



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

---

**DATE:** February 29, 2024

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Planning & Utilization Committee

**FROM:** Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Chief of Planning & Land Management

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Approval of a Resolution Approving a Request to Submit an IDNR Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for the Development and Improvement of the Limestone Trails at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve

---

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of submitting a federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application for improving sections of the limestone trails within Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Constructed in 2008 with the assistance of an Open space Land Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD) grant, Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve is a popular preserve for hiking and horseback riding. The limestone and asphalt trails meander through woodlands, prairie, and wetlands along Fitchie Creek. Due to the topography, wetlands, and active creek areas, sections of the limestone trail experience significant wash out during heavy rains. This project if awarded, will design and install drainage solutions for problem areas as well as restore sections of the limestone trail.

This project is estimated to cost \$300,000 and the RTP grant will reimburse the District a maximum of \$200,000 for the project costs. This project aligns with one of the grant's eligibility factors; Trail maintenance or restoration, including trail damage by unauthorized users.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve Trail Improvements Project is estimated to cost \$300,000. Funding for the project will be included in the 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Committee approve submitting an RTP grant application for trail improvements at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

*Fitchie Creek Site Location Map*

*Fitchie Creek Site Plan*