

DATE: October 2, 2023

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for the Woody Invasive Plant Clearing - Winter 2023 Project at Multiple Forest Preserves to (a) HGS, LLC dba RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC for Greenbelt and Heron Creek Forest Preserves, in the Contract Price of \$269,972.60; (b) Native Restoration Services, Inc. for MacArthur Woods Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$68,806.30; and (c) Tallgrass Restoration, LLC for Van Patten Woods Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$89,304.80.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: These individual projects were approved as part of the adopted FY2023 Budget and are included in the proposed FY2024 Budget. In the following chart, the “Overall Project Budget” identifies the overall restoration budget for each listed Preserve, the “Clearing Portion Estimate” identifies the estimated cost of the invasive plant clearing portion of that project (i.e., the work that will be performed pursuant to the contracts that would be approved by the attached resolution), and the “Actual Low Bid Amount” identifies the recommended lowest responsible bid received for the clearing work in each Preserve. Various accounts would fund the proposed work.

Grant funding is secured from the Morton Arboretum’s Urban and Community Forestry Grant and expected from the USFWS Coastal Program Grant for portions of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve Project. Grant funding for a portion of Heron Creek Forest Preserve Project provided by ILCE Stewardship Challenge Grant is contingent upon ongoing fundraising efforts for the “Community Stewardship at Heron Creek” grant project.

PRESERVE (PROJECT)	OVERALL PROJECT BUDGET	CLEARING PORTION ESTIMATE	ACTUAL LOW BID AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED	ACCOUNT
GREENBELT	\$489,897.00	\$352,800.00	\$240,302.60	\$200,000.00; \$5,085.80; \$35,216.80	69644100-803200-60812; 69644000-709000-56073; 11104100-803200-60004
HERON CREEK	\$27,000.00	\$24,883.75	\$29,670.00	\$25,000.00; \$4,670.00	27644100-803200-64304; 11104100-803200-60004
MACARTHUR WOODS	\$100,000.00	\$96,900.00	\$68,806.30	\$68,806.30	11104100-803200-60004
VAN PATTEN WOODS	\$100,000.00	\$93,000.00	\$89,304.80	\$89,304.80	11104100-803200-60004

BACKGROUND: Invasive plants are a significant challenge to habitat conservation. Management of invasive plants is necessary to improve and conserve habitat quality and species diversity on District properties throughout Lake County. The District conducts removal of invasive woody species as part of a Land Management Program to restore and enhance woodlands, savannas, prairies and wetlands; to increase the health, diversity and sustainability of flora and wildlife populations; and to restore or enhance ecosystem services (“Clearing Projects”).

The Clearing Projects that would be completed by the contracts that would be approved by the attached resolution include: (i) the “Increasing Habitat Connectivity and Protecting Rare Species at Greenbelt Forest Preserve through Expanded Invasive Woody Species Control” grant project, which will restore a total of 112 acres through the initial phase, including two degraded management areas, and through managing invasive woody species in a high-quality management area at Greenbelt Forest Preserve and (ii) the “Community Stewardship at Heron Creek” grant project, which will restore 13.8 acres through managing woody invasive species and facilitate further volunteer restoration activities at Heron Creek Forest Preserve.

The District advertised for bids for multiple Clearing Projects, each indicated as a separate preserve and project located within Lake County, under one consolidated bid process. Each Clearing Project has its own Scope of Work and Specifications. Work includes all labor equipment and materials to selectively remove invasive woody trees and shrubs and thin select native species and includes disposal services and follow-up selective herbicide applications.

The Clearing Projects were advertised on July 28, 2023 and bids were received from seven bidders. Work is anticipated to begin December 15, 2023 and to be completed by August 1, 2024.

Staff recommends the following lowest responsible bidders be awarded contracts for the following Clearing Projects:

<u>CLEARING PROJECT</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID</u>
Greenbelt	Resource Environmental Services, LLC	\$240,302.60
Heron Creek	Resource Environmental Services, LLC	\$29,670.00
MacArthur Woods	Native Restoration Services, Inc.	\$68,806.30
Van Patten Woods	Tallgrass Restoration, LLC	\$89,304.80

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

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR THE
WOODY INVASIVE PLANT CLEARING WINTER 2023 PROJECT
AT MULTIPLE FOREST PRESERVES**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for the Woody Invasive Plant Clearing – Winter 2023 Project at Multiple Forest Preserves (the “Work”); and

WHEREAS, all sealed bids were received and opened by the District at its General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois on August 18, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time and such bids are identified on Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the District’s staff, the Purchasing Manager, the Director of Natural Resources, and the Operations Committee have reviewed the bids and recommend that the Board of Commissioners (i) finds that each highlighted bid on Exhibit A (collectively, the “Low Bids”) is a lowest responsible bid for each corresponding “Location” identified in Exhibit A and (ii) awards a contract for the portion of the Work at each of the Locations to the bidder who submitted the Low Bid for such Work (collectively the “Low Bidders”) in the amount of the Low Bidder’s Low Bid (collectively, the “Contract Prices”) as follows:

(a) to HGS, LLC dba RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC for Greenbelt Forest Preserve and Heron Creek Forest Preserve, in the total Contract Price of \$269,972.60;

(b) to Native Restoration Services, Inc. for MacArthur Woods Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$68,806.30;

(c) to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC for Van Patten Woods Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$89,304.80; collectively, (the “Contracts”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that each Low Bid is the lowest responsible bid for each corresponding Location as set forth above;

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: Acceptance of Bids. The Low Bids in the amounts listed on Exhibit A are hereby accepted and a Contract for a portion of the Work is hereby awarded to each Low Bidder in the amount of the Contract Price, which shall equal the total of such Low Bidders’ Low Bids.

Section 3: Execution of Contracts. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contracts for the Work in the amounts of the Contract Prices.

Section 4: Payments. The Treasurer shall make payments under the Contracts only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contracts' 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
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____

**EXHIBIT A
 BID 23025**

**WOODY INVASIVE PLANT CLEARING WINTER 2023 PROJECT AT
 MULTIPLE FOREST PRESERVES**

	TGF Enterprises	Tallgrass Restoration	Native Restoration	Integrated Lakes Management	Homer Tree Service	HGS dba RES Environmental	Bluestem Ecological Services
LOCATION							
Greenbelt	NO BID	\$335,247.90	NO BID	NO BID	\$798,220.00	\$240,302.60	NO BID
Heron Creek	\$47,196.00	\$59,671.20	NO BID	\$45,471.00	\$86,940.00	\$29,670.00	NO BID
MacArthur Woods	\$83,688.00	\$72,191.20	\$68,806.30	\$75,209.40	\$156,690.00	\$72,044.24	\$188,600.02
Van Patten Woods	\$126,976.00	\$89,304.80	NO BID	\$105,648.00	\$228,160.00	\$116,907.20	NO BID