

AGENDA
PARK FOREST PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Park Forest Village Hall
Board Room

7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY
December 13, 2022

1. Planning and Zoning Commission Call to Order
2. Review of Minutes
 - a. November 16, 2022, Regular Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
3. Petitions - None
4. Audience to Visitors
5. New Business
 - a. Discussion regarding Amending the Unified Development Ordinance to include Annexation Agreement Review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Recommendation to the Village Board
6. Old Business
 - a. Forest Preserves of Cook County - Report
7. Communications
 - a. Member Communications
 - b. Trustee Comments
 - c. Staff Communications
8. Adjournment

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the Village Manager's Office at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The Village Manager's Office can be reached via telephone at 708-283-5605 or via email at athurston@vopf.com. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

**Park Forest
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes
Park Forest Board Room
Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

Present: Vice Chair Marguerite Hutchins; Commissioners Samuel Brooks, Cynthia Burton-Prete, Doug Price (Virtually via Zoom)

Staff: Andrew Brown, Planner

Absent: Chair Vernita Wickliffe Lewis; Commissioner Denise Poston; Trustee Liaison Maya Hardy

Visitors: Kirby Burkholder, Dena Bell, Sandra Zoellner, Parahita Ricci, Marcelo Muro, Todd Wiltse, Mae Brandon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Review of Minutes October 25, 2022: Burton-Prete stated the first paragraph on page five the minute's state "looking forward with working." The word "with" should be replaced with "to" so the minutes read "looking forward to working."

Further, on page five, the third paragraph states, "Brown stated that it is to his understanding that a person does need a business license to sale tobacco." The word "sale" should be replaced with "sell" so the sentence reads "Brown stated that it is to his understanding that a person does need a business license to sell tobacco."

The fourth paragraph includes a sentence that states "how far they can be to schools and daycare facilities." The word "to" should be replaced with "from" so the sentence reads "how far they can be from schools." The third paragraph from the bottom states, "Brooks asked what the five (5) businesses that sale tobacco." This sentence needs to add the word "are" and change "sale" to "sell." The sentence should read "Brooks asked what are the five (5) businesses that sell tobacco."

On page six, in the first full paragraph, the sentence reads "Price moved to approve the Text Amendment with the amendment." This should instead read "Price moved to approve the Text Amendment as amended." Further under bullet point b, the minutes state "Brown went over the UDO for Drive-Through Facility in combination with Gas Station." This should read "Brown reviewed the UDO for Drive-Through Facilities in combination with Gas Stations." In the next sentence, the minute's state, "He went over how the UDO defines Drive-Through Facilities and listed businesses like restaurants, financial institution, and retail goods establishments as being businesses that are eligible to combined uses." Instead this sentence should read "He described how the UDO defines Drive-Through Facilities and listed businesses such as restaurants, financial institutions, and retail goods establishments as being business that are eligible to combine uses."

In the second paragraph under bullet point b the minute's state, "Wickliffe Lewis turned the floor turned over to the visitors." The second "turned" should be removed. In the same paragraph, the third sentence states, "She stated that they express interest." Instead, this should read "She stated that they expressed interest."

In the third paragraph under bullet point b, the last sentence states, "He stated that the business is moving towards food service market and convenient store." The sentence should read "He stated that the business is moving toward the food service market and convenience store." The last sentence of this paragraph that is located at the top of page seven states, "the restaurant comes from drive-through facility." This sentence should add "the" so the sentence will read "the restaurant comes from the drive-through facility."

Additionally, on page seven, in the first paragraph at the end of the last sentence, the word "place" should be "placed."

The second and third sentences on the second paragraph of page seven states "They're goal is to have a big name restaurant like McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, or Jimmy Johns be part of the gas station and operate the drive-through facility. They do not want to bring any a mom and pop store." Instead these sentences should read, "Their goal is to have a big name restaurant like McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, or Jimmy Johns be part of the gas station and operate the drive-through facility. They do not want to bring any mom and pop store."

In the third paragraph of page seven, the minute's state, "Manhani stated the entrance will be on both right-of-ways to because they want to create a safe in and out for their customers." Instead, this should read, "Manhani stated the entrance will be on both right-of-ways because they want to create a safe in and out entrance for their customers."

In the fourth paragraph of page seven, the minute's state, "Burton-Prete asked if they perceived any issues in getting a national restaurant if they don't offer drive-through service." This should be changed to "Burton-Prete asked if they perceived any issues in getting a national restaurant chain if they don't offer drive-through service." In the second sentence of page seven in the second to last paragraph, the word 'effect' should be changed to 'affect.'

On page eight, the fourth sentence of the first paragraph states, "they would have to go the permitting process." The word 'through' should be added between 'go' and 'the.' In the sixth sentence of the same paragraph the minute's state "to allow gas stations and sale liquor, than it may be possible." This part of the sentence should be changed to "to allow gas stations to sell liquor, then it may be possible."

On page nine under "Old Business: b. Code of Conduct for Planning and Zoning Commission" the end of the last sentence on the page needs the word "it" added so the sentence reads "He stated there were printed copies for those that still needed to sign it."

On page 10, the first paragraph and first sentence needs "for the training" removed. Additionally, the word "training" should replace "it" at the end of the sentence. In the second sentence of the

same paragraph, the phrase “and training certificate” should be removed and “needs to be completed and the certificate” needs to be added after “need” so the entire sentence will read “The training needs to be completed and the certificate submitted to Brown by the end of November.”

Under “Staff Communications” the second sentence uses the word “coordinated” when it should be replaced with “coordinate.” Additionally the second to last sentence states, “the next house being rehab” should have “rehab” changed to “rehabbed.”

A motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections by Brooks. Seconded by Burton-Prete. All in favor.

Petitions: None.

Audience to Visitors: None.

New Business:

a. Public Hearing: Request for a Special Use Permit in the C-2 Mixed Use Zoning District at 364 South Orchard

Hutchins opened the public hearing at 7:20 pm. Hutchins instructed Brown to overview the request. Brown stated the application was submitted by Dena Bell of Access South Cook I, LLC for a special use permit in a C-2 Zoning District to permit a multi-family dwelling at 364 South Orchard. Brown reviewed the definition of a multi-family dwelling as it is defined by the Uniform Development Ordinance (UDO). Brown stated that the applicant is proposing to purchase approximately two (2) acres of property from the Village of Park Forest to build affordable housing. The development will include a total of five (5) buildings with a total of 44 apartments.

Hutchins then turned the floor over to the applicant. Burkholder from Core Business Solutions of IFF went over the history of IFF stating it has been a nonprofit organization since 1988. The organization was created out of the Chicago Community Trust and they are an independent 501(c)(3). The organization operates in nine (9) states and focuses mainly on financing nonprofit facilities. IFF has lent over 1.2 billion dollars to nonprofit organizations across the Midwest during its existence.

Bell went over the IFF program called Home First. She stated that Home First is a unique type of housing developer where they develop housing specifically intended to be community integrated and accessible. Over a 10-year period, Home First has developed over 300 apartments of affordable housing. Park Forest will be their tenth development. Bell presented slides displaying Home First properties developed in Chicago and Peoria, Illinois.

Bell also stated Home First tries to incorporate universal design into each of their developments as much as feasibility possible. This can include accessibility features for wheelchairs, and designing workspaces, kitchens, and baths to meet the needs of different communities. Home

First also tries to include other features like audio visual alarm systems. These types of features help anyone adapt if they are aging-in-place or if they're abilities change.

Bell went on to state that IFF are long-term owners of their developments. Many of their residents have been with them for many years and they are very "hands-on" with their property management and the asset management of their properties.

Bell stated the project will have 44 units in five (5) separate buildings. She also stated there will be a community building which will include space for property management personnel, a small gym, and space for community events.

Hutchins then opened the floor for residents to comment on the special use permit. Brandon stated that it's good to see some development occur in that space. Brandon stated that it's exciting to have a development come to the Village. Brandon was curious as to what was coming and how they would incorporate the community into the development. Brandon stated that she is looking forward to the opening of the building.

Hutchins closed Public hearing at 8:07 pm.

Hutchins then instructed Commissioners to ask questions to the applicant in order to further evaluate the application. Burton-Prete first asked, "Why did you select Park Forest for this development?" Bell stated that IFF completed market planning over the last two years. The planning has included highlighting and creating development projects, lending work, and expanding the IFF footprint into the South Suburbs. Bell stated that her team visited Park Forest and the surrounding areas to look to see what types of land was available, what kind of community structures there were nearby, and what might be a good alignment for their development. Park Forest was selected as a high opportunity development area by the Illinois Housing Development Authority. This means that developing in Park Forest was likely to spur additional development in the community. As Bell and their team was coming down, they were looking at some other communities in the region too. IFF looked at East Hazel Crest and other communities nearby. A lot of the other communities were either fully developed with single family homes or there wasn't enough community amenities or other things to build around. When Bell and her team came to see this site, they were so excited to see all of the different amenities that were within walking distance of the property.

Burton-Prete asked where else IFF has developed in Chicago. Bell stated that the organization has 54 units of housing in one development located in Logan Square. That development is two and three flats developed as infill developments. These developments are all within a five (5) mile radius of one another circling around Logan Square. IFF also has single unit condominium buildings across the City of Chicago, the north suburbs, southwest suburbs, and near Forest Park and Oak Park.

Burton-Prete asked if these developments were apartment buildings or condominiums. Bell stated that these are apartment buildings. Bell clarified that the development proposed with the special use permit is programmed for independent living for people with disabilities. Residents will have their own lease and will live independently in their own apartment.

Burton-Prete asked Brown about the parking with the provided site plan. Burton-Prete asked Brown to explain the difference between the 41 actual parking spaces and 43 counted parking spaces because of the electric vehicle charging station taking up three spaces. Brown stated there will be 41 actual parking spaces. Brown explained that if the 41st space is the electrical vehicle charging station, it would count as the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd parking space. There are 43 counted parking spaces but the requirement is 44 counted parking spaces.

Burton-Prete stated that she had some concerns about compact spaces and full-size spaces. She stated that she was looking at the UDO for the measurements for the compact versus full size parking spaces. She stated she was concerned because people's vehicles are getting larger and larger and the parking space would remain the same size. The parking lot may have a lot of doors getting dinged due to the smaller spaces.

Burton-Prete stated regardless if it is 41 actual spaces or 43 counted spaces, the development is still a parking space short of the 44 space requirement. Burton-Prete stated that if there's two people in one apartment, there's not enough parking for two people who drive two vehicles. She then asked where the overflow would go. She stated that right now there is extra parking around the site, but if that area ever gets developed, where would the overflow go? Where would visitors park? She asked where the handicapped parking would be located. Burton-Prete stated that the development would need to take that into account as well. Brown stated she was correct, the development would have to take that into account.

Burton-Prete acknowledged Brown's remark. She then stated that she had read where it states that an applicant must submit a minor zoning variance application for a parking reduction of one space. Burton-Prete asked if Brown determined if it's okay to have 43 parking spaces instead of 44 spaces. Brown stated that per the UDO the Zoning Administrator is the Village Manager, Thomas Mick. Due to it being only one space, per the UDO, this type of variance is an administrative action. Brown stated that as far as the concern goes, especially when you look at the co-ops and parking around them, he could definitely see Burton-Prete's concern as legitimate. Brown stated that the development does have marked handicap spaces. There are seven (7) handicap spaces marked off with the handicap aisles. Brown stated that those accessible spaces are more than what's required by the State of Illinois.

Burton-Prete asked about the 1.5 acres that's currently not developed northwest of the site and where visitors of the proposed development could park. Brown stated they could park on Village lots during the day, but overnight parking is not acceptable per the Village's ordinance.

Burton-Prete asked what would happen if they were to park overnight. Brown stated that as far as the UDO is concerned, the 44 spaces would meet the requirement, but thought Burton-Prete brought up a good point. Burton-Prete asked if 44 tenants have cars and they park in those 44 spaces, where would the visitors park and would it be the Village's parking lot? Brown stated that parking analysis was included as part of the Draft DownTown Master plan. The current parking outside of the Village Hall isn't at capacity and that outside of election season, Main Street Nights, or the Fourth of July there probably would not be an issue with parking demand. Brown stated that these are maybe a handful of events each year where we will see peak parking

demand occur. Brown stated that if that was something the Commission wanted to stipulate in the conditions of the special use permit that may be included. The condition could be to develop an agreement with the Village for overnight and visitor parking. Brown stated that there may need to be a permit process that needs to happen in regard to the parking. Brown stated that if the Village knows who those cars belong to and they aren't being left there for weeks at a time, he argued that would be something you can stipulate in the conditions of the special use permit. Brown recommended that Burton-Prete should recommend to the Board that pending approval for special use permit, visitor conditions for parking or overflow would be met and that the agreement would be signed with the developer or the project manager.

Burton-Prete asked if the residents who will be living in the buildings would be provided parking stickers for permit parking so that visitors or people outside of the residents don't take advantage of parking in those parking spaces. Bell stated that they will have our property manager come up with some kind of system and that property managers are pretty good about that sort of coordination. Bell stated that she didn't know specifically about what process would be used, but that the property manager would handle it. Burkholder stated that the spaces could be assigned per apartment like apartment one (1) or apartment two (2) and so on.

Burton-Prete asked to review the size of the parking space in regard to the eight (8) feet versus nine (9) feet in regard to compact versus full size spaces. She asked if a sport utility vehicle (SUV) door would be able to open and not ding a neighbor's car right next to it. Brown stated that when it comes to the compact spaces, he would be recommended the development mark them as compact so that you won't have a SUV park there. He stated that as far as the UDO goes, the development can have up to 15 compact spaces and still be in compliance. The development has 13 shown in the site plan.

Burton-Prete asked if the community center would be open to all Park Forest residents and not just the individuals living in the apartment complex. Brown stated that was his understanding.

Burton-Prete asked to have the off-street loading space explained to her. She was getting the idea that if somebody wants to come and move into an apartment they need an area to load and unload. She asked if that was what this area was used for or not. Brown stated that it was for loading and unloading and moving residents in and out of the development.

Burton-Prete asked about the front of the buildings and if the entrances will be facing Orchard and Indianwood and if the center is sort of the courtyard. Wiltse stated she was correct.

Burton-Prete asked about the site entrance on the Cunningham side. She asked if it was large enough for emergency crew vehicles, garbage pickup, et cetera to get into. She stated that they'll need to be able to maneuver around in the courtyard. Wiltse stated that fire services would be able to operate internally and that the site parameters developed thus far are according to what they've done in the past and the engineering standards for other Villages. Wiltse stated he would confirm with the Park Forest Fire Department as they went through the final site plan.

Brooks asked about bicycle storage. He asked if one structure was for all parking spaces for the bicycles. Brown stated that the parking spaces are identified throughout the site plan. There will be 44 long term storage and four (4) short term racks for bicycles.

Brooks asked if there was a storage locker room for each individual apartment and where they are to be located. Wiltse stated they will be located in each unit.

Brooks asked about the electric vehicle charging station. He asked if it would be limited to the tenants. He asked because if it's free standing, he thought anyone can come in and use it. Bell assumed it is just for the tenants, but imagined the property manager will probably set rules about its use. She imagined the property manager will limit its use to the tenants.

Brooks asked about the community building and if there is an option for outside organizations to rent the facility for an event. Bell stated that it's possible. She stated that they don't have too many details on what can be operated there but we can be flexible. She stated that if the Village is interested in having that shared space, we can definitely explore that.

Brooks stated his last questions is regarding accessibility specifically within each unit. Do the bathrooms have features such as hooks or rails to assist individuals who have limited mobility? Bell stated, yes, IFF has experience designing accessible bathrooms. She stated IFF generally has a combination of both tubs and roll-in showers for different people with different disabilities who have different preferences on what is comfortable for them. She stated they would also have a roll under sink so that there's knee space. IFF does a significant amount of grab bars and wood blocking behind the wall so in the event that a resident wanted a different grab bar or a grab bar in a position that wasn't included, they would be able to add that for them.

Brooks asked that as far as the rental category, is the development considered market rate or low income? Bell stated that it is affordable housing. She stated rents will be set at under 60 percent of the area median income and the rents are set at a particular level so they're intended to be affordable for the residents. This development will be set at 60 percent less than the median. Bell stated the development will have some rental support for some of the lower income households to be able to live in a property and for the developer to be able to pay operating expenses, taxes, insurance, et cetera.

Price asked if drainage and waste water have been coordinated and if Village questions have been satisfied about the potential impact on storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and basically our utilities. Brown stated the Village has had pre-consultation meetings with the developer to look at those specifically and DPW has submitted their response. Brown thought water and sanitary, DPW had no issues. The only major concern was with the stormwater and Brown believed the last response from DPW was that they would look at their final drawing and site plan for stormwater, but there might have been more conversations between DPW and the developer. Brown would ask the developer what the last conversation was, but water and sanitary sewers were satisfactory.

Price asked if the Commission was to approve the special use permit tonight, the approval wouldn't push away any issues that might still be before the Village and other entities as it

relates to storm water, waste water, and infrastructure. Brown stated Price was correct. Brown stated that the UDO, building codes, health and safety codes would still need to be met. The meeting tonight is strictly looking at the permitting a multi-family use in a C-2 Zoning District. Price asserted that there were no more impact studies as it relates to stormwater, just some discussion about the details. Brown stated he believed Price to be correct. Brown will have to talk to DPW to get the latest on stormwater, but he thought all the solutions were workable in regards to the stormwater. The issue was just getting the final flow counts and making sure those were met. So to Price's previous question, those would still have to be met even if the special use permit is recommended to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Price asked a question about cost related to water delivery. He stated that as you well know, we have an old infrastructure for water delivery and asked if the Village included or are we going to include some analysis or is it not an issue on what 44 apartments might do on some of the older water lines that will be delivering water to the site. Brown stated that he had not heard a requirement for an impact study from DPW and didn't think there was concern on the potable water supply. Brown thought the major concern was storm water.

Price stated that in regard to any cost associated with that, the Planning and Zoning Commissions decision tonight does not settle any negotiations that the Village may have on who's paying for what as it relates to storm water and the requirements. Price asked if that was correct? Brown stated that's correct because the connection fees and everything related to stormwater, potable water, and sanitary sewer would still need to be discussed and have to be agreed on after the special use permit is approved or not.

Price asked a couple of questions for the applicant. He stated that he did not know if they looked at our Downtown Master Plan, but we've talked about multi-family housing diversity that we want to have around this development. We also talk about a diversity of income and if you look at our Downtown Master Plan, it basically talks about the demand for residents with a variety of needs from a variety of income brackets. So my question is, "Is your target market of senior and disabled people, how do you answer, for someone like myself, to the diversity of income part of the plan?" Bell stated that there's going to be some diversity of income. She imagines a good number of the households will be working individuals and that there will probably be some individuals that are just living on social security, disability, and/or pension. If we're talking about the sort of range of income where this development would include everything from extremely high wage earners to extremely low income individuals then this project will not accomplish the entire income range. The program that we sought financing under is an affordable housing development program. It does set caps of what the maximum income per individual can be based on unit type and other things like that.

Price asked what the rents will be for each apartment. Bell stated the 2023 rates just came out. The rents will roughly range from \$1,300 and come down from there. That's sort of the standard area market rent for the community area by accounting.

Price asked if the rent be entirely under the developer and owners control or if the Park Forest Housing Authority will play a role in this as well? Bell stated that in this development, we do have an opportunity to work with the Park Forest Housing Authority. That is something that we

will like to encourage. Bell and her team had an initial conversation with them when they first started looking at the area and it's very possible that the development team could house some individuals from their waiting list in this development as well.

A motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm was made by Burton-Prete. Seconded by Brooks. All in favor.

The Commission then worked through the Standards for Special Use Permits worksheet together. Each standard was read aloud and each Commissioner was given the opportunity to discuss the standard if they felt it necessary. The Standards and their voting outcomes are below.

1. The proposed amendment will not endanger the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and general welfare of the public. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*
2. The proposed amendment is compatible with the existing uses, character, and zoning of adjacent properties and other property within the immediate vicinity of the proposed amendment. *The Planning and Zoning Commission voted four to one that this amendment meets this standard. Price voted no.*
3. The proposed amendment provides a relative gain to the public, as compared to any hardship imposed upon an individual property owner. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*
4. The proposed amendment makes it more feasible to develop property relative to the present zoning classification of the property. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*
5. The proposed amendment addresses the community need for a specific use. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*
6. The proposed amendment corrects an error, adds clarification, or reflects a change in policy. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*
7. The proposed amendment rectifies existing nonconformities and, if so, the extent of such nonconformities. *The Planning and Zoning Commission determined that this standard is not applicable.*
8. The proposed amendment is consistent with the intent of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan, this Unified Development Ordinance, and the other land use policies of the Village. *The Commission unanimously concurred that this standard is met.*

A motion was made by Burton-Prete to approve the special use permit with a condition that it is the requirement of the developer-owner to enter into a formal agreement with the Village of Park Forest to access to a future determined number of parking spots to serve the residents and guest of this value. Seconded by Price. All in favor.

Doug made a motion to the approval of the nine (9) conditions. Eight (8) of which are in the staff report on page five (5) and the ninth added and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Burton-Prete. All in favor.

b. Discussion regarding Amending the Unified Development Ordinance to include Annexation Agreement Review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Recommendation to the Village Board

Price made a suggestion to move item b to the next meeting. All in favor.

Old Business: None

Communications:

- a. Member Communications:** Burton-Prete stated that Phil Perkins, the Chair of Economic Development Advisory Group, asked when they will have the joint meeting between the two groups. Brown stated they were planning to have it this month or next month with the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA), however, he was not sure if next month will be feasible. The SSLBDA will need about an hour to present. It may be a January meeting instead because the December meeting will be the Downtown Master Plan.
- b. Trustee Comments:** None.
- c. Staff Communications:** The Downtown Planning Advisory Committee meeting will be November 22nd in the Village Hall Boardroom. That meeting will be followed by the community open house December 7th. The community open house is open to the public. The consultant will present to the Planning and Zoning Commission on December 13th on the Downtown Master Plan. Brown asked to please complete the sexual harassment training if you have not completed it yet. If you have not signed the code of conduct, please sign and hand it in. The code of conduct will need to be signed by the end of the year.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Burton-Prete. Seconded by Brooks. All in favor. Adjourned at 9:32 pm



**Report to Park Forest Planning & Zoning Commission
on
Status of Outreach, Engagement & Planning for Sauk Trail Woods
12.1.2022**

Upcoming Events at Sauk Trail Woods for Winter and Spring 2023:

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service- Drop in
Shubert's Woods, Sauk Trail West**

Give back this MLK Day. Join us for a litter cleanup in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.
Monday January 16, 10 am

Bike the Preserves: Sauk Trail Woods

Sauk Trail Woods Central- Forest Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St South Chicago Heights

Join a guided bike ride around Sauk Trail Woods. Ride will be approximately 5 miles. Bring your own bike and helmet.

Saturday, April 8 *7:30am

Bird Sit

Sauk Trail Woods Central-Forest Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St South Chicago Heights

Bring your morning coffee and join us for a bird sit. Birders will stay in one spot and see which birds come to us. A limited supply of binoculars will be available to borrow.

Saturday, April 22 *8am

Earth Day

Sauk Trail Woods Central- Forest Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St South Chicago Heights

Help the earth with a litter clean up at your local Forest Preserve.

Saturday April 22 * 10am-1pm

Report on Fall 2022 Event:

***Party for Preserves at Sauk Trail:* September 24, 2022 11 am-3pm**

An event FPCC hosts annually to highlight the important role public land plays in the Cook County community. We hosted three events at each of the Challenge Site locations including Schubert's Grove.



Organizations that Participated:

- Steger- South Chicago Library
- Filament Theater
- Cook County Emergency Management
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Activities: We focused on activities that were requested by people at the open house in March.

- Archery
- Nature Walk
- Camping 101
- Zumba
- Spoken Word
- Theater Performance
- Plant Giveaway
- Nature Play
- Information Distribution
- Games & Obstacle course

Outreach efforts: Flyers, emails and request for groups to distribute information on FPCC behalf

- Email communication with property managers at the Ash Street Cooperative, Birch Street Townhomes, and Cedarwood Cooperative.
- Birch Street Townhomes indicated that they would like to receive an event flyer to circulate the community.
- Organizations: We reach out to libraries such as Steger-South Chicago Heights Library, they attended the event.
- Tall Grass Art
- CCEMRS
- MWRD
- Pullman National Monument
- Indiana Dunes National Park
- CRTI
- The Nature Conservancy
- Faith In Place
- Sweet Water Foundation
- Muzicnet
- Southland Arts
- Park Forest Public Library
- Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library
- Garden Club of Park Forest



- UIE Master Gardeners

Number of Attendees: 53

While we were disappointed with the attendance, we had some great partners participate in the programming that day. We gave away 20 bike helmets at the trailhead so were able to interact with a number of people in addition to the attendees.

REPORT: Pop up Challenge

We continue to work with the community in new ways to host events with more activities at all the sites. The Trust for Public Lands is working to create pop up events with community groups/individuals to provide more activities at the Challenge sites.

We've posted this invitation in numerous places including on our website; through social media and to organizations we've connected with through public meetings and local engagement.

Host Your Next Meeting, Class or Activity in the Forest Preserves

From book clubs and art classes to walking groups and everything in between, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is seeking community organizations near Sauk Trail Woods, Miller Meadow and Caldwell Woods to host their small public gatherings surrounded by nature.

Learn more: tinyurl.com/nature-challenge-cc2022

To date two 2 events were scheduled at Sauk

- November 5th THUG Hippie-Yoga at Schubert Woods
 - Nature Challenge Yoga Journey in the Forest Preserves. Explore a variety of Yoga styles to balance your Chakras and get ready for fall.
 - 12p- 3p (Note: this was cancelled due to the high winds that day)
- November 20th Brown People Foundation's Plant Medicine at Schubert's Woods, Workshop about 20 people
 - Jah of Brown People Foundation led a guided nature walk, followed by an interactive plant medicine workshop! Fun for all ages. 1pm -3pm

We continue to assess the success of these pop ups and the process will continue to promote this opportunity in the new year.

Report on New Wayfinding and Entrance Signs:

- ✓ New Forest Preserve entrance sign (large masonry sign) is being installed at Sauk Trail Woods - North on 26th Street, which is a major entrance to the larger woods.
- ✓ New vehicle directional signs have been installed at 26th Street and Forest Preserve Drive, Sauk Trail and Forest Preserve Drive, Steger Road and Ashland Ave.
- ✓ New entrance signs at all groves.



- ✓ Four new Pedestrian Directional signs with maps along Sauk Trail Woods Loop.

2023 – Additional wayfinding and information signs on and near the trail: New mile markers will be installed at each mile on the 3.5-mile Sauk loop trail. A large new trail map sign will also be installed in 2023 that shows how the loop connects to Thorn Creek and Old Plank trails.

Other Site Improvement and Restoration Updates:

- ✓ Paving and accessibility improvements have been completed at Sauk Woods Central (where the big shelter is located).
- ✓ Initial vegetation clearing work has been completed south of 26th Street and in other areas highlighted on the map below.

2023 Additional Site Clearing: FPCC’s Resource Management contractor’s and crews will be contracting to do additional clearing in 2023 with new ARPA \$ from Cook County.



Vegetation Clearing Completed in 2022 in Sauk Trail Woods (shaded areas)

FPCC Sauk Trail Woods “Vision Plan” Updates:

Forest Preserve staff will prepare a written vision plan to document strategies and action steps for the next ten years for Sauk Trail Woods. FPCC’s project manager (Aladdin Husain) has been on leave since August and plan drafting has been on hold pending his return in mid-December.

Key Vision Plan Strategies:

- **Invest in visitor amenities:** Install new information and wayfinding signs (partially complete), invest in other improvements (partially complete), and seek grant funding for other larger improvements such as dam removal and restoration.
- **Promote restoration efforts:** Invest in visitor-focused restoration work (first phase completed in 2022), invest in riparian restoration work (not as visible, but funded by new ARPA grant \$), explore grant funding for additional restoration work at key areas TBD
- **Cultivate local relationships** through ramped up programs and outreach (see Conservation & Experiential Programs updates on pages 1-3 above).

Next P&Z Commission meeting - Q1 (February?) of 2023. FPCC staff will review draft vision plan and discuss further engagement, including outreach to representatives of neighboring housing cooperatives.