



## LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** April 6, 2015

**MEMO TO:** Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair  
Finance and Administrative Committee

**FROM:** John Nelson, Director  
Operation and Infrastructure

**SUBJECT:** Policy Direction regarding the proposed routing of the North Shore Gas main at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve and to authorize negotiation of a permanent and temporary easement.

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding a request to consider the routing of a proposed gas main and to consider permanent and temporary easements on 7th Street at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve.

**BACKGROUND:** The existing North Shore Gas main at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve which delivers natural gas to North Point Marina and Skipper Bud's runs along the north side of the extension of 7th Street. When the line was originally installed 7th Street was a public right-of-way. Subsequently, the public right-of-way was vacated. Therefore the gas main runs through the southern edge of District property at Spring Bluff.

As part of the recently completed Lake Plain Habitat Restoration Project in conjunction with IDNR, it was discovered that a gas main protrudes into a box culvert conveying stormwater under 7th Street. The District and IDNR contacted North Shore Gas to inquire about the potential for moving the gas main. It was determined that due to the obstruction as well as the age and condition of the gas main, North Shore Gas is in favor of and intends to install a new gas main and remove the culvert. The new gas main would be installed along the south side of the 7th Street extension, primarily in vacated right-of-way off of District property however a portion of District land needs to be crossed with the new gas main. The old gas main would be removed at the culvert and the remainder would be capped and abandoned in place. These actions would benefit the District.

Temporary easements would be needed for the removal of the gas main and a permanent easement would be needed at the southwest corner where the gas main will cross District land. Spring Bluff is a dedicated Nature Preserve. Therefore, the temporary easement can be approved only if the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission approves it. If the project proceeds, District staff will negotiate the easement document so that the grantee follows proper procedures to protect the sensitive, impacted areas of Spring Bluff

Staff is seeking authorization to negotiate permanent and temporary easements.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Policy Direction is required in accordance with District policy.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Director of Operations and Infrastructure, Director of Finance, Chief Operations Officer, Executive Director and Legal Counsel.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** At this time there is no financial impact.

**PRESENTER:** John Nelson