



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** February 24, 2026  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee  
**FROM:** David Petschke, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer  
**VIA:** Ben Haberthur, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Approval of Amendments to the Enforcement of the District's General Use Ordinance

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of amendments to the District's Use Ordinance in Chapter 6 as presented. These changes increase certain fine amounts.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the continuing effort by the Public Safety Department to provide a safe and peaceful experience for visitors to the District's preserves, the Department is proposing a few changes to address quality of life issues, ordinance enforcement, and fines. Our current Use Ordinance recites the District's authority to impose a fine of between \$75 (minimum) and \$500 (maximum) for any violation of the Ordinance and also that those amounts may be amended from time to time.

Public Safety is recommending that the District amend and increase the following ordinance violation fines from \$75 to:

- \$250 - Permit Required
- \$250 - Protection of Property, Structures, and Natural Resources
- \$500 - Destruction or Misuse of Natural Resources

Public Safety is also recommending adding the following language to the Use Ordinance Chapter 6 – Enforcement / Section 3 – Fines and Penalties:

- "Chapter 2, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 – Related to Destruction or Misuse of Property, Structures, and Natural Resources shall be fined \$250
- Chapter 2, Section 2 (c) - Related to Destruction or Misuse of Natural Resources (Bison) shall be fined \$500
- Chapter 1, Section 3 - Related to Permit Required (engaging in activities where a permit is required, without a permit), shall be fined \$250"

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The District shall receive the full amount of these fines or the violator will be subject to late fees, and additional penalties, up to and including collections.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Committee approve changes and amendments to the District's Use Ordinance in Chapters 6 as presented.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

*Attachment A: General Use Ordinance – Redline*