



MEMORANDUM

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATURE FOUNDATION OF WILL COUNTY

FROM: Tara Neff, Executive Director

DATE: November 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of Resolution No. 24-02, The Nature Foundation of Will County 2025 Budget

Background

Attached, please find Resolution No. 24-02, the Nature Foundation’s 2025 Budget, presented as Exhibit A. This budget supports the projects, programs and initiatives outlined by the Board of Directors. As presented in Resolution No. 24-02, the total operating resources for 2025 are \$1,107,227 as follows:

	2024 ACTUAL*	2024 BUDGET	2025 PROPOSED
2024 BEGINNING BALANCE	\$1,051,752	\$1,020,544	\$931,727
REVENUE			
Donations - Restricted	\$50,000	\$49,500	\$58,500
Donations - Unrestricted	\$57,507	\$30,000	\$50,000
Native Plant Sale Events	\$100,739	\$95,500	\$6,000
Other Event Revenue	\$6,807	\$5,000	\$5,000
Merchandise Sales	\$60,608	\$25,000	\$40,000
Misc. Revenue	\$3,989	\$0	\$2,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$279,649	\$204,500	\$161,500
Interest Income	\$20,199	\$14,000	\$14,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,351,600	\$1,239,044	\$1,107,227

The Foundation will begin 2025 with a healthy beginning balance due to legacy gifts received from prior years and a financial support coming from individual donors, private foundations, grants, and Invest in Nature corporate and business partnerships. Projected new income for the year is \$161,500. During this transition year, revenues will be greatly reduced with the discontinuation of multiple native plant sales.

EXPENSE	2024 ACTUAL*	2024 BUDGET	2025 PROPOSED
Audit/Bank	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Capital Projects	\$158,449	\$678,780	\$272,151
Contractual Services	\$33,946	\$80,285	\$78,925
Legal Counsel	\$0	\$3,500	\$2,000
Memberships	\$525	\$500	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Commodities	\$87,920	\$70,300	\$15,150
Misc. Expenditures	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office Supplies	\$222	\$550	\$500
Postage	\$13,184	\$3,500	\$15,000
Sales Tax	\$14,770	\$8,500	\$5,000
Uniforms	\$0	\$300	\$200
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$315,016	\$857,215	\$400,926
NET REVENUE	-\$35,366	-\$652,715	-\$239,426
Contingency	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Reserved Carry Over	\$1,036,585	\$381,829	\$706,301
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,351,600	\$1,239,044	\$1,107,227

The budget includes \$400,926 in expenditures. Of that, \$272,151 is set aside to fulfill specific gift or grant agreements and fund the Forest Preserve's capital projects and programs from individual donations. The remaining or \$128,775 is funding for administration, the events and activities, and fundraising functions.

As presented, the 2024 budget is showing a net loss in operating revenue of -\$239,426 largely due to the \$272,151 commitment to the Forest Preserve's capital projects. Funding to cover the net loss is provided by the year end carry over reflected in the \$931,727 beginning balance.

The \$144,626 of expenditures made from restricted funds includes restoration projects funded by individual donors as well as projects and programs made possible by funding from Pembina Pipeline Corporation, the Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund, the Vulcan Materials Company Foundation, the Sgt. Thomas M. Gilbert Memorial Foundation, and the Joliet Bicycle Club.

In addition, the Foundation will reimburse the Forest Preserve District approximately \$428,160 for programs and projects funded in 2024 for which the Foundation has not yet processed the reimbursements.

Finally, the Foundation expects to provide \$52,525 in funding to the Forest Preserve in 2025 for new funding requests made by the Forest Preserve to the Foundation.

Expenditures made from Restricted Funds	\$144,626
2024 Projects Carried Forward to 2025 FPDWC	\$16,500
New Capital Expenditures 2024 FPDWC	<u>\$52,525</u>
	\$213,651



New funding requests from the Forest Preserve include the following:

2025 REQUESTS

1. Programming Support for Smokey Bear: The Rudy Wendelin Collection – MR	\$1,800
2. Traveling Exhibition – State of our Water Exhibition – FREEC	\$3,525
3. Exhibition – Smithsonian Pollinator Exhibition – ICM	\$1,000
4. Exhibition – Fossils of Will County – ICM	\$1,100
5. Bicycle Repair Station – PCNC	\$1,600
6. Outdoor Bird Seed Storage Bins – FREEC	\$3,800
7. Bicycle Rack - FREEC	\$1,500
8. Animal Furs and Pelts – ICM	\$1,200
9. Interpretive Items and Exhibit Cases - ICM	\$2,000
10. Bird Feeding Station – HONC	\$4,000
11. Woods Walk – VS	\$3,000
12. Riverview Farm Barn Interpretive Signage - ICM	\$900
13. JIWHIS Interpretive Tour Photo Fabrication – ICM	\$600
14. Take it Outside – App and Promotion – MC	\$10,000
15. Take it Outside – Giveaways – MC	\$3,500
16. Willy’s Wilderness Website - MC	\$1,000
17. Restore Will County Land Stewardship Small Grants Program	\$5,000
18. Nature Education Matching Funds (Pembina)	\$5,000
19. Animal Care	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$52,525

Key: HLTF – Hidden Lakes Trout Farm, HONC – Hidden Oaks Nature Center, ICM – Isle a la Cache Museum, PCNC – Plum Creek Nature Center, FREEC – Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. MR – Monee Reservoir, VS – Visitor Services, MC – Marketing and Communications

Recommendation

The budget, as presented, funds the essential priorities and projects of The Nature Foundation of Will County, and aligns with strategic goals and the Foundation’s organizational develop strategies.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Board approve Resolution No. 24-02; the 2024 Budget for The Nature Foundation of Will County, as presented in Exhibit A.

Please contact me should you have any questions.