

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Capital improvement projects totaling \$12.7 million are included in this year’s capital budget. Funding for projects comes from bond proceeds, the Development Levy fund, grants, and donations. Highlights are:

- \$2.7 million for habitat restoration throughout the District
- \$4.8 million for trail projects
- \$2.0 million for public access and preserve improvements
- \$3.2 million for facility and infrastructure improvements

STAFFING LEVELS

The FY 2015/16 budget includes 273.07 FTE. This is a decrease of 1.56 FTE and is comprised of 181 full-time positions, 44 regular part time and 271 temporary part-time positions. Since 2009 staffing levels have been reduced by 10.4% (31.57 FTE) as the District continues to look for efficiencies in operations as a result of declining revenues.

Lake County Forest Preserves Mission:

“To preserve a dynamic and unique system of natural and cultural resources, and to develop innovative educational, recreational and cultural opportunities of regional value, while exercising environmental and fiscal responsibility.”

Budget in Brief  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016



Lake County Forest Preserves  
847-367-6640      www.LCFPD.org



The Forest Preserve District’s 100-Year Vision for Lake County

The Forest Preserve District envisions that 100 years from now Lake County will be a healthy and resilient landscape with restored and preserved natural lands, waters and cultural assets. Residents will take great pride in how their Forest Preserves make their communities more livable and the local economy more dynamic. Our vibrant communities will thrive, and future generations will protect and cherish these remarkable resources and the highly desirable quality of life that they provide.

General Offices  
1899 W. Winchester Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Fiscal Year 2015/16 Annual Budget maintains the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s strong financial position with sound reserves, long-term replacement funds and moderate debt. The District has completed phase 1 and 2 of a strategic planning process during the current year. This budget includes funding for several of the identified directions. A department wide re-organization also took place during the year based in part on our strategic plan. The budget provides for appropriate ongoing and preventative maintenance, public safety, and environmental management for our existing preserves. As a result of the expense reductions made during the last several budget years, the District is well positioned to move forward as a streamlined, more efficient organization.

The total budget of \$80.5 million includes Operating expenditures of \$31.6 million, Debt Service of \$27.3 million, and Capital expenditures totaling \$21.6 million. The overall budget represents a 2.1% increase, or \$1.6 million, from the prior year budget of \$78.8 million. The change is primarily due to a \$2.9 million increase in capital expenditures. Operating and Debt Service expenditures decreased by a combined \$1.3 million.

The budget is balanced with revenues totaling \$80.5 million. In addition to operating revenues of \$61.1 million, revenues include \$17.4 million in bond proceeds and \$1.9 million in planned use of fund balance. Fund balances meet policy goals. Appropriate fund balances are maintained to avoid cash flow interruptions, provide for emergencies, and maintain the District’s current AAA bond rating.

GENERAL COMMENTS

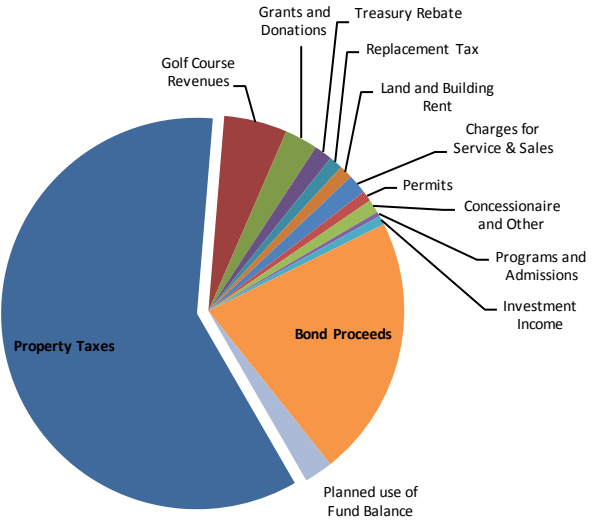
Prior Year Accomplishments:

- Through a strategic planning process the District created a 100-year vision for Lake County.
- The District purchased more than 259 acres of land at 8 different locations providing valuable wildlife habitat, trail connections and flood protection.
- The District is one of very few forest preserves nationwide with a AAA bond rating from S&P.
- Restoration projects improved vital habitats for a wide variety of native wildlife and plants, including many endangered and threatened species.
- Completed several trail sections and tunnel crossings and started additional public access improvement projects.
- The District introduced a completely new website and mobile website app. The new website replaced the organizations 14-year old legacy website.
- The District received two awards from the Government Finance Officers Association:
  - Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the FY2014/15 Budget
  - Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Our budget highlights the opportunities and challenges that face the Forest Preserve and people of Lake County as we move forward together in the coming fiscal year. We will continue to preserve the lands and restore the habitats, provide the trails and facilities and ensure public safety through responsible financial management and reporting.

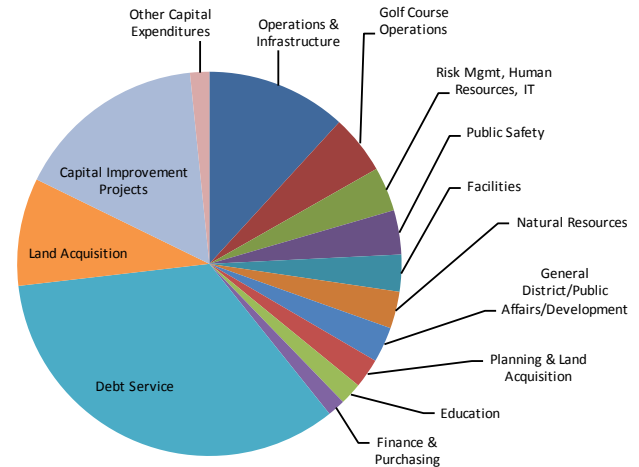
With the 66% approval and passage of the 2008 bond referendum, the people of Lake County reaffirmed their commitment to preserving and enhancing our open space resources.

WHERE REVENUE DOLLARS COME FROM			
Revenues	FY 14/15 (mill)	FY 15/16 (mill)	%
Property Taxes	\$48.6	\$48.0	59.6%
Golf Course Revenues	4.3	4.2	5.2%
Grants and Donations	3.0	2.2	2.7%
Treasury Rebate	1.2	1.2	1.5%
Replacement Tax	0.9	0.9	1.1%
Land and Building Rent	0.9	0.9	1.1%
Charges for Service & Sales	1.2	1.3	1.6%
Permits	0.6	0.7	0.9%
Concessionaire and Other	0.7	0.9	1.1%
Programs and Admissions	0.4	0.3	0.4%
Investment Income	0.7	0.6	0.7%
Bond Proceeds	0.0	17.4	21.6%
Planned use of Fund Balance	16.3	1.9	2.4%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$78.8</b>	<b>\$80.5</b>	<b>100%</b>



Sources of Revenues

HOW EACH DOLLAR IS SPENT			
Budget by Program	FY 14/15 Amount (mill)	FY 15/16 (mill)	%
Operations & Infrastructure	\$8.8	\$9.5	30%
Golf Course Operations	4.0	4.0	13%
Risk Mgmt, Human Resources, IT	2.8	3.0	9%
Public Safety	3.0	3.0	9%
Facilities	3.8	2.5	8%
Natural Resources	2.1	2.5	8%
General District/Public Affairs/Development	2.7	2.4	8%
Planning & Land Acquisition	1.9	2.0	6%
Education	1.3	1.5	5%
Finance & Purchasing	1.0	1.2	4%
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$31.4</b>	<b>\$31.6</b>	<b>100%</b>
Debt Service	28.7	27.3	
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$60.1</b>	<b>\$58.9</b>	
Land Acquisition	8.3	7.3	34%
Capital Improvement Projects	9.3	13.0	60%
Other Capital Expenditures	1.1	1.3	6%
<b>Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$18.7</b>	<b>\$21.6</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$78.8</b>	<b>\$80.5</b>	



Expenses by Program

FUND BALANCE SUMMARY							
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016							
	Estimated Fund			Operating	Capital	Estimated Fund	Board Policy
	Balance	Revenues	Transfers	Budget	Budget	Balance	Fund Balance
	06/30/15	FY 2014/15	FY 2014/15	FY 2014/15	FY 2014/15	06/30/15	Goal 6/30/15
General Corporate	\$18,023,512	\$17,259,610	(\$200,000)	\$17,238,520	\$1,251,330	\$16,593,272	\$8,619,260
Insurance	2,428,643	818,560	0	1,256,770	100,000	1,890,433	1,500,000
Audit	145,396	162,960	0	151,450	0	156,906	N/A
Retirement - IMRF/FICA	1,359,158	2,393,450	0	2,583,570	0	1,169,038	904,250
Land Development Levy	8,604,398	6,463,140	0	5,488,360	2,829,950	6,749,228	1,920,926
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	1,070,206	446,720	0	519,300	175,000	822,626	N/A
Donations and Grants	1,451,829	569,990	0	182,230	384,070	1,455,519	N/A
Debt Service	15,782,355	26,589,620	0	26,569,130	0	15,802,845	N/A
Land Preservation	11,259,684	21,000	0	241,900	7,272,800	3,765,984	N/A
Easements & Special Projects	3,660,153	1,028,000	0	10,000	1,898,050	2,780,103	N/A
Land Preparation	464,298	201,430	0	100,000	0	565,728	N/A
Development Bond & Capital Projects	1,088,881	17,425,000	0	400,000	6,684,400	11,429,481	N/A
Capital Facilities Improvement	1,570,810	18,000	200,000	0	0	1,788,810	N/A
Enterprise	1,741,805	4,235,080	0	4,044,230	109,500	1,823,155	1,415,481
Vehicle Replacement	1,599,548	535,390	0	0	549,000	1,585,938	N/A
Information Technology Replacement	781,560	91,500	0	58,960	120,000	694,100	N/A
Equipment Replacement	1,513,346	273,710	0	0	255,500	1,531,556	N/A
TOTAL	\$72,545,582	\$78,533,160	\$0	\$58,844,420	\$21,629,600	\$70,604,722	

## Short and Long Term Issues

- The Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) of the county declined 25.7% over the past six years. General Corporate Fund tax revenues have decline over \$4.4 million during that time period.
- The District tax rate limit of .060 in the General Corporate Fund was reached with the 2012 tax levy.
- EAVs are expected to stabilize in 2015 and continue to grow at a slow pace going forward.
- Conservative long term financial planning will monitor revenues and projected expenses on a rolling five year basis. The General Corporate Fund projections show a balanced budget and meet the reserve fund balance policy for the next five years.
- The District has taken action to control and reduce costs, will carefully consider any new programs or staff before committing resources, analyze new revenue sources, reduce or eliminate maintenance intensive design features in new master plans, land bank new acquisitions for the foreseeable future, and use our staff’s experience to maximize efficiencies while minimizing impacts to our core mission.
- Staff levels have been reduced by 10.4% since 2009 while the District’s total acres have increased from 27,618 to over 30,300 acres.
- Through strategic planning the District has begun to align its resources with goals established in the process. During FY2015 the District completed a re-organization based on its strategic plan
- Reduced Replacement tax funding and possible tax levy freezes by the State of Illinois continue to be a major concern for both the short and long term.