



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2026

TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee

FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Executive Director's Action Executing a Contract for Emergency Septic Repair at Paul Wolff Campground

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the ratification of the emergency approval of repairs to the septic system at Paul Wolff Campground.

BACKGROUND:

The Forest Preserve District manages two campgrounds, open seasonally, from May 1 to late October. Paul Wolff Campground is the northernmost of the District's two campgrounds. It is located within Burnidge Forest Preserve in Elgin. Paul Wolff Campground is serviced by two septic systems. The system located in the front of the campground is the larger of the two, and is the primary component of the RV dump station. This station is utilized daily while the campground is in operation, as the service is part of the reservation fee. For non-registered guests, the District charges \$15 per use.

In March 2026, staff discovered that the concrete cap of the septic tank that services the RV dump station had experienced an unexpected failure, tied to the unit's age and the winter freeze/thaw cycle. The system was installed in the 1980s and consists of five settling tanks, connected with a single-piece concrete cap. A portion of the cap over the first tank collapsed, removing the earth covering it, and creating a large void in the ground. (See attached photo).

Staff have made the site secure for visitors, and sought quotes to investigate the extent and cost of the septic system repair. The remaining cap covering the four settling tanks was found to be in a similar state of deterioration with presenting chipping, cracking and loose aggregate throughout each of the risers. Stark & Son Trenching Inc. of Hampshire, Illinois, recommended a full replacement of the tanks, which would connect to the existing septic field.

Staff contacted several additional contractors for quotations; however, no other vendors were able to provide a quote, citing an inability to perform the needed repairs prior to the campground opening, May 1.

Stark & Son provided a proposal for \$39,677 to remove and dispose of the existing five 1,500-gallon tanks, install two 3,000-gallon tanks and one 2,000-gallon tank, install connection to existing septic field, and backfill. The proposal includes all required permitting and inspection.

To ensure minimal interruptions in campground operation, the septic system repairs need to be completed by

May 1. Due to the emergency nature of the repairs, the Executive Director granted approval to contract Stark & Sons for \$39,677 for services, as stated.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding is currently available in account 03-21-24-7050, Operations Land Area Development, due to savings from closing Project #11015 (\$78,000). These savings will be used to cover the emergency repair of \$39,677 with Stark & Son Trenching Inc., of Hampshire, Illinois.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is recommending to the Committee ratify the approval of the septic tank replacement and related repairs with Stark & Son Trenching Inc. of Hampshire, Illinois, for a total cost of \$39,677.

ATTACHMENTS:

County Locator Map

Project Locator Map

Photograph

Quotation