



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 2026

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 and Common Reed 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 and common reed at portions of eight 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.

Similarly, common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a frequent invader in the region's wetland communities. Common reed is a tall (up to 15') perennial grass that spreads vigorously through lateral shoots called rhizomes. To combat this spread of invasive species, the District utilizes a variety of treatment methods including mechanical and chemical control.

As cattail and common reed 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 2026 control projects of multiple, separate infestations of cattail and common reed across eight preserves.

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

Project	Preserve Name	Acres	Bid Amount	Bidder Name	Bidder Location
Project 1	Aurora West F.P.	28	\$9,212.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL
Project 2	Braeburn Marsh F.P.	3	\$3,090.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL
Project 3	Freeman Kame F.P.	49	\$17,101.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL
Project 4	Hannaford Woods F.P.	19	\$5,890.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL
Project 5	Oakhurst F.P.	12	\$4,596.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL
Project 6	Stearns Road F.P.	57	\$14,820.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL

Project 7	Willoughby Farms F.P.	4	\$2,000.00	Bluestem Ecological Solutions	Marengo, IL
Project 8	Rutland North F.P.	17	\$5,100.00	Tigris Aquatic Services	Carol Stream, IL

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$140,000.00 were budgeted in fiscal year 2026/27 for weed management. Sufficient funds totaling \$140,000.00 are available in Natural Resources Weed Management Account 01-31-31-7064 for projects 1-5, and 7-8 totaling \$46,989.00.

Funds totaling \$200,000 were budgeted in fiscal year 2026/27 for the Stearns Road Natural Areas Improvements project (03-31-31-7060, #21014). Sufficient funds of \$144,293.36 remain to cover the expense of project 6 at a cost of \$14,820.00.

The cost of all projects combined is \$61,809.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the cattail and common reed control bids by Tigris Aquatic Services of Carol Stream, Illinois, for projects 1-6 and 8 at a total cost of \$59,809 and the bid by Bluestem Ecological Solutions of Marengo, Illinois, for project 7 at a cost of \$2,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Abstract of Bid*
- Project Area Maps*
- Project Locator Map*