



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

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

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Bid for Tree Planting at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a bid for tree planting and care at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn.

BACKGROUND:

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County was formed on June 8, 1925, in order to protect high-quality natural areas across the County. Chief among the priorities of the founders was the protection of Johnson's Mound, a large gravel kame covered in oak-sugar maple woods with one of the richest understory floras present to this day. Johnson's Mound became the District's first forest preserve upon its acquisition, and has now expanded to a 955-acre preserve.

In 2025, the District will celebrate 100 years of conservation. In order to mark that milestone, the District is returning to its original roots by expanding the initial acquisition with a 35-acre agricultural conversion to tallgrass prairie and oak woodland. Trees will be available for donors and volunteers to plant, as a total of 800 trees are planted across the area.

In order to diversify the planting and give the new grove better structure, the District is seeking to supplement the smaller volunteer planted trees with 250 larger 1.5" caliper trees that would be planted and cared for by a contract company for a full year. This would also include a guarantee on the trees for that year with a scheduled replacement in the second year, if the tree dies in the first year.

The District publicly advertised the bid and received four responses. The qualified, lowest bid was received from RES Great Lakes of Chicago, Illinois, in the amount of \$145,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$575,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024/25 for the Centennial Anniversary Improvements project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve (project #31016). Sufficient funds totaling \$383,058 are available in Planning Account, #03-35-35-7050 for this expense totaling \$145,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the bid for tree planting and maintenance to be conducted at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve with RES Great Lakes of Chicago, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$145,000.

ATTACHMENTS: *Abstract of Bids*
 County Locator Map
 Project Map