



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** April 6, 2015

**TO:** Craig Taylor, Chair  
Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair  
Finance and Administrative Committee

**FROM:** Nan Buckardt, Education Director

**SUBJECT:** *Gateways Grants Program Approval*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend Approval of a Resolution 2015-2016 *Gateways Grants Program*

**BACKGROUND:** The *Gateways Grants* program provides school districts with high percentages of low-income students with fee waivers for all Forest Preserve school field trip programs and a partial reimbursement to the school districts for bus transportation costs. The bus transportation reimbursement in this recommendation is \$100 per grant. The *Gateways Grant Program* for the 2015-2016 school year will offer 60 grants (40 for environmental education field trip programs and 20 for history field trip programs). Additionally, the *Gateways Grants* provide a reduction to in-school program fees. The first program remains at \$60; any additional programs at the same school in same day are priced at \$20 instead of the normal rate of \$40.

Participation in this program is based on the low-income school population figures for 2014-2015 from the Illinois State Board of Education. Staff recommends that school districts having greater than 40% low-income elementary students be eligible to participate in the *Gateways Grant Program*.

Oak Terrace, in Highwood, has traditionally received grants as part of this program because of the very high percentage of low-income students enrolled in that school. In the 2014-2015 school year, 73% of the students were classified as low-income.

The table below gives a breakdown of percent low-income and the recommendation for distribution of *Gateways Grants* for the coming year's program. The list of school districts remains the same as last year.

Town	School District	% Low Income	EE Grants	History Grants
Zion	6	96	6	3
Round Lake	116	77	10	5
North Chicago	187	69	5	2
Gavin	37	66	1	1
Diamond Lake	76	60	2	1
Fox Lake	114	51	1	1
Beach Park	3	48	3	1
Waukegan	60	41	12	5

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Committee recommendation and Board approval are required in accordance with the District's Policy.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The Annual Fee Ordinance authorizes waiver of program fees for *Gateways Grants* recipients and the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget includes estimated grant revenues and expenditures for the *Gateways* program. The program requires \$6,000 in private donations to fund the 60 \$100 bus transportation reimbursements. Funding for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 *Gateways Grant* program was provided by Discover and the Margot Merrick Fund. Funding requests for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 will be submitted to the same organizations. All potential revenues and expenditures are included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget. Grant reimbursements will be charged to 64304000-709000.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Education Managers, Chief Development Officer, Finance Director, Chief Operations Officer.

**PRESENTER:** Nan Buckardt

<b>EDUCATION, CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>YEA</b>	<b>NAY</b>
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