



# Lake County Forest Preserves

General Offices  
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**DATE:** February 5, 2024

**Agenda Item #** 9.5

**MEMO TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee

**FROM:** Pati Vitt  
Director of Natural Resources

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Invasive Plant Management 2024 Districtwide for (a) Eastern Forest Preserves to Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$131,356.20; and (b) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$129,034.80.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Conservation

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The Projects (defined below) were approved as part of the adopted FY 2024 Budget. The total cost of the Projects, including a smaller additional Project that does not require Board approval, was estimated at \$280,000.00. The actual cost of the Projects to be completed by the contracts that would be awarded by the attached Resolution is \$260,391.00. For an additional Project, the District received a low bid of \$18,666.00. Because that bid is under \$30,000.00, it does not require Committee recommendation or Board approval and will be accepted by staff. The total cost of the Projects is \$279,057.00. Funding for the Projects comes from the Farm Management Fund (28644000-705100-62806) in the amount of \$230,000.00, and the Habitat Restoration Fund (11104100-803200-60004) in the amount of \$49,057.00.

**BACKGROUND:** Invasive plant management includes the removal of invasive plants from District lands to improve and conserve habitat quality. It is the most time-consuming task faced by District natural restoration crews and is 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. To more efficiently accomplish this work, each year, the District hires contractors on an hourly basis to complete several projects to manage herbaceous invasive plants.

The District advertised for bids for season-long control of (i) teasel at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve; (ii) multiple invasive species in Forest Preserves in the eastern part of the County (Ryerson Conservation Area and Nature Preserve, Cahokia Flatwoods, Grainger Woods, MacArthur Woods, Captain Daniel Wright Woods & Stevenson Home, Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Lake Carina, Pine Dunes, Oriole Grove, Lyons Woods, Old School, Prairie Wolf, Independence Grove, Almond Marsh, Van Patten Woods, and Waukegan Savanna) (the "Eastern Preserves"); and (iii) multiple invasive species in Forest Preserves in the western part of the County (Lakewood, Rollins Savanna, Gander Mountain, Ray Lake, Nippersink, Singing Hills, Heron

Creek, Kettle Grove, Cuba Marsh, Grassy Lake, Tanager Kames, and Bluebird Meadow) (the “Western Preserves”) (collectively, the “Projects”).

The Projects were advertised on November 29, 2023 and bids were received from six (6) bidders. A summary of the lowest bids received and recommended for approval is listed below:

<b><u>LOWEST BIDDERS – BIDS GREATER THAN \$30,000.00</u></b>		<b><u>TOTAL BID</u></b>
Eastern Preserves	Native Restoration Services, Inc.	\$131,356.20
Western Preserves	Red Buffalo Nursery	\$129,034.80

Staff recommends that (a) Native Restoration Services, Inc. be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for invasive plant management at the Eastern Forest Preserves and (b) Red Buffalo Nursery be awarded a contract as the lowest responsible bidder for invasive plant management at the Western Forest Preserves.

<b><u>LOWEST BIDDERS – BIDS EQUAL TO OR UNDER \$30,000.00</u></b>		<b><u>TOTAL BID</u></b>
Buffalo Creek Teasel Management	McGinty Brothers, Inc.	\$18,666.00

Staff will award a contract to McGinty Brothers, Inc., for the Project for which it was the lowest bidder (Buffalo Creek Teasel Management).

Work is anticipated to begin in April 2024 and to be completed by October 2024.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
                                  ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
RESCHEDULED REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Awarding Contracts for Districtwide Invasive Plant Management at Various Forest Preserves”, and requests its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: Ø

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR  
DISTRICTWIDE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT AT  
VARIOUS FOREST PRESERVES**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News-Sun for sealed bids for District-Wide Invasive Plant Management at Various 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 December 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time, and such bids are summarized 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 yellow-highlighted bid listed on Exhibit A (collectively, the “Low Bids”) is the lowest responsible bid for each corresponding Work Location identified in Exhibit A and (ii) awards a contract for the portion of the Work at each of the Work Locations to the bidder who submitted the Low Bid for such Work (collectively the “Bidders”) in the amount of the Bidder’s Low Bid (collectively, the “Contract Prices”), as follows: for (a) the Eastern Preserves , a contract to Native Restoration Services, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$131,356.20 and (b) the Western Preserves, a contract to Red Buffalo Nursery, in the Contract Price of \$129,034.80 (collectively, the “Contracts”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Native Restoration Services, Inc. and Red Buffalo Nursery are the lowest responsible bidders for the Work, as set forth in the previous clause;

**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 Bidder in the amount of the Bidder’s Low Bid.

**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 District 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

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Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

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

**EXHIBIT A**

**INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT 2024  
DISTRICTWIDE  
BID 23035**

<b>WORK LOCATION</b>	<b>MCGINTY BROS., INC.</b>	<b>BAXTER WOODMAN</b>	<b>NATIVE RESTORATION SERVICES, INC.</b>	<b>TALLGRASS RESTORATION LLC</b>	<b>INTEGRATED LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.</b>	<b>PIZZO &amp; ASSOCIATES, LTD</b>	<b>RED BUFFALO NURSERY</b>
<b>BUFFALO CREEK TEASEL MANAGEMENT</b>	\$18,666.00	NO BID	NO BID	\$28,900.00	\$28,900.00	\$29,576.60	NO BID
<b>EASTERN PRESERVES</b>	NO BID	NO BID	\$131,356.20	NO BID	\$186,150.00	\$190,508.10	NO BID
<b>WESTERN PRESERVES</b>	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	\$219,000.00	\$190,508.10	\$129,034.80