



DATE: August 26, 2024
MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Approve an amendment to the existing Farm License Agreement at Duck Farm Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: Removal of 5.86 acres from the farm program will reduce annual revenue generated by the Farm License at Duck Farm Forest Preserve from \$12,249.78 (77.9 acres at \$157.25/acre) to \$11,328.29 (72.04 acres at \$157.25/acre); a decrease of \$921.49 annually.

BACKGROUND: The farming program is conducted with farmers to provide cost-effective, interim land use and management of District lands until the District is ready to convert the land to other forest preserve purposes. The License Agreement allowing farming at Duck Farm Forest Preserve is effective for a term of four years, beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026.

Heavy rains in the early summer of 2024 resulted in erosion and sediment runoff from the small triangular field in the southeast corner of the farmed portion of the site (see black hatched portion in the Map Exhibit) (the “Southeast Field”) to adjacent parcels. District staff observed runoff entering stormwater infrastructure that ultimately entered Lake Miltmore. Staff considered reducing only a portion of the Southeast Field to install a filter strip, but due to the small size of the Southeast Field, that was not feasible. As a result, staff is recommending that all of the Southeast Field be removed from the farm program. Under the District’s farm management procedures, the District reserves the right to remove portions of the licensed premises from farming.

After the 2024 harvest, the entirety of the Southeast Field would be retired from the farming program and planted with a native seed mix to prevent further erosion. Because the Licensee already planted the Southeast Field for the 2024 growing season, the reduction will take effect after the current crop is harvested. The change in revenue will not occur until 2025.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel

MOTION: Motion to authorize staff and Corporate Counsel to amend the current Farm License Agreement for the farmland at Duck Farm Forest Preserve to remove the Southeast Field from the licensed premises.

APPROVED:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

Lake County Forest Preserves Farm Program

Farm Reduction - Duck Farm



Disclaimer: Property Boundaries and other data provided is for general information only and not for commercial purposes. The District provides this data for the user's exclusive use only. Any re-use, transmission, duplication, or distribution without the permission of the District is prohibited. Map sources include: Lake County GIS Division | Basemap: 2022 Aerial

 **Lake County Forest Preserves**

Map Created on 6/27/2024

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|---|---|---|----------------------------|
|  | Proposed Field Reduction Area (5.86 ac) |  | Buffer (NO FARMING) |
|  | Active Farm Field |  | Waterway (NO FARMING) |
|  | Forest Preserve Boundaries |  | Forest Preserve Boundaries |