



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** August 28, 2025

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

**FROM:** Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources  
Ben Haberthur, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Approval of Bids for Fourteen Tree and Brush Clearing Projects

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of bids for invasive brush and tree clearing at portions of the following: Aurora West, Burnidge Dick Young, Schweitzer Woods, Bliss Woods, Bowes Creek Greenway, Elburn, Pingree Grove, Stearns Road, Virgil, and Raceway Woods Forest Preserves.

**BACKGROUND:**

The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands and large-scale tallgrass prairie restorations.

Woody invasive species, such as common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), are some of the other primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Grassland invasive species, like callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), have similar impacts to prairie communities by choking out the native grasses and forbs.

Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the ecosystems to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support.

Contractors were sought to bid on clearing projects across numerous, heavily-infested forest preserves. Projects are as follows:

- **Project 1 – Aurora West Forest Preserve in Aurora.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on approximately 62.4 acres of restored prairie.
- **Project 2 – Burnidge Forest Preserve in Elgin.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on approximately 53 acres of restored prairie.
- **Project 3 – Dick Young Forest Preserve in Batavia.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on approximately 77.6 acres of restored prairie.
- **Project 4 – Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve in West Dundee.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on approximately 42.3 acres of savanna restoration.
- **Project 5 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve in Sugar Grove.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on

approximately 46.7 acres of oak woodland and mesic floodplain woods.

- **Project 6 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve in Sugar Grove.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on approximately 21.8 acres of oak woodland and mesic floodplain woods.
- **Project 7 – Bowes Creek Greenway in Elgin.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 3.7 acres of floodplain woodland and pond berms.
- **Project 8 – Elburn Forest Preserve in Elburn.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 39.2 acres of high-quality oak woodland.
- **Project 9 – Pingree Grove Forest Preserve in Pingree Grove.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 13 acres of marsh edge.
- **Project 10 – Pingree Grove Forest Preserve in Pingree Grove.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 10.2 acres of marsh edge.
- **Project 11 – Stearns Road Forest Preserve in South Elgin.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 12.1 acres of floodplain along Brewster Creek.
- **Project 12 – Virgil Forest Preserve in Virgil.** Tree clearing will focus on a tree line following the ditch adjacent to agricultural land.
- **Project 13 – Raceway Woods Forest Preserve in Carpentersville.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 25.5 acres of high-quality oak woodland.
- **Project 14 – Raceway Woods Forest Preserve in Carpentersville.** Tree and brush clearing will focus on 11.2 acres of high-quality oak woodland.

The District publicly advertised the bid and received 8 responses. The qualified, lowest bids for each option were as follows:

- **Project 1 – Aurora West Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$18,308, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd. of Leland, Illinois.
- **Project 2 – Burnidge Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$24,913, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 3 – Dick Young Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$28,892, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 4 – Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$23,265, submitted by ENCAP, Inc. of DeKalb, Illinois.
- **Project 5 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$55,295, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 6 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$31,310, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 7 – Bowes Creek Greenway.** Bid of \$8,790, submitted by Bluestem Ecological Services of Marengo, Illinois.
- **Project 8 – Elburn Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$47,378, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 9 – Pingree Grove Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$9,020, submitted by Bluestem Ecological Services.
- **Project 10 – Pingree Grove Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$6,225, submitted by Bluestem Ecological Services.
- **Project 11 – Stearns Road Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$19,968, submitted by V3 Construction Group, Ltd. of Woodridge, Illinois.
- **Project 12 – Virgil Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$9,920, submitted by Bluestem Ecological Services.

- **Project 13 – Raceway Woods Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$40,361, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.
- **Project 14 – Raceway Woods Forest Preserve.** Bid of \$23,690, submitted by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funds totaling \$100,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for tree-thinning projects at several preserves.

Funds totaling \$100,000 are available in the Natural Resource Management Tree and Brush Thinning budget, Account #01-31-31-7063, to cover all of Project 1 (\$18,308), Project 2 (\$24,913), Project 3 (\$28,892) and Project 4 (\$23,265) at a total expense of \$95,378.

Funds totaling \$350,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Maple Esker Woodland project. Sufficient funds totaling \$278,186.56 are available in the Maple Esker Woodland project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21011, to cover Projects 5 and 6 at a total expense of \$86,605.

Funds totaling \$35,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for Donated Lands Management (01-31-31-7066). Sufficient funds totaling \$35,000 are available to cover Project 7 at a total expense of \$8,790.

Funds totaling \$300,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Grand Trillium Woodland project. Sufficient funds totaling \$300,000 are available in the Grand Trillium Woodland project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21012, to cover Project 8 at a total expense of \$47,378.

Funds totaling \$448,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancement project. Sufficient funds totaling \$36,019.07 are available in the Pingree Grove Wetland Bird Habitat Enhancement project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #20604, to cover Projects 9 and 10 at a total expense of \$15,245.

Funds totaling \$200,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Stearns Road Natural Areas Improvement project. Sufficient funds totaling \$200,000 are available in the Stearns Road Natural Areas Improvement project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21014, to cover Project 11 at a total expense of \$19,968.

Funds totaling \$35,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Virgil Ditch project. Sufficient funds totaling \$35,000 are available in the Virgil Ditch project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21013, to cover Project 12 at a total expense of \$9,920.

Funds totaling \$100,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Raceway Woods Landscape Scale Restoration Grant project. Sufficient funds totaling \$100,000 are available in the Raceway Woods Landscape Scale Restoration Grant project, Account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21016, to cover Projects 13 and 14 at a total expense of \$64,051. This project is funded in part through a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service for landscape scale restoration projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Committee approve the contracts for invasive tree and brush removal at portions of Aurora West, Burnidge, Dick Young, Schweitzer Woods, Bliss Woods, Bowes Creek Greenway, Elburn, Pingree Grove, Stearns Road, Virgil, and Raceway Woods Forest Preserves to the four separate qualified, lowest bidders as follows:

- Projects 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, and 14 – Pizzo and Associates of Leland, Illinois, for a total contract cost of \$270,147.
- Project 4 – ENCAP, Inc. of DeKalb, Illinois, for a total contract cost of \$23,265.
- Projects 7, 9, 10, and 12 – Bluestem Ecological Services of Marengo, Illinois, for a total contract cost of \$33,955.
- Project 11 – V3 Construction Group, Ltd. of Woodridge, Illinois, for a total contract cost of \$19,968.
- The total cost for all 14 projects is \$347,335.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

*Bid Abstract*

*County Locator Map*

*Project Area Maps*