



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2025
TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Bids for Control of Cattail 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 cattail at portions of six Kane County Forest Preserves.

BACKGROUND:

Native broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) was once abundant across the Kane County landscape comprising an important role in the composition of marshes. Over time, the introduced narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), and hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*) have largely replaced the native species. Hybrid cattail is an aggressively spreading species that often forms monotypic stands of itself, at the exclusion of native flora and fauna. Its dense growth habit minimizes its utility to native wetland fauna; ducks cannot swim through mature stands, and its quickly closes open pockets of water used by turtles to bask. Drought conditions present over the previous couple summers have exacerbated this issue by presenting low water level conditions ripe for cattail invasion. To combat this spread, the District utilizes a variety of treatment methods including mechanical and chemical control.

As cattail populations commonly occur in standing water, access can be difficult without the use of specialized amphibious equipment that the District does not own. Accordingly, contractors were sought to bid on summer 2025 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of cattail across six preserves.

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

Project	Preserve Name	Acres	Bid Amount	Bidder Name	Address
Project 1	Aurora West F.P.	19	\$6,650	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 2	Dick Young F.P.	45	\$15,750	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 3	Dick Young F.P.	14	\$4,900	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 4	Freeman Kame F.P.	9	\$3,150	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 5	Fox River Shores F.P.	13	\$4,550	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 6	Willoughby Farms F.P.	6	\$2,100	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI
Project 7	Pingree Grove F.P.	21	\$7,350	Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC	Manton, MI

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$140,000 are available in Natural Resources Weed Management Account 01-31-31-7064 for projects 1-6 totaling \$37,100.

Funds totaling \$448,000 were budgeted in fiscal year 2025/2026 for the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancement project (03-31-31-7060, #20604). Sufficient funds of \$43,369.07 remain to cover the expense of project 7 at a cost of \$7,350.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the cattail control bids by Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC of Manton, MI for all seven projects at a total cost of \$44,450.

ATTACHMENTS:

Abstract of Bid

Project Area Maps

Project Locator Map