



DATE: November 16, 2023

MEMO TO: Nels Leutwiler, Chair
Preservation Foundation Board

FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of up to \$6,000 to expand the available Gateways Grants for Waukegan and Zion School District students.

FINANCIAL DATA: Forest Preserve staff estimates the Forest Preserves will need an additional 40 Gateways Grants to meet the request of both partners. Authorizing a grant of up to \$6,000 will enable Education staff to confidently work with our partners and extend the District’s educational efforts.

As of September 20, 2023, the balance of the Annual Fund was \$322,503.16. Grants paid and due from the unrestricted fund after September 30, include:

| Distribution Date | Amount |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Q3 Transfer | \$ 7,850 |
| 2024 | \$ 68,300 |
| 2025 | \$ 31,000 |
| Total | \$ 107,150 |

The Director of Education will provide a report of Gateway’s Grants needed to the Foundation Executive Director, and the funds will be distributed in 2024 if awarded.

BACKGROUND: For 33 years, the Lake County Forest Preserve District has provided free programming and transportation assistance to school districts serving underprivileged students through its *Gateways Grant Program*. A total of 40 grants, each with a \$150 transportation honorarium, are available to teachers from qualifying school districts this year.

Districts are selected using public data provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. The number of grants available to each school district is determined by the student enrollment. Districts with a larger enrollment receive more grants.

This year, two of our participating school districts reached out with requests to expand the number of Gateways Grants available for their respective districts:

- Waukegan School District: allow all fourth-grade students to participate in a Forest Preserve field trip or program.
- Zion School District: allow all students to participate in a Forest Preserve field trip or program.

Sponsorship Benefits

Special recognition will be given to the Preservation Foundation, acknowledging the support as each 4th grade classroom attends its field trip.



**Preservation
Foundation**

**LAKE COUNTY
FOREST PRESERVES**

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: Environmental Education Manager, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Director of Finance, Director of Administration, Chief Operations Officer, Lake County Forest Preserves Executive Director, Preservation Foundation Executive Director

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____