



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2026
TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
VIA: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Bids for Control of Teasel at Various Preserves

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of bids for the control of teasel at portions of three Kane County Forest Preserves.

BACKGROUND:

Invasive teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*, *Dipsacus laciniatus*) was introduced to the United States in the 1700s to be used in the textile industry and as an ornamental species. Over time, the species has escaped cultivation and is now an ever-present threat to the biodiversity of the area. Teasel prefers sunny upland environments where it thrives as a monocarpic perennial that produces seed once before dying. This life cycle necessitates the presence of incredibly viable and abundant seed that can thrive within the seed bank for numerous years. As such, once established, a teasel population can survive for a decade or longer, even without the introduction of additional seed.

The District currently controls teasel populations across all 24,000 acres of property. However, some populations have become well established prior to District ownership and will require significant control efforts to reach a maintenance level. The District has sought bids for spring and summer control of teasel across three of these preserves to aid staff efforts across the District.

The qualified, lowest bidder for each option is as follows:

| Project | Preserve Name | Acres | Bid Amount | Bidder Name | Address |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Project 1 | Oakhurst F.P. | 108 | \$12,200.76 | Bluestem Ecological Solutions | Marengo, IL |
| Project 2 | Settler's Hill Golf Course | 176 | \$22,528.00 | Woods to Wetlands, LLC | Streamwood, IL |
| Project 3 | Stearns Road Corridor | 126 | \$35,738.64 | Integrated Lakes Management | Waukegan, IL |

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$50,000.00 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for the Oakhurst FP Teasel Control project. Sufficient funds totaling \$22,300.00 are available in Natural Resources Account 03-31-31-7060 (#21004) for project 1 totaling \$12,200.76. Funds totaling \$330,000.00 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for the Settler's Hill Golf Course Natural Areas Improvements project. Sufficient funds totaling \$51,810.80 are

available in Natural Resources Account 03-31-31-7060 (#21005) for project 2 totaling \$22,528.00. Funds totaling \$200,000.00 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for the Stearns Road Natural Area Improvement project. Sufficient funds totaling \$180,032.00 are available in Natural Resources Account 03-31-31-7060 (#21014) for project 3 totaling \$35,738.64.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the teasel control bids by Bluestem Ecological Services for project 1 at a cost of \$12,200.76, Woods to Wetlands LLC for project 2 at a cost of \$22,528.00, and Integrated Lakes Management for project 3 at a cost of \$35,738.64, for a total expense of \$70,467.40 for all three projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

Abstract of Bid

Project Area Maps

Project Locator Map