



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 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 a Bid for Herbicide Control of Woody Resprouts at Various Preserves

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of bids for herbicide weed management at seven forest preserves.

BACKGROUND:

In the face of modern fire suppression and landscape fragmentation, invasive species represent a massive threat to biodiversity. Invasive plant species come in many varieties, but two main distinctions land managers make to categorize management are herbaceous (herb-like, for example: garlic mustard and wild chervil) or woody (a plant that produces wood for structure; shrubs and trees, in essence: buckthorn and honeysuckle). District staff, contractors, and volunteers annually clear dozens of acres of invasive woody growth from the preserves. The removal of mid- and over-story individuals from a woodland opens the forest floor to sunlight. The sunlight equally favors both beneficial species and invasive non-natives and it is common to see seedlings of invasive species thrive in these conditions. The contracted work detailed below will target invasive woody species for chemical spot control. Through this process, we will promote desirable plants and restore both the structure and function of the woods. Successive years of effort will reduce the effort and cost needed to maintain these areas in perpetuity.

The District publicly advertised a bid for control of woody re-sprouts across eight preserves split between nine projects and received seven responses. The qualified, lowest bid for each of the projects are as follows:

Project 1 – Big Rock Forest Preserve – (50.1 acres): Bid of \$32,715.30 by Davey Resource Group Inc.

Project 2 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve – (56.4 acres): Bid of \$30,738 by Tallgrass Restoration, LLC

Project 3 – Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve – (4.7 acres): Bid of \$3,070.98 by Bluestem Ecological Solutions

Project 4 – Burnidge Forest Preserve – (24 acres): Bid of \$13,394.88 by Woods to Wetlands

Project 5 – Dick Young Forest Preserve – (94.6 acres): Bid of \$24,886.11 by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.

~~**Project 6** – Grunwald Forest Preserve – (32.7 acres): Bid of \$17,942.49 by Woods to Wetlands~~

Project 7 – Hampshire Forest Preserve – (76.1 acres): Bid of \$36,375.80 by Tallgrass Restoration, LLC

Project 8 – Settler's Hill Golf Course – (18 acres): Bid of \$8,989.20 by Woods to Wetlands

Project 9 – Big Rock Forest Preserve – (43.4 acres): Bid of \$25,041.80 by Davey Resource Group Inc.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$140,000 were budgeted in the 2025/26 Fiscal Year for Weed Management. These operating funds will cover Projects 1, 4, 5, and 9. Sufficient funds totaling \$97,585 are available in the Natural Resources Account #01-31-31-7064 for this expense, totaling \$96,038.09.

Funds totaling \$350,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Maple Esker Woodland project at Bliss Woods Forest Preserve (project #21011). Sufficient funds totaling \$191,581.56 are available in Natural Resources Restoration Account, #03-31-31-7060 to cover project 2 at an expense of \$30,738.

Funds totaling \$35,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for Donated Lands Management. These operating funds will cover project 3 at Bowes Creek Greenway. Sufficient funds totaling \$10,420 are available in Natural Resources Account #01-31-31-7066 for this expense of \$3,070.98.

Funds totaling \$230,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Fiddlehead Woodland Restoration project at Hampshire Forest Preserve (project #21008). Funds totaling \$29,585 are available in Natural Resources Restoration Account, #03-31-31-7060 to cover most of the expense of project 7 at an expense of \$36,375.80. Funds totaling \$35,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Virgil Ditch Cost Share Project at Virgil Forest Preserve (project #21013). Funds totaling \$25,080 remain in that project following the completion of that project and are available to cover the remaining \$6,790.80 of project 7.

Funds totaling \$330,000 were budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the Settler's Hill Golf Course Multi-Year Management Plan project (#21005). Sufficient funds totaling \$60,800 are available in Natural Resources Account #03-31-31-7060 to cover project 8 at an expense of \$8,989.20.

Sufficient funds are not available to cover the cost of project 6 at \$17,942.49. Staff will address this project in-house during 2026.

The cost of all eight projects as presented is \$175,212.07.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the bids for herbicide weed management to be conducted at portions of seven forest preserves with Davey Resource Group Inc. of Elmhurst, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$57,757.10 for projects 1 and 9; Tallgrass Restoration, LLC of Schaumburg, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$67,113.80 for projects 2 and 7; Bluestem Ecological Solutions of Marengo, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$3,070.98 for project 3; Woods to Wetlands, LLC of Streamwood, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$22,384.08 for projects 4 and 8; and Pizzo and Associates, Ltd. of Leland, Illinois, for a contract cost of \$24,886.11 for project 5, for a combined total project cost of \$175,212.07.

ATTACHMENTS:

Abstract of Bids

County Locator Map

Project Maps