

MAYOR

James Dodge

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**ORLAND
PARK**

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**MAYORAL PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GRASSLANDS WEEK**

WHEREAS, the 1000-acre Orland Grassland Land and Water Reserve and Important Bird Area, owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, lies within the Village of Orland Park; and

WHEREAS, the site is a Tallgrass Prairie grassland site which support 240 species of birds, annually counted by local volunteer Bird Conservation Network monitors as well as several Plants of Concern monitored by volunteers under the auspices of the Chicago Botanic Garden; and

WHEREAS, the IBA designation bestowed on Orland Grassland is an international recognition administered by Audubon in the U.S. and in collaboration with the State of Illinois, bestowed for the presence of the Henslow's Sparrow plus the significant presence of local support and activity; and

WHEREAS, with the disabling of miles of drain tile, the site is returning to its natural hydrology of ponds, creeks and swales that help with flooding issues; and

WHEREAS, the five-and-a-half-mile perimeter multi-purpose trail and the four natural terrain footpaths in the interior provide immersion of natural experiences in a varied way for a great many residents either strolling, biking and running on the perimeter; and

WHEREAS, the Orland Grassland Volunteers in partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County participate in and lead restoration activities through help from local businesses, Carl Sandburg Interact Club, Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts, church groups and others, averaging between 2,500 and 3,000 hours a year; and

WHEREAS, local volunteers are also frog monitors, seed collection leaders, weed scouts, nature photographers, habitat rescue stewards and outreach and education leaders with core volunteers.

NOW, THEREFOR, I, James Dodge, Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, Cook & Will Counties, Illinois, do hereby designate the week of June 15-21, 2025 as National Grasslands Week, and recognize that Orland Grassland Land and Water Reserve and IBA and the Orland Grassland Volunteers are significant and valuable assets within and in support of the Village of Orland Park.

Dated this 16th day of June 2025

James Dodge
Mayor