



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2025

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning and Land Protection

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Bid for construction of the Centennial Project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a bid for the construction of improvements central to the Centennial celebration at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn.

BACKGROUND:

The rare plant and natural beauty endemic to the kame known as Johnson's Mound not only ensured that it was our very first Forest Preserve, but inspired the creation of our whole District. On June 8th, 2025, we will be gathering with all of our friends and supporters to celebrate 100 years of conservation in Kane County. Dozens of new acres of prairie have already been sewn, a unique public art piece known as 'Guardians' has been commissioned and no less than 800 oaks and native trees will be planted to create a centennial grove. All of this to both memorialize the efforts of those who protected the land before us and as a commitment to care for the land for future generations.

Additional rejuvenation and development is needed at the site to bring preserve users to both the centennial memorial area as well as take them to a new council ring which will be located in the vicinity of the historic Shabbona Elm tree that once towered over these woods. The construction project consists of the following:

- 1) Seal-coating and striping of lower parking lots
- 2) ADA accessible limestone trail extension from lot to centennial memorial
- 3) "Carriage Walk" path creation to new council ring
- 4) Limestone-boulder council ring construction
- 5) Installation of limestone memorial stones

The District publicly advertised the bid to 50 vendors and received two responses. The lowest, qualified bid was received from Obsidian Asphalt, Inc.(West Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$129,023.75. District staff recommend an additional contingency amount of \$15,000.00 in the event of any unanticipated expenses occur with this project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$575,000.00 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024/25 for the Centennial Anniversary Improvements project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve (project #31016). Sufficient funds totaling \$223,608.03 are available in Planning Account, #03-35-35-7050 for this expense totaling \$144,023.75.

The District received a Grand Victoria Riverboat grant of up to \$50,500.00 (59:41 split of actual costs) for the construction of the council ring and historic signage. Note that signage is not part of this contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the bid for construction of the centennial project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve with Obsidian Asphalt, Inc, for a contract cost of \$129,023.75 plus a contingency of \$15,000.00 for a total contract cost not to exceed \$144,023.75.

ATTACHMENTS: *County Locator Map*
 Bid Abstract
 Sculpture Area
 Project Plan