



Lake County Forest Preserves

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DATE: February 2, 2026

MEMO TO: Paul Frank, Chair
Planning Committee

Agenda Item # 11.5

FROM: Ken Jones
Director of Land Preservation

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution naming the LEH Limited Partnership and Har-Bar Incorporated properties as the “Msbkode Forest Preserve.”

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability, Communication

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no immediate financial impact. Published District materials (such as *Horizons*, the Map and Guide, and kiosk materials) will be updated when new printings are required. Online materials will be revised as staff time allows.

BACKGROUND: The District acquired the properties commonly known as the LEH Limited Partnership and Har-Bar Incorporated properties (collectively, the “Property”) on November 13, 2025. Because it is not adjacent to any other District preserve, staff recommends that the District Board of Commissioners designate the Property as a separate preserve and assign its name. When the Purchase and Sale Agreement was approved in August, the District did not identify a preserve name for the Property.

Utilizing the “Naming/Boundary Conventions” established in Resolution #4352, “Resolution Approving Boundaries and Names of District Properties,” passed in November 2010, District staff from the Community Engagement & Partnerships, Education, Land Preservation, and Natural Resources departments, with suggestions and input from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, developed a list of potential preserve names for the Property, which is attached as Exhibit A.

Staff recommends that the Planning Committee (i) move to approve this Resolution, (ii) move to amend this Resolution by inserting the name supported by a majority of the Committee, and (iii) vote to recommend the main motion, as amended.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.

Exhibit A
Potential New Preserve Names

Goldenrod Crossing Forest Preserve: Goldenrods are common on the site. “Crossing” nods to the adjacent Robert McClory Bike Path, which crosses roads twice near the site.

North Prairie Forest Preserve: “North Prairie” is the site’s first documented place name. In 1840, a land surveyor noted the area of the site as “North Prairie.” This included the open country in the northeastern portions of Newport and the northwestern portion of Benton townships.

Sawtooth Prairie Forest Preserve: There are many sawtooth sunflowers (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) on the site. These are tall, native sunflowers that grow in black soil prairies.

Black Soil Prairie Forest Preserve: According to the IDNR, “Black soil prairie was once the most abundant prairie type in what is now Illinois. Now it is among the rarest.”

Staff consulted Raphael J. Wahwassuck, a Tribal Council Member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, for the following potential names:

Mbikiwen Forest Preserve: Mbikiwen is Potawatomi for “wet ground it is.” Pronounced *bee-kee-when*.

* **Mshkodé Forest Preserve:** Mshkodé is Potawatomi for “prairie.” Pronounced *mish-coe-deh*.

Peshkwa Forest Preserve: Peshkwa is Potawatomi for “field” or “cleared ground.” Pronounced *pesh-kwa*.

Wzawnëgëk Forest Preserve: Wzawnëgëk is Potawatomi for “goldenrod.” Pronounced *weh-zow-neh-gack*.

- Pronunciation drawn from wzawmesh (beech tree) and negék (bark of a tree).

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

MADAME PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **PLANNING COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Naming the ‘Mshkodé Forest Preserve’ (LEH Limited Partnership and Har-Bar Incorporated Properties)” and requests its approval.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Date: 2-2-2026 Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: 0

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION NAMING THE “MSHKODÉ FOREST PRESERVE”
(LEH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AND HAR-BAR INCORPORATED PROPERTIES)**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has purchased two parcels of property located within the Village of Winthrop Harbor, in Benton Township, commonly known as the LEH Limited Partnership and Har-Bar Incorporated properties (collectively, the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Property constitutes a new forest preserve, but the District has not yet named such preserve; and

WHEREAS, Rule VI.C.2.b of the District’s Rules of Order and Operational Procedures authorizes the Planning Committee (the “Committee”) to recommend the name of any new preserve to the District Board of Commissioners (the “Board”); and

WHEREAS, Resolution #4352, passed in November 2010, a “Resolution Approving Boundaries and Names of District Properties,” identified specific “Naming/Boundary Conventions” to be used in naming future new preserves, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has reviewed a list of preserve names prepared by District staff in accordance with those conventions, and has recommended that the Board name the Property the “Mshkodé Forest Preserve”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois **THAT**:

Section 1: Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2: Naming of New Preserve. Upon the District’s acquisition of the Property, the Property shall be named the “Mshkodé Forest Preserve.” The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to cause this name to be used for the Property on future signs, public information materials, and District documents.

Section 3: Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____