



# Lake County Forest Preserves

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**DATE:** March 6, 2023  
**MEMO TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Pati Vitt  
Director of Natural Resources

**Agenda Item #** 9.5

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the purchase of one new 2023 Rayco C200 Forestry Mower-Mulcher to Morbark LLC, in the Contract Price of \$345,404.07.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Conservation; Leadership; Organizational Sustainability

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Funding for the new Forestry Mower-Mulcher was approved as part of the adopted FY23 budget for \$350,000.00 (account 27644100-804100).

**BACKGROUND:** The District's 100-year vision includes conserving nature at a landscape-scale. One critical element of this vision is the District's commitment to eradicate buckthorn across 4,000 acres of public and private land, through a collaborative pilot project that seeks to broaden public awareness. In addition to the 3,000 acres that have already been treated to remove buckthorn and other woody invasive species, more than 10,000 acres of District lands are currently invaded and remain untreated. Much of the habitat that requires woody invasive control can be treated with a forestry mower, but there are two constraints to pursuing this work by District staff: (1) current equipment has only a 4-foot deck, which limits the area that can be treated, and (2) current equipment is generally best used in lower quality habitat, or its use is limited to periods when frozen ground conditions allow deployment. As a result, much of the mechanical treatment of invasive woody species across the District has been carried out during winter months by contractors with an average bid price of ~\$580/acre.

The Natural Resources Department seeks to purchase a 2023 Rayco C200 Forestry Mower-Mulcher, which has a wider mowing deck than equipment currently available to staff. Natural Resources staff had the opportunity to observe this model in use by one of our current contractors, Central Tree at Van Patten Forest Preserve. The Manager of Landscape Ecology and the Forestry Crew were on site to observe the machine and to learn about the model directly from the operator. We estimate that purchase of this machine will allow Natural Resources crews to control woody invasive species for a fraction of the cost of a contractor, and, because this unit has rubber tracks with a low ground pressure (5.71 psi), will allow nearly year-round opportunities for use. Additionally, this unit can be deployed in a broader range of habitats than we can currently treat either in-house or with contracted labor. Having the capacity in-house and running almost year-round will maximize our efforts in woodland restoration and the eradication of Buckthorn.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Purchasing Manager, Corporate Counsel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
REGULAR MARCH MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2023**

**MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith "A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Morbark LLC, for the Purchase of a Forestry Mower-Mulcher" and requests its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: 3/6/2023  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: 0

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO  
MORBARK LLC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORESTRY MOWER-MULCHER**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the "District") desires to purchase one new 2023 Rayco C200 Forestry Mower-Mulcher, or approved equivalent (the "Equipment"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act, 30 ILCS 525/1, et seq., any governmental unit may purchase personal property, supplies, and services jointly with one or more other governmental units if one of the governmental units has publicly advertised for, and received, competitive, sealed bids or proposals, and has awarded a contract for such personal property, supplies, and services to the lowest responsible bidder or the highest ranking proposer, all in accordance with such Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Sourcewell has publicly advertised for, and received, competitive proposals for the Equipment, including a proposal by Morbark LLC for the Equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, Sourcewell has awarded contract #031721-MBI to Morbark LLC as the highest-ranking proposer for the Equipment (the "Sourcewell Contract") and the Sourcewell Contract provides that other units of local government may also enter into contracts with Morbark LLC on the same terms as provided in the Sourcewell Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the District to award a contract for the Equipment to Morbark LLC on the same terms as provided in the Sourcewell Contract (the "Contract") in a total price equal to \$345,404.07 (the "Contract Price");

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, **THAT**:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

**Section 2. Award of Contract.** The proposal submitted by Morbark LLC, in the total amount of the Contract Price is hereby accepted and the Contract is hereby awarded to Morbark LLC.

**Section 3. Execution of Contract.** The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract with Morbark LLC, in the amount of the Contract Price.

**Section 4. Payments.** The District Treasurer shall make payments under the Contract only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contract terms.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gagnani, Secretary

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Sold To:</b>	Lake County Forest Preserves	<b>Ship To:</b>	Lake County Forest Preserves
	1899 West Winchester Road		TBD
	Libertyville, IL 60048		TBD

<b>Quote:</b> 23S-C200R-1	<b>Quote Date:</b> 2/1/2023	<b>Customer Name:</b> Michael Zahalka	<b>Est Lead Time:</b> Est Jun-Jul 2023, based on inv unit
<b>Terms:</b> Net 30 Days	<b>Customer Phone #:</b> 847-946-1948	<b>Delivery Instructions:</b>	
<b>Preparer:</b> Erlka Snyder	<b>Customer E-mail:</b> mzahalka@lcfpd.org	FOB - Shipping Point	

**2023 Rayco C200 Carrier with Rubber Tracks**



<b>STANDARD UNIT:</b>	<b>P/N:</b>
Engine: 188hp Isuzu 5.2L Tier 4F Diesel	C200R
Weight: Carrier with Winch and Mulcher: 20,760 lbs	
Undercarriage: Rubber Track 20" (500mm)	
Hydraulic: Closed loop with 66 GPM, 5800 PSI to mulcher attachment	
Transmission: Hydrostatic Drive - Low Range: 2.7 mph / High Range: 4.8 mph	
Fuel Tank Capacity: 64 Gallons (242L) DEF Tank Capacity: 10 Gallons (37.9L)	
Attachment Plate: Standard Skid Steer (SAE style)	
Winch: Rear-mounted Hydraulic 20,000lbs	
Primary Cooling: Engine Fan, Auto-Reversing	
ROPS, FOPS and OPS Certified	
Enclosed Cab with Heat and A/C	
Cab with Hydraulic Tilt and Automatic Latching Rear Cab Pins	
Front Window with Steel Window Guard	
Back-up Camera with Dedicated Display	
Windshield Wiper w/4 L Reservoir and 32" Single Blade	
Suspension Seat w/Air Ride, Heat, High-back, 3in Belt	
Three Escape Exits: Door, Roof, RH Side Window	
LCD Panel: Display Faults, Gauges, and Information	
Side Slope Inclinometer	
6 High Visibility Flashing Amber Strobe Lights	
Protected High Output LED Lighting- (6)Front, (2)Rear, (1) per Side	
Radio - AM/FM/Bluetooth with USB	
<b>ATTACHMENTS - FRONT</b>	<b>P/N:</b>
Denis Cimaf 180E Mulcher with 6 foot cutting width (27 Knives and depth limiters)	FM200-6CA

Sourcewell#031721-MBI, Member ID#18661

**TOTAL CALCULATION**

<b>Total from Above Choices =</b>		\$351,780.00
<b>Sourcewell Discount</b>	10%	\$35,178.00
<b>Freight =</b>		\$2,200.00
<b>Material Surcharge</b>		\$26,602.07
<b>Extended Price =</b>		<b>\$345,404.07</b>

QUOTE IS VALID FOR 60 DAYS

# Canyon Church became grieving site

Mark Medina  
USA TODAY

CALABASAS, Calif. — The pastor stared out toward his attentive congregation. He sensed their anger, sadness and confusion.

So Bob Bjerkaas, pastor at Church in the Canyon, delivered a sermon that not only included Bible verses but also addressed his congregation's varying emotions after the sudden death of a Lakers star.

"Kobe Bryant was a man like you and me," Bjerkaas said. "He had ups and downs, strengths and weaknesses, feelings and hopes."

"But he also had something extraordinary, and it was a gift from God."

Bjerkaas, known as "Pastor Bob," spoke those words Jan. 26, 2020, roughly 8 1/2 hours after Bryant, his 33-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash. The crash took place on a hillside near the Santa Monica Mountains directly across the street from Bjerkaas's church.

During an hour-long service, Bjerkaas prayed for the nine victims, quoting the book of Ecclesiastes, which details how God helps people deal with both joy and suffering.

And in a 13-minute sermon, Bjerkaas sought to comfort grieving Bryant fans and his own flock.

"I look back on that and I wonder, 'Did I do enough as a local pastor?'" Bjerkaas told USA TODAY Sports nearly a year later.

"Did we do enough to serve the local community?"

"I always want to do my best."

Those who visited Church in the Canyon that day believe that Bjerkaas did. Nearly 80 fans, nearly all first-time visitors, attended the vigil service at the church, which can hold 110 people. After the service, plenty of those fans embraced and prayed with Bjerkaas.

"It was very life changing," said Irvin Guillermo, 32, of Northridge.

"The fact this happened to Kobe Bryant is such a tragedy, and we wish it didn't happen."

"But Pastor Bob spoke to me and made me realize that death isn't something we should fear. The way he described it was that Kobe is at peace."

"That inspired me and motivated me to enjoy every moment of my life."



Church in the Canyon is located across from the hillside where the helicopter crashed. ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY

### Watching as the tragedy unfolded

Bjerkaas offered such perspective nearly nine hours after first processing the tragedy.

While teaching a Sunday school class around 9:45 a.m., Bjerkaas heard the sound of a low-flying helicopter followed by a loud thump. Bjerkaas thought nothing of it. Helicopters and planes fly frequently over Calabasas to connect to the Burbank and LAX airports.

Elizabeth Howland Forrest, a member of the church, was much more concerned. While driving from Santa Monica, she marveled at the low-flying helicopter that she followed west along Interstate 101. She then lost sight of it after exiting the freeway and eventually parking at the church. As she finished applying her makeup, Howland Forrest saw the helicopter again in her rearview mirror.

Then she saw the helicopter crash into the hillside behind the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District building across from the church. She saw smoke immediately.

"I waited awhile," Howland Forrest said. "I was concerned what the danger might be."

As the 10:45 service began inside the church, Howland Forrest stayed outside to help accommodate arrivals of police, firemen, reporters and onlookers. One TV reporter relayed the news to Howland Forrest that Kobe and Gianna Bryant were among the passengers. Soon enough, Bryant's chauffeur arrived to speak to authorities.

"He was speechless," Howland Forrest said of Bryant's chauffeur. "He was

completely in grief and found it unbelievable."

So Howland Forrest passed along a note to alert Bjerkaas about the news of Bryant and his daughter. Since their identities were not yet verified, Bjerkaas stayed quiet. But he centered his sermon on the book of Job, which involves a righteous man experiencing tragedy and how he dealt with it. Bjerkaas told his congregation the helicopter crash "reminded us that life is not a guaranteed thing."

A church member then interrupted and announced that Kobe and Gianna Bryant were among the victims.

"It was very, very distressing," Bjerkaas said. "I have some real die-hard Lakers fans in my congregation. They were pretty shook."

So were the 200 grieving fans whom Bjerkaas said arrived within a half hour after his sermon. By then the sheriff's department blocked off road access at checkpoints near the crash site. That included the church's location on the corner of Las Virgenes Road and Willow Glen Street. Mourners and reporters soon filled the sidewalks.

Suddenly, Church in the Canyon became the gathering place to grieve.

"We didn't have a plan; we didn't have supplies," Bjerkaas said. "All we had was a whole bunch of coffee and a whole bunch of coffee cups."

### A safe haven for mourning fans

Through the day, Bjerkaas estimated the church served about 400 cups of coffee. He allowed fans to use the church bathroom. The church became more than just a free coffee shop.

Bjerkaas empathized with those grieving. After seeing one distressed Bryant fan smoking marijuana on church property, Bjerkaas respectfully confronted him about tossing it before they prayed together.

"Pastor Bob was remarkable," Howland Forrest said. "He had a humble heart with recognizing that for all the people coming there, it was not a convenient location. They were tired. They were thirsty. And there wasn't anything around for them. His desire was for people to feel comfortable, welcomed, be able to have a place to rest if they needed. He was 100% consistent 100% of the time."

Although he admired Bryant, Bjerkaas did not have a personal connection to the Lakers' star. He never met the Lakers' star.

Bjerkaas, who was born in Columbia, Maryland, grew up rooting for the Washington Bullets.

But after Church in the Canyon hired him as pastor in 2007, Bjerkaas quickly learned what Bryant meant to L.A. Most of his congregation are Lakers fans. One of his administrative assistants has Bryant posters plastered all over her office walls.

Bryant's impact did not fully register, however, until his death.

"What struck me was how close the connection Kobe Bryant had with his fans," Bjerkaas said.

"A lot of them said, 'I thought of him as an older brother.' Or they said watching him go through his issues helped me grow up."

### Opening the church during a pandemic

That fateful day on Jan. 26, 2020, marked the beginning of a tragic year. For the next week, Bjerkaas and his wife held impromptu gatherings for fans at the crash site. Bjerkaas, who also coaches youth lacrosse, made yellow street signs and his players held them in the neighborhood to direct visitors to the church.

Their ministry soon ended abruptly. On March 22, Church in the Canyon closed because of the coronavirus outbreak. Bjerkaas prerecorded services to post on YouTube.

The church received approval to hold outdoor services in August, but by January indoor services were allowed at smaller capacity. The church has required attendees to take temperature checks, follow social distancing rules and bring their own Bible and take pre-packaged Communion.

Unlike the frenetic scene during last year's tragedy, roads are no longer blocked off and there are no markings around the crash site. Unlike last year, Bjerkaas will not be able to give out a cup of coffee, say a prayer or deliver a sermon to all interested Bryant fans.

"This year in general has taught us really to think that life is a fragile and precious thing," Bjerkaas said. "Things can change in a moment."

# Heavyweights to sit out Super Bowl 55 ad game

Tom Schay  
USA TODAY

With funny frogs, adorable puppies and its iconic Clydesdale horses, Budweiser has become synonymous with Super Bowl advertising over the past four decades, producing some of the most memorable commercials in the history of television's marquee live event.

This year, however, the brand is taking a pass.

Budweiser is foregoing its annual Super Bowl commercial slot for the first time in 37 years, joining fellow juggernauts Coke, Hyundai and Pepsi in skip-

ping this year's Super Bowl broadcast amid the financial uncertainty of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The beer brand said in a news release that instead of paying to air a Super Bowl ad, it will instead be "reallocating the media investment" to raise awareness about the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the year, in partnership with the Ad Council.

"Like everyone else, we are eager to get people back together, reopen restaurants and bars, and be able to gather to cheer with friends and family," Budweiser vice president of marketing Monica Rustgi said in a statement. "To do this, and to bring consumers back

into neighborhood bars and restaurants that were hit exceptionally hard by the pandemic, we're stepping in to support critical awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine."

According to the news release, Budweiser plans to donate some of its advertising airtime throughout 2021 to the Ad Council and COVID Collaborative, a coalition of experts in health, education and the economy. Clarissa Dickinson, a spokesperson for Budweiser, called it "a multimillion-dollar commitment."

Although Budweiser is skipping this year's television broadcast, it will run a 90-second ad titled "Bigger Picture" on digital platforms before and during the

Super Bowl. The commercial is narrated by actress Rashida Jones.

Bud Light, another Anheuser-Busch brand, is still expected to air an ad during the game.

The absence of Budweiser — and fellow Super Bowl regulars Coke, Hyundai and Pepsi — will leave this year's broadcast without several of the perennial contenders in USA TODAY's Ad Meter, which ranks Super Bowl commercials by consumer rating.

All four companies framed the move as a matter of strategy and resource allocation amid the pandemic, which has led to job losses and budget cuts across industries.

## MARKETPLACE TODAY

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Sourcell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcell Procurement Portal <https://reportal.sourcell-mn.gov>.

Only proposals submitted through the Sourcell Procurement Portal will be considered.

Proposals are due no later than March 17, 2021, at 4:30pm Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

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