

DATE: November 13, 2025

MEMO TO: Elizabeth Hough, Chair
Preservation Foundation Board

FROM: Rebekah Snyder
Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a \$39,000 grant from unrestricted funds to support the Forest Preserves annual volunteer recognition event.

FINANCIAL DATA: As of September 30, 2025, the Foundation's unrestricted funding total was \$426,271.

The Preservation Foundation Board of Directors has awarded \$241,275 in grants that have not yet been disbursed.

Future Disbursements	Amount
2025	\$115,757
2026	\$90,518
2027-2028	\$45,000
Total	\$241,275

If awarded, \$13,000 will be disbursed annually in 2026, 2027, and 2028.

BACKGROUND: As the 501(c)3 charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves, the Preservation Foundation's mission is to extend and accelerate the Lake County Forest Preserves' goals through private philanthropy to restore and preserve Lake County's natural and cultural resources in perpetuity.

In 2013, the Preservation Foundation Board of Directors adopted a policy regarding the use of unrestricted charitable gifts, which created a process for staff to submit an Annual Fund Grant request to support the priorities of the Forest Preserves, such as piloting a new initiative, extending or accelerating existing work, or securing matching funds. To date, the Preservation Foundation has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grants from unrestricted funds.

In accordance with this policy, a request for a one-year grant in the amount of \$28,000 has been submitted for review and approval at the Preservation Foundation's November 13, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Administration, Director of Finance, and Forest Preserves Executive Director

GRANT REQUEST:

Department	Community Engagement & Partnerships
Project Name	Volunteer Recognition Breakfast 2026 - 2028
Project Lead (if not Director)	Norma Zamudio
Total Amount Requested	\$39,000
Amount needed per year	\$13,000
Grant Period	Three Years
Grant Purpose	Volunteer stewardship
Project Description	Annual recognition event, including a catered breakfast buffet, remarks and awards, and volunteer gifts
Project Impact	<p>Volunteers make a direct impact on nearly every part of the Forest Preserves mission. The annual volunteer recognition breakfast is an opportunity to thank and celebrate those who gave at least 20 hours in the previous year. Volunteers who meet that level of service are also eligible for a thank you gift, which is distributed at the event.</p> <p>In addition to volunteer stewardship, the event is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the Preservation Foundation among this group of dedicated supporters.</p>
Additional Funding	None.

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:

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