



DATE: March 31, 2025

TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Steve Neaman
Director of Finance

Alyssa Firkus
Director of Education

Agenda Item # 10.6

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by \$53,515.94 for updating interior exhibits and enclosures at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area Welcome Center (Welcome Center).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability; Public Access and Connections.

FINANCIAL DATA: Funding for this project will come from the Preservation Foundation. The Preservation Foundation held five Fall Classic events (2015 – 2019) in partnership with CDW to raise funds for District education efforts. The \$53,515.94 revenue and expense represents the balance of funds generated by those fundraisers and held by the Foundation. The 2025 Budget would be modified to add this project in the following accounts:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
14432400-413000 Donations Revenue	\$53,515.94
14434100-803100 Improvements to Buildings	\$53,515.94

In its annual Appropriations Ordinance for 2025 (approved October 9, 2024), the District contemplated potential future additional revenues to and expenditures from these funds. As such, it is not necessary to amend the Appropriations Ordinance.

BACKGROUND: District staff would like to utilize the Welcome Center to its fullest potential and deepen engagement for the 9,000 visitors that come annually. The update to exhibits and enclosures will enable visitors to engage with and explore their natural environment through various interpretive elements, including Education’s live animals. Displaying our education ambassadors helps connect people to the outside world and makes them stronger educational resources. The update has a planned completion date of Fall 2025.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR UPDATING
INTERIOR EXHIBITS AND ENCLOSURES AT THE
EDWARD L. RYERSON CONSERVATION AREA WELCOME CENTER**

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2024, the District Board of Commissioners approved (i) an Ordinance approving the District's 2025 Budget ("Budget") and (ii) an Ordinance setting forth the District's annual appropriations for the Year 2025 ("Appropriations Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the District desires to update interior exhibits and enclosures at the Welcome Center (the "Project") using funds in the amount of \$53,515.94 that are held by the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to amend the Budget to increase revenues for account 14432400-413000 (Donations) and capital expense account 14434100-803100 (Improvements to Buildings) by \$53,515.94 to facilitate the Project; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the Budget, as it will be amended by this Ordinance, to be expended on the update of interior exhibits and enclosures at the Ryerson Welcome Center have already been appropriated to the General Corporate Fund by the Appropriations Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED 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 part of this Ordinance by this reference.

Section 2: Amendment of 2025 Budget. The Executive Director or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to amend the Budget by increasing revenues by \$53,515.94 in account 14432400-413000 (Donations) and increasing capital expenses by \$53,515.94 in account 14434100-803100 (Improvements to Buildings) for the Project.

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

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____