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FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
of Cook County, Illinois

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

536 NORTH HARLEM AVENUE, RIVER FOREST, ILLINOIS 60305
773-261-8400 / 708-366-9420 / 800-870-3666 TDD 708-771-1190

Steven M. Bylina, Jr., GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Steve Mayberry
708.906.1128

PRESIDENT TODD H. STROGER UNVEILS FY2010 FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Today, Cook County Forest Preserve District Board President Todd H. Stroger unveiled his FY2010 Executive Budget Recommendation for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The budget holds the line on property taxes for the second straight year in a row.

"My recommendation does not reduce a single existing service or program; does not increase any fees; and forgoes any property tax increase for the second straight year," said President Stroger. "I am calling on my staff to redouble their efforts in the coming year without asking the taxpayers to make any further sacrifices."

The FY 2010 budget includes a total appropriation of $160.1 million dollars and provides for:

- A $58.3 million dollar operating budget for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County;
- Contributions to the Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Botanic Garden of $14.4 million dollars and $9.3 million dollars, respectively;
- A contribution of $3.5 million dollars towards land management and restoration;
- A contribution of $3 million dollars towards land acquisition;
- The creation of a new Forest Preserve District of Cook County Iphone application that will provide users with directions to preserves, listings of amenities, photos of preserve locations and statistics about individual holdings;

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- A complete redesign of the District's website;

- The introduction of the PocketCop to the Cook County Forest Preserve Police Force – a smartphone-based law enforcement application that allows officers to make criminal database queries, send text messages, and provide immediate access to federal, state and local criminal databases, among other functions, all from the palm of their hand;

- The grand opening of the new Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center and the Camp Sagawau environmental education center; and

- An increase in the number of handicap-accessible comfort stations and picnic tables available in District picnic groves.

All of the documents relating to the FY2010 Executive Budget Recommendation, including the Executive Budget Recommendation and the President's speech, are available to be viewed at www.fpdcc.com.

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