
USA, RETIRED

April 26, 2022

Comments: Thank you for hosting this event.

BLUF: If there is a need to expand the

Cemetery I recommend it to be

expanded if the need is there and

can be balanced with the local

community.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: DAVE R. JORDAN

April 26, 2022

Comments: Looks like a viable plan.

The veterans need additional places to be buried.  
Fort Sheridan would provide an historically appropriate  
venue. As long as the area is well maintained -  
it will only add to the area.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: R. DURESA

April 26, 2022

Comments: I AM AGAINST THE EXPANSION.

THERE IS TOO MUCH TRAFFIC IN AND AROUND

THE CURRENT GROUNDS (INSIDE + OUTSIDE OF THE CEMETERY).

THERE IS NO PLAN TO HANDLE INCREASED VEHICLE

TRAFFIC AND PARKING, DURING HEAVILY ATTENDED

WEEKENDS FOR RECREATION, I HAVE WITNESSED NUMEROUS

VEHICLES PARKED WITHIN THE CURRENT CEMETERY TO GO

WALK OR RIDE THE TRAILS. THAT'S A DISGRACE!



# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

April 26, 2022

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

I am in favor of this proposal, but would prefer standard military graves, as opposed to the columbarium - but would not object to it. This is the least we can do for our veterans & their families

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: JULES VAN RENOER

April 26, 2022

Comments: would like to see the

VIA acquire additional space to accommodate  
IN GROUND burials — NOT CREMATION —

Retired Army ~~Resident~~ Resident.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: BEN ELLIS

April 26, 2022

Comments: HI I HAVE THREE COMMENTS:

1) CAN WE ENSURE NO CLOSURE OF EXISTING TRAILS DURING CONSTRUCTION?

2) THIS IS AN AREA OF BEAUTY. THE STONE COLUMNS DO NOT FIT WITH THE AREA.

LESS IS MORE IN THIS CASE.

3) CAN THE ARMY STEP UP TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY? G.G MORE TRAILS?

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: ALLAN AYERS (USMC '60-'67) April 26, 2022

Comments: THIS SEEMS TO BE A NO-BRAINER -

THE EXPANSION IS SPLIT INTO 2 SMALL AREAS

THAT DON'T ENCRDACH ON ANY OTHER PART OF

THE PARK - THE ONLY NOTICEABLE CHANGE MIGHT

BE IN THE NUMBER OF BURIALS (AND THE RESULTING

RIFLE SAUTES)

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: PATRICK CALLEN April 26, 2022

Comments: I hope that all of the 4.7  
Acres will be used with little wasted space.  
I think that in-ground burials would be  
a good option for people to have. I think  
that it would be better if the additional  
space would be more like 20 acres. I hope  
that the 4.7 acre space will be approved.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Paul Schenon April 26, 2022

Comments: WELL PRESENTED !!  
Hoping you add some parking, - ALWAYS SEEM TO  
BE AN ISSUE,

THANKS  
Paul Schenon

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Nancy Hannich ASLA  
Landscape Architect

April 26, 2022

Comments: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

- 1) I would like to see what the view would be from Sheridan Rd into the new areas. Can you prepare a sketch?
- 2) I would like to see your intended landscape plan.
- 3) How are you going to screen the walls?
- 4) How is the proposed design going to integrate with the feeling of the surrounding prairie? Could you do grading to depress the area. Think out of the

box. Will you be able to save the existing Oak trees.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Mary May 5 April 26, 2022

Comments: The land to the East and North of the cemetery should remain Forest Preserve land. It lies between McCormick Ravine Preserve and the Lake County Forest Preserve, so it should remain as open land rather than disrupting the continuity of both preserves. ~~The~~ National Cemetery, if they take over the property west of the cemetery, should provide parking on that land to the west for their

purposes, as there already is not enough parking for people wanting to hike. They will also need to supply public restrooms on their property.

If they cannot do all of this on the property to the west, then they should find a different site.

It seems they are only "taking" his land because it is cheaper than buying the land that is available nearby.

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Anne Maxfield April 26, 2022

Comments: I am very supportive of the expansion of the Ft. S cemetery for the various forms of cremation remains, the shelter; surrounding landscaping. Nothing is more worthy than honoring all of our Veterans.

One note to the LCFP - OPEN the entire preserve!!  
It's fine to do rehab, but don't take so long! you keep closing portions of the preserve w/o opening the ones you already →

closed. The rehabs take forever! I've lived at the fort for 12 years and with the exception of my first two years here, some part of the preserve has always been closed!

# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Colleen Valentine, [REDACTED]

April 26, 2022

**Comments:** I was born and raised in Lake County and currently own a home and live in Zion. I strongly encourage LCFPD to approve the transfer of 4.7 acres to the VA for expansion of Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. Dwindling space in the current cemetery and the large number of veterans in the area are two reasons to make the transfer. Even with the expansion, there will still be plenty over →

of open space for forest preserve patrons to enjoy.

When our son died ~~in~~ serving in the Navy, my husband and I were comforted by the knowledge he could be buried among brothers and sisters in arms. My husband (USN-Ret) is also now buried there, as are my mom and dad (USN-Ret). When the time comes, I will be buried there, too.

Approve the ~~expansion~~ transfer of land for the expansion.

Thank you,  
Colleen Valentine


# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Ryan London (contiguous landowner/neighbor) April 26, 2022  
Lake Forest Open Lands 

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary concerns are: 1) impact to existing drainage, 2) impact to mature oak trees, 3) impact on the vista from our property (to the north), 4) materials, including glare + reflectivity.

Have you considered a green burial installation, similar to Casper Creek in So. Daviess County, Illinois? 

- Will there be lights?
- Will the pavilion style match the LCFPD style?
- Can the entire project be consolidated into the western parcel?



# Comment Card

## Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Open House

Name: Margaret Winker Cook April 26, 2022

Comments: As a Fort Sheridan resident for 3.5 years,  
I have seen our open spaces decline from Lake  
Forest Openlands to the north and Openlands to  
the South to now be only Fort Sheridan Forest  
Preserve. This extreme decline in accessible  
open space has occurred even as the population  
visiting the area has exploded, leading to crowded

walkways and beaches. I recognize the importance of having burial sites accessible for loved ones but the designs will significantly encroach on the remaining land. If Openlands and Lake Forest Openlands will open access up, this development - because that is what it is, whether people are living or not - would be easier to embrace. Without that the promise this area held seems to diminish day by day.



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

**Memorandum**

*Ken Jones  
Land Preservation Manager  
1899 W. Winchester Rd  
Libertyville, IL 60048*

Phone: 847-968-3251

RE: VA Fort Sheridan Cemetery Request

Date: 3/23/2022

I received a call from Linda Brugioni inquiring about the request from the Veteran's Administration for District property at Fort Sheridan as an addition to the Cemetery. We discussed it briefly, and she related her concern about a reduction in the size of the Preserve. I shared that the Preserve is nearly 250 acres in size, and the 4.7 acres requested by the VA totals less than two percent of the overall site, and she seemed generally amenable to the conveyance.

Ms. Brugioni also commented that she was concerned about the appearance of the columbaria, so I encouraged her to attend the Open House to convey her thoughts to the National Cemetery Administration staff.

## Alex Ty Kovach

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**From:** Vealitzek, Jessica <JVealitzek@lakecountyil.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** Alex Ty Kovach  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Fwd: Fort Sheridan Expansion

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

Hi Ty - I'm following up on a voicemail I left you regarding this. I couldn't remember whether we'd discussed this in closed or open session.

Thanks,  
Jessica

Jessica Vealitzek  
Board Member, District 10  
Office: 847-377-2300  
Cell: 224-406-3250  
www.lakecountyil.gov/Vealitzek

**Sign up for E-News:**

*Text "Lake Vealitzek" followed by your email address to 468311*

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Richard/Gloria Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** March 23, 2022 at 5:46:20 PM CDT  
**To:** "Vealitzek, Jessica" <JVealitzek@lakecountyil.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fort Sheridan Expansion  
**Reply-To:** Richard/Gloria Johnson <[REDACTED]>

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments, or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.**

Jessica:

My understanding as I have been told is that on April 25 there is to be a meeting requesting the Forest Preserve District to give back or donate land to expand the Fort Sheridan Cemetery.

If this is correct, I ask that you support that move. As the cemetery is filling up and veterans from Lake County are requesting burial at a government cemetery which I understand Fort Sheridan cemetery is now under VA control.

It took a Congressman, I have been told the get the Lake County Forest Preserve personnel to get it cleaned up. I hope you and your colleges will support the move to give the cemetery more room, even if it only for crematory burial only.

Richard Johnson



## Alex Ty Kovach

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**From:** Joe McLachlan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Alex Ty Kovach  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Re: Potential Transfer of Land at Fort Sheridan to the Department of Veterans Affairs

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

As Commander of the American Legion Post #265 of Harvard, Illinois, I support all efforts to transfer land pertaining to Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve to the Fort Sheridan Cemetery.  
Sincerely, Joe McLachlan

On Mon, Apr 18, 2022 at 12:38 PM Alex Ty Kovach <[akovach@lcfpd.org](mailto:akovach@lcfpd.org)> wrote:

As a valued partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves, I am reaching out to you for input on the potential transfer of land at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), and the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) will hold a joint public Open House to provide information regarding the VA's request for the transfer of approximately 4.7 acres of District property. This transfer will allow the VA to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery and install columbaria, which are used for the above-ground interment of cremated remains. The District and the VA have reached a key point in the review where public and partner input is needed.

I am inviting you and your members to join the discussion by attending the Open House on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 5-7 pm at the Midwest Young Artist Conservatory, 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Your input regarding the proposal is important and will serve as a guide when determining the appropriate direction to move forward.

I look forward to seeing you at the Open House.

Alex Ty Kovach

Executive Director

--  
Señor Mac

## Alex Ty Kovach

---

**From:** Frank, Paul <PFrank@lakecountyl.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Alex Ty Kovach  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Ft Sheridan Cemetery Expansion

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

Fyi

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**From:** Sonny Cohen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 12:31 PM  
**To:** Frank, Paul <PFrank@lakecountyl.gov>; Parekh, Paras <PParekh@lakecountyl.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ft Sheridan Cemetery Expansion

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments, or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi Paul and Paras,

I just learned of the proposal to expand the cemetery at Fort Sheridan FP I have some comments:

- 1) I do not support expanding the cemetery on the eastern portion.
- 2) I am disappointed that the LCFPD is considering surrendering ANY land to the VA.
- 3) Undeveloped land (the eastern portion) is NOT unused land. Put another way, if this had been a golf course, would the LCFPD consider cutting into a green, fairway or rough which it had developed. I don't think so. Just because there is "nothing" built on this land does not mean it does not serve an important purpose as part of the diversity of this relatively small but environmentally valuable lakefront property. Put the dead somewhere else. They won't mind.
- 4) I am not happy about this line from the email from Ty Kovach, "The District and the VA have reached a key point in the review." So I gather this has been a subject of discussion with the LCFPD. But this has not surfaced in ANY communication from my county commissioners. This is a disheartening omission.
- 5) In spite of spending over 5 years to terminate consideration of a golf course, and wait - getting annual Christmas cards from Ty - I apparently did not qualify as a "valued partner" that should be communicated about this event. I learned of it through my affiliation with the Illinois Audubon Society which has virtually no investment in this property. I am not responding from ego. I am responding as a citizen who has been intimately involved in this property for over 12 years. And there are others.

6) The notice of this single public hearing is very short. In fact, I will be in Colorado and cannot make it to express my point of view. I will make a best effort to alert others. But this is not transparent nor is it considerate to those who have invested heavily in this property.

7) Please advise me Paul and Paras, individually, where you stand on this matter. We want to be able to make your position known.

Sonny



*'It always seems impossible until it's done.' - Nelson Mandela*

## Alex Ty Kovach

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**From:** Frank, Paul <PFrank@lakecountyiil.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:18 PM  
**To:** Paras Parekh; Alex Ty Kovach  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: FW: [EXTERNAL] Oppose expanding the cemetery at Fort Sheridan

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

### Paul Frank

[Lake County Board Member / Forest Preserve District Commissioner 11th District](#)

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**From:** Jane Mikulski <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 1:33 PM  
**To:** Frank, Paul <PFrank@lakecountyiil.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose expanding the cemetery at Fort Sheridan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments, or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Dear Paul,

Please oppose the expansion of the cemetery at Fort Sheridan.

This is one of the most popular forest preserves in Lake County and it is already congested. Reducing the amount of open space by even 5 acres will make it feel even more crowded.

Parking is a big issue at Fort Sheridan. On weekends and weekdays the parking lots often are full to capacity and visitors park on the residential streets surrounding the preserve. The additional internments would attract visiting family members and make the parking problem even worse.

This is 5 acres of concrete which will create a heat sink in a very popular and unique natural preserve.

This is not the right spot for the expanded cemetery.

Note that my boyfriend is a retired naval commander, combat veteran and aviator. While we feel strongly that we should support our veterans, this is definitely the wrong spot to expand a cemetery. As a resident of Fort Sheridan, the expanded cemetery will create problems for both the preserve and the residents who deal with the parking issues already.

Thanks,  
Jane Mikulski



## Alex Ty Kovach

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**From:** Lake County Forest Preserves <noreply@LCFPD.org> on behalf of Brian Loshbough; volunteer with LCFP [REDACTED]; frequent user of Ft Sher FP <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Alex Ty Kovach  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Message from LCFPD Website Staff Directory

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

This message generated from the LCFPD website STAFF DIRECTORY : From : Brian Loshbough; volunteer with LCFP [REDACTED]; frequent user of Ft Sher FP Email : [REDACTED] When :(4/27/2022 9:19:54 AM) Message :I appreciate the oppty to speak with you, yesterday. As the area WEST of the current cemetery has been already manipulated, changed and re-contoured by the history of military use, that should be the only part available to the Cemetery to use as needed. The area to the EAST, though no doubt also with a history of manipulation, is true wetland and a relatively 'natural area' of the LCFP, and should NOT be for Cemetery use. It is a good transition area from the Cemetery to the rest of the Ft Sheridan FP. The Fed Gov (Army Reserve and National Cemetery) would best NOT USE ANY of this proposed land for cemetery function: rather, the large empty, un-used parking lots of the Army Reserve should be used by the Fed gov for cemetery needs. Also the Fed gov needs to be a leader in space conservation - the columbarium/grave spots can be much more condensed, using up less land. Thx, Brian

## Ken Jones

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**From:** Margaret Winker Cook  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** FortSheridanNationalCemetery  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Cemetery expansion response

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

Thank you for presenting the proposed expansion of the Fort Sheridan cemetery at the MYA. I appreciate that having loved ones who are Veterans buried where one can drive or use public transportation to visit is important to family members. As a Fort Sheridan resident, I can also see that the proposed expansion would change the current visually quiet cemetery into a major development not in keeping with the serene nature that surrounds the area.

Given the tradeoffs, the US Department of Defense could help address the impact to local residents and the many people who use the forest preserve on a daily basis by doing the following:

1) Openlands to the south has been closed for over a year due to unexploded ordnance left over from Fort Sheridan's time as a military base. Openlands is understandably struggling with how to get this area cleared. Making areas with unexploded ordnance safe for residents is undoubtedly something that the US DOD can do better than anyone and a good faith effort to help would be greatly appreciated.

2) Assuming the Forest Preserve is paid for the transfer of land (and if they aren't, why not?), at least some of the funds should be used to beautify the rest of Fort Sheridan beach and make it more accessible. The higher lake levels and addition of large rocks to shore up the beach have made large parts of the beach to the north inaccessible, and the remaining beach gets very crowded particularly in the summertime. Accessing the beach to the south involves climbing down some stairs that have broken up to the point of being nearly impassable and/or climbing down various rocks; all are treacherous.

3) The Forest Preserve and Openlands have a number of discarded pieces of iron etc leftover from the base. I've organized Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve beach cleanups for the last 3 years and every year we pick up more and recycle it, but some pieces are too large to remove. Helping to clean up the residual garbage leftover from the US Military's time from the Forest Preserve would help beautify it and make it safer for all.

4) When Openlands is finally open again, the land continues to be broken up for access by a large swath of land owned by the US Navy. Donating that land to permit access to the length of the lake front, rather than having to go through the Military Housing neighborhood to get there, would benefit everyone.

5) The undeveloped land on Patten Road that one needs to use to get from Fort Sheridan to the Military Housing area and the road to the south has an eyesore chain link fence and no space for people to safely walk. These safety and eyesore issues should be addressed by the owners, one of which is the US Navy. This problem was publicized 7 years ago, yet the situation remains unchanged: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/highland-park/ct-hpn-forest-city-fence-dispute-tl-20150424-story.html> .

I look forward to hearing how a suitable solution can be worked out for these issues.

Best wishes,

Margaret Winker Cook



**Ken Jones**

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**From:** Reid Reutell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:17 PM  
**To:** FortSheridanNationalCemetery  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Comments after Open House

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

#### Fort Sheridan National Cemetery Expansion Comments

The community (with LCFPD's support) should be increasing the public land/open space due to increased usage and land development, not reducing the acreage. Access to a significant area of the Fort Sheridan Preserve has been limited for environmental reasons. The Openlands area to the south is closed, with no planned date for re-opening.

The 4.7 acres is irreplaceable and if adjacent parcels in Lake Forest were available, they would be several million dollars. The cost to the LCFPD to maintain the cemetery (@\$35k/yr.) for 100 yrs would still be less.

The federal government freely transferred the land and now is asking for some of it back. If the land is gifted to the VCA, a precedent will be established for them to procure additional public land.

Many veterans would say they fought (and died) for a democracy which provides the right for its citizens to enjoy public land.

#### Environmental Concerns

Loss of wetland, hydrologic soil, mature trees on both parcels which provide beauty, a wind buffer to prairie and cemetery, and CO2 sequestering – the VCA would need to make appropriate countermeasures (drainage and retaining pond on cemetery property, tree replanting, etc.) to minimize impact to Forest Preserve (FP) property.

The need for significant green buffer areas (trees, shrubs, etc) to be implemented between road/trail and cemetery property (at the VCA's expense).

An environmental impact study with public input is required for transfer of public land to the federal government. The above environmental issues and others would be a concern and would result in less area for columbarium (and increased costs per niche).

#### Other Considerations:

Need to explore the increased usage of existing parking area and road (especially during memorial services and holidays). Would the FP parking area need increased ADA spaces?

What is the history of the land use (4.7 acres)? Are there any conflicts with cemetery development, such as possible Native American spiritual practices?

Will the site with cremated remains be uncomfortable to people (of particular beliefs) visiting the FP because of the Holocaust?

Possible need for security –proposed columbarium is close to entrance road and trail and vandalism appears to be increasing.

#### Summary

The proposed cemetery development is adjacent to the Army Reserve building and associated parking areas, a former Nike missile sight, and forest preserve trail. This proximity would make for an unsatisfactory experience for visitors to both the cemetery and the forest preserve.

The need for cremation niches is justified. The efforts, monies and focus of the VCA should be re-directed toward alternative non-public areas with larger acreage. The proposed Fort Sheridan National Cemetery expansion is neither cost effective nor an appropriate site for honoring and remembering loved ones.

**Ken Jones**

---

**From:** Reid Reutell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 11:57 AM  
**To:** FortSheridanNationalCemetery  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Additional comment to email of May 3

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

#### Construction Work

Due to the proximity of the proposed cemetery to the Preserve and one access road, the construction traffic on Vattman Rd. and work would negatively impact access to both Preserve and existing cemetery visitors.

The construction work (and noise) would effect the wildlife and peaceful enjoyment of the Preserve area and adjacent Openlands of Lake Forest McCormick Ravine.

Reid Reutell  
[REDACTED]



# openlands

conserving nature for life

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May 6, 2022

Angelo Kyle  
President  
Lake County Forest Preserves District  
1899 West Winchester Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048

**RE: Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve – Proposed Transfer to Expand Veteran’s Cemetery**  
*Sent via email on May 6, 2022 to:*

Dear Mr. Kyle:

Openlands strongly urges the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) to reject the request by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to transfer 4.7 acres of land within the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve to expand the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

Founded in 1963, Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. Openlands’ 77-acre public nature preserve, the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve, is a neighbour to the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve, boasting a mile of beach that forms a continuous corridor of protected lakefront adjoining the District’s property. The Openlands Lakeshore Preserve features bluffs and ravines, providing important habitat for more than 100 species of migratory and nesting birds and other wildlife. It is a designated Illinois Nature Preserve, and like the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves, represents one of the best remaining examples of lake bluff habitat in Illinois.

The transfer of land within Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve is contrary to the mission of the District, sets dangerous precedent, and would damage natural resources, such as old oaks, that the District is charged to protect. Taking the land out of conservation is contrary to the commitment made by the District when it received the land from the federal government, and deviates from the reason that the Illinois legislature authorized the transfer. With millions of dollars infused into restoration and capital infrastructure across the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves, it undermines federal and county investments in the site and threatens restored habitat in the adjacent Illinois Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine.

Though we applaud the District’s interest in reducing operational costs throughout its land holdings, a savings of \$35,000 annually for the cemetery’s required perpetual maintenance is not a valid reason to dispose of conservation land so it can then be developed with a high percentage of impermeability within an area of rare and fragile habitat of statewide significance. To suggest a financial rationale for this at the same time the District has approved \$3.4 million for a new facility elsewhere that is already \$700,000 over budget is contradictory and contrary to the District’s mission.

Instead, Openlands recommends that the District collaborate with the VA and National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to select one of the available expansion alternatives that does not take District land that is held in public trust as an important conservation area.

### I. Transferring Conservation Land is Against the District’s Mission and 100-Year Vision.

Transferring conservation land within the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve for non-conservation uses goes against the District’s mission “to preserve a dynamic and unique system of natural and cultural resources”, as well as its 100-year vision to:

*...Steward an interconnected native landscape of woodlands, prairies, lakes, streams and wetlands that are restored to ecological health, adaptable to a changing environment and preserved in perpetuity.*

Converting the 4.7 acres of conservation land would mean the irreparable loss of 150- to 200-year old oaks that are part of a rare oak savanna, which provide habitat for over 180 species of resident and migratory birds that travel along the Lake Michigan flyway or live year-round in the forest preserve. These oaks cannot be replaced in our lifetime. Their removal is contrary to the District’s role as a lead collaborator in the Chicago Wilderness Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan to preserve oaks as a keystone species throughout our region. The District’s own study shows that nearly 85% of oak systems have been lost since the European settlement.





The proposed expansion of the Cemetery also would degrade or remove an important buffer to the Jean and John Green Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine. Increased traffic, light, road salt, and a high percentage of impermeable infrastructure would further encroach into this high-quality natural area, which features oak woodlands that harbor native sedges, grasses, and wildflowers, and serves as important natural habitat.

Last, losing part of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve also undermines the District's role in America the Beautiful to preserve and expand its holdings as part of the effort to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Especially now, it is crucial that conservation agents across the region demonstrate that metropolitan areas are vital to the success of the 30x30 initiative and are safe and important investments in our future health and resiliency.

## **II. The Land Transfer Could Conflict with Commitments Made for the Transfer and Restoration of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve.**

The proposed land transfer could jeopardize the basis for the District's receipt of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves from the federal government. The land at issue is part of the 250 acres transferred under the 100% federal public discount program for parks and recreation. In fact, the Department of Interior, which also was vying to purchase the property, advocated for the Lake County Forest Preserves to qualify for the 100% discount because it would be kept in conservation. Transferring the 4.7 acres of land that qualified for the discount because of its use as a natural area could violate the terms of receiving the land for free.

This was reinforced in the Illinois Fort Sheridan Redevelopment Commission Act, which authorized the transfer of land at issue specifically to the District. *See* 70 ILCS 5(b)(iv). The purpose of this transfer was evident in the finding by the General Assembly that "the health, welfare, morals, and safety of its citizens require the encouragement of well planned, diversified, and economically sound community development, including major additions to Fort Sheridan, while simultaneously preserving open space and historic areas." What is effectively a sale of this land for a different use is contrary to this legislative purpose.

Moreover, the transfer was for the LCFPD to reuse the property in a manner consistent with the Fort Sheridan Master Reuse Plan and Strategy that was developed by the original Fort Sheridan Reuse Planning Commission. Transforming the conservation land into a cemetery is not supported by either the reuse plan adopted by the Lake County Forest Preserves District Board in 2015, or ensuing restoration plans for the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves.

## **III. Transferring the land Undermines Federal and Local Efforts to Restore Ravine Ecosystems along Lake Michigan.**

The targeted area for the cemetery expansion is part of an oak savanna in the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve, with trails and recreational infrastructure that have benefited from millions of dollars invested by Lake County, federal, and partner organizations. Restoration of Janes and Hutchinson ravines was funded through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and focused on removing stormwater inputs from Janes and Hutchinson Ravines, restoration of an overland flow bioswale and restoration of savanna and prairie communities.

This area of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve as well as the adjacent McCormick Ravine to the north has also undergone extensive restoration through the Corps of Engineers project under the Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program. Depending on where the Corps project boundaries are drawn, it might not be possible for the LCFP to transfer the land. Improvements to the parking lot, trail head, and connected trails, and potentially restoration work either overlap with the land at issue or could be impacted by the land transfer.

As part of the \$3.8 million in improvements that were part of the 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Plan, Lake County tax dollars have been spent to provide 1.6 miles of mowed trails, 2.8 miles of asphalt trails, five boardwalks to avoid lowland areas, three observation areas and 12 interpretive exhibits in the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve. The tax revenue dedicated to the Forest Preserve were collected to specifically advance the District's mission and 100-year vision. Transferring the conservation land to a non-conservation organization for a non-conservation use undermines the District's directive.

#### **IV. Cemetery Expansion Alternatives Exist that Would Not Sacrifice the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve**

We support a final resting place for our veterans. There are alternatives that would both honor their commitment to our country and complement rather than sacrifice the natural, economic, and public health benefits of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves. We respectfully request that the VA work out a solution with all the US Government owned land directly adjacent to the cemetery. Alternatives:

- Unused National Guard parking lot north of the cemetery.
- Large parking areas in the Army Reserves base that is immediately adjacent to the west.
- Over the last 5-years, the Army, IEPA, and others removed the debris from what was known as Landfill #1 located just west of the cemetery and leading into McCormick Ravine. The former landfill has been backfilled and graded with clean fill.

#### **V. Conclusion.**

Openlands opposes taking forest preserve district land for a use outside of District's mission to protect open space in perpetuity for the sake of and in trust for the residents of Lake County. We strongly recommend that the District reject the VA proposal and instead support an alternative site that can meet the needs of the Fort Sheridan National Veteran's Cemetery.

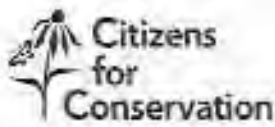
Kind regards,



Stacy Meyers  
Senior Counsel

Cc:  
John Wasik, Vice President  
Paul Frank, Treasurer

Gina Roberts, Assistant Treasurer  
Terry Wilke, Chair, Planning Committee  
Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair, Planning Committee  
Ty Kovach, Executive Director



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Kevin Schaeffer

You have invited Citizens for Conservation (CFC) to respond to the Lake County Forest Preserve District's (District) request for comment on the US Department of Veteran's Affairs' (VA) request to transfer 4.7 acres of District woodland adjacent to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery in order to install columbaria for Veterans.

It is CFC's understanding that the District is responsible for the care and maintenance of the existing Cemetery, but is not responsible for providing for the expansion of the Cemetery. The Cemetery itself is owned by the (VA).

Our concern with transferring this protected 4.7 acres of Forest Preserve is the precedent that granting this request will set: If property is so easily transferred this time, why shouldn't it be readily transferable when another request is made, whether for this protected preserve or another site? How do we guarantee the protection of our Preserves?

Is there no other land immediately adjacent that is owned by the VA or other federal agency that could be dedicated to this tribute to our Veterans?

CFC is concerned that allowing this transfer of property will open a floodgate of similar requests that will encroach upon our already limited protected lands, and encourage the VA and the National Cemetery Administration to seek a different location for the columbaria.

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Phone/Fax: 847-382-5AVE (7283)  
CitizensForConservation.org

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathleen Leitner  
Board President  
Citizens for Conservation  
459 West Highway 22  
Lake Barrington IL 60010

# Column: Burial of our veterans part of nation's 'sacred trust'

**By Charles Selle**

**Lake County News-Sun • May 25, 2022 at 10:53 am**

Flags will be planted at the graves of veterans across Lake County as Memorial Day nears. For many volunteers, "flags in" is an annual tradition to mark the sacrifice county residents made in wars across the globe.

Burial of veterans who served or died in service to the nation — and their fellow soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen — is part of our country's sacred trust. It has continued since Memorial Day was first commemorated by order of Illinoisan Gen. John Logan in 1868.

Originally Decoration Day, a day set aside to decorate the graves of fallen troops from the Civil War, over the years it became Memorial Day, the unofficial start to summer.

Most know it is more than that.

Those include Lake County Forest Preserves District commissioners, who double as Lake County Board members. They are studying a request from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for nearly five acres of land from the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve to be used for expansion of the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery. A public hearing was held late last month in Highwood on the proposal.

Seems like a simple request, one which may save the district some money, and part of the continuation of that "sacred trust" between the veterans' community and the greater public. As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of U.S. veterans: "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

The Forest Preserves took title to the property in 1997, four years after the Army post was decommissioned. "Shakey by the lakey," as troopers once called the base squeezed in between Lake Forest, Highwood and Highland Park, alongside picturesque Lake Michigan frontage. It opened in 1887.

By the late 1980s, it was no longer needed as the Defense Department began closing military installations across the U.S. for budgetary reason. Fort Sheridan was targeted for closure in 1989 by a federal commission which studied base realignments.

The DoD split the post between the nearby municipalities. One-time military housing — including a sturdy limestone home once occupied by a young lieutenant by the name of George Patton — was upgraded to private housing. Administrative offices on the post were converted to condos.

The Forest Preserves got a sizable chunk of Fort Sheridan, 250 acres, including the post golf course. Beginning in 2011 the district began an intergovernmental restoration of a large-scale coastal ecosystem project which has since been completed.

A slice of the property off Sheridan Road still houses a few Army Reserve components, just hints of the number of soldiers who once paraded on Fort Sheridan, including 5th Army Nike anti-aircraft missile units which protected the Chicago region at the height of the Cold War. The fort's seven-acre cemetery also remains.

The VA and the National Cemetery Administration took control of the cemetery in December 2019. That was when the name of the cemetery changed from the Fort Sheridan Cemetery to Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

Graves of Nazi prisoners of war who died at the fort during World War II while interned, and Civil War veterans are some of its residents, along with local veterans. The VA and the NCA, a VA department which oversees veterans' cemeteries across the U.S., have made the request to the Forest Preserves for the land transfer.

In a statement, the VA says the shift will allow expansion of the cemetery as burial capacity in the national cemetery is expected to be filled by 2037. Expansion would provide burial capacity for another 50 years. Also proposed is the construction of a columbarium, an aboveground building with niches for urns where the remains of cremated veterans would be stored.

Back when the property was deeded to the county, one of the conditions was that the Forest Preserves had to maintain the cemetery in perpetuity, providing care and maintenance. The VA estimates that cost has been about \$35,000 a year.

VA officials have said if the transfer is approved, the agency will take over maintenance at the cemetery, releasing the Forest Preserves District from its legal requirement. That would reduce future district operational costs.

Sounds like a reasonable way for intergovernmental cooperation among local and federal agencies to make better a final resting place for veterans. Remember that cooperation come Monday, Memorial Day, and those buried at Fort Sheridan.

Charles Selle is a former News-Sun reporter, political editor and editor.

[sellenews@gmail.com](mailto:sellenews@gmail.com)

Twitter: @sellenews



# Letter: Expand vets' cemetery

Updated 6/6/2022 10:38 PM

With Veterans Affairs now in control of the Fort Sheridan cemetery, it is necessary to ask the county board to transfer five acres to expand the cemetery and keep it viable for another 50 years. We are a nation of 325 million defended by 2 million brave young men and women, and we need to ensure that their service is recognized and when the time comes, that they are properly honored. Please, if you believe in freedom and believe in the defense of this country, honor their service by transferring five acres back to the Fort Sheridan cemetery. Please call your county board member and let your views be heard.

Michael Peck, Chair

Illinois Veterans Advisory Council

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