

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.7. APPROVAL OF LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT TO OPERATE GREENBELT FARM

Lead Staff: Ali O'Brien, Vice President for Community & Workforce Partnerships

College of Lake County (CLC) has operated the Greenbelt Farm at the Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago since 2023. The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) has allowed the location to be licensed to CLC for farm operations and workforce training.

The Greenbelt Farm strategically aligns with CLC's efforts in sustainable and urban agriculture. The Farm creates a pipeline for high school students into CLC's postsecondary programs that exist at the Grayslake Campus Farm and the planned Lakeshore Campus Urban Farm Center.

There is no cost to the College for the license agreement with LCFPD. As partners, the agreement outlines the main responsibilities of each party clearly and provides for mutual benefit to both organizations.

Lake County Forest Preserve District will be responsible for:

- Maintaining mowed areas within and around the Licensed Premises.
- Maintaining site assets including perimeter fencing, 2 sheds (roofing, flooring, etc.), and carport over wash/pack area.
- Providing and maintaining water and electric supply.

College of Lake County will be responsible for:

- Employing a Greenbelt Farm Grower.
- Employing a Greenbelt Farm Coordinator.
- Creating and implementing a planting plan.
- Creating and implementing a program curriculum.
- Recruiting, hiring, and managing student workers.
- Identifying individuals or organizations to benefit from free or low-cost access to the produce grown.
- Purchasing and maintaining hand tools associated with crop maintenance.

Recommendation: Authorize the license agreement with Lake County Forest Preserve District to operate the Greenbelt Farm at Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago as outlined in the license agreement from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030.