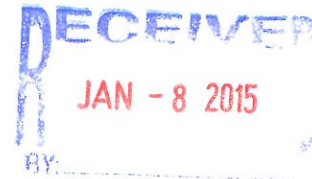


January 6, 2015

Ann Maine  
President, Lake County Forest Preserve District  
1899 W. Winchester Road  
Libertyville, IL 60002



Re: Fort Sheridan Master Plan

Dear Ann,

We appreciate the Forest Preserve District's ongoing progress concerning the Fort Sheridan Preserve Master Plan. Maintaining a contributing property that reflects our commitment to an accessible historic and environmentally restored preserve is a priority for Lake County and the cities of Highland Park and Highwood. Our shared vision of promoting habitat and historic landscapes with which our residents can interact enriches their lives and our legacy.

In speaking to our representative Steven Mandel, he shared the conversations and materials of draft plans presented to the Planning and Restoration Committee. Upon review, both Highland Park and Highwood are strongly opposed to having access and parking closed and/or significantly restricted. The end result would make lakefront access significantly challenging, contravening the goals of providing enhanced access in the first place. Many visitors currently park at the lakefront lot to enjoy a stroll along this public lakeshore. Removal of this popular parking would put a hardship on our communities as a significant number of cars would have to park on nearby residential streets to gain access to the lakefront. We have had issues in the past on popular weekends with noise, people unloading gear and families into residents' front yards, and litter.

Following are several other considerations pertaining to the preliminary plans:

**Parade Ground Improvements**

- Add bike parking on-site
- In lieu of asphalt trails, consider permeable concrete
- Consider low level security lighting in select locations along the Parade Ground trail loop
- Add and maintain garbage cans and dog waste bag stations

**Primary FPD (North of Leonard Wood)**

- Consider the use crushed stone, asphalt or permeable concrete for new trails or create accessible trail options. Turf trails are beautiful although lack functional year-round use and are not accessible to walkers with limitations or wheelchairs users
- Provide bike parking adjacent to the car parking lots

- Add drinking fountains
- Add a public restroom by the cemetery
- Consider refuse and recycling cans at seating area/interpretive exhibit locations

We understand that this process is in its early stages and challenges to the District have directed new strategies for the development of these preserves, but at a minimum, the current access and parking on the lakefront should be maintained. Working together with our sister governments is important and we look forward to cooperation on the missions we share for the benefit of our citizens.

Thank you much for your work and attention in this matter. We are available for conversations and feedback as this process continues.

Sincerely,



Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor  
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Charlie Pecaro, Mayor  
City of Highwood  
17 Highwood Avenue  
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Email:  
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cc: Chairman Bonnie Thompson Carter and Planning & Restoration Commissioners  
Highland Park City Council  
Highwood City Council  
Ghida S. Neukirch, Highland Park City Manager  
Scott Coren, Highwood City Manager