



DATE: August 4, 2025

MEMO TO: Paul Frank, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Kevin Kleinjan
Director of Planning

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Apex Landscaping, Inc. for Planting at Lakewood Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$159,442.90.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Conservation.

FINANCIAL DATA: This work was included in the adopted FY2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as part of the following project: Lakewood – Tree Planting (Project 61010). The total amount available in the budget is \$314,620.00. The actual amount of \$159,442.90 will be charged to 20104100-803200-61010 and will be funded by the LCDOT funds described below.

BACKGROUND: As part of the Lake County Division of Transportation’s (LCDOT) Fairfield Road and Route 176 intersection improvement project, LCDOT provided funding to the District in the amount of \$500,000.00 for mitigation of the tree and visual impacts caused by the project at Lakewood Forest Preserve. Portions of the original \$500,000.00 funded prior installations of trees and other plant material at Lakewood. This contract will install additional plant material within areas of the Lakewood Phase I Master Plan that are scheduled for completion in 2025.

The project was advertised for bid on June 3, 2025, and six (6) bids were received and opened on June 26, 2025. The bid amounts are:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
Apex Landscaping, Inc.	\$159,442.90
Countryside Industries, Inc.	\$262,900.00
Bluestem Ecological Services	\$269,957.40
Mark 1 Landscape, Inc.	\$384,041.50
J.F.V. Landscaping Service Inc.	\$393,376.00
V3 Construction Group, Ltd.	\$475,246.00

Staff recommends award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Apex Landscaping, Inc., in the amount of \$159,442.90.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Director of Finance, Purchasing Manager, Manager of Board Operations, and Corporate Counsel.

From: [Shane Schneider](#)
To: [Alex Ty Kovach](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Clark](#); [Jessica Vealitzek](#); [Paul Frank](#); [Adam Schlick](#); [Kevin Kleinjan](#); [Kevin Carrier](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Lakewood Planting Letter of Intent
Date: Friday, July 25, 2025 11:34:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[LAKE 2025-07-16- LCFPD LCDOT LOIC Lakewood Plantings \(Signed\).pdf](#)

External Sender - From: (Shane Schneider
<SSchneider2@lakecountyil.gov>)

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This message came from outside your organization.

Hello Ty,

The tree planting modifications presented in the letter appear to align well with the spirit of the original 2012 agreement. On behalf of the Lake County Division of Transportation, I am happy to offer my concurrence.

Wishing you all the best with your implementation efforts on the balance of the tree planting program. I am confident that these improvements will continue to provide the public with much benefit and enjoyment for years to come.

Shane



LAKE COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

Shane E. Schneider, P.E.
DIRECTOR & COUNTY ENGINEER

office: 847-377-7400 passage: 847-377-7000

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From: Alex Ty Kovach <akovach@lcfpd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Shane Schneider <SSchneider2@lakecountyil.gov>
Cc: Jessica Vealitzek <jvealitzek@lakecountyil.gov>; Paul Frank <pfrank@lakecountyil.gov>; Adam Schlick <aschlick@lakecountyil.gov>; Kevin Kleinjan <kkleinjan@lcfpd.org>; Kevin Carrier <kcarrier@lakecountyil.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lakewood Planting Letter of Intent

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments,

or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Good morning Shane,

Please find attached a “Lakewood Planting Letter of Intent and Concurrence Request” letter (*“LAKE 2025-07-16 LCFPD LCDOT LOIC Lakewood Plantings (Signed).pdf”*) that the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) and Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) have jointly reviewed.

As stated in the letter, we are looking for your concurrence (by email is fine and we will then present this in August to the District’s Planning Committee and Board for final approval.

Thank you for your time and continued leadership and support of public access and regional transportation projects.

Sincerely,

Alex Ty Kovach

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR AUGUST MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2025**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **PLANNING COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Apex Landscaping, Inc. for Planting at Lakewood Forest Preserve” and requests its approval.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

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

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO APEX LANDSCAPING, INC.
FOR PLANTING AT LAKEWOOD FOREST PRESERVE**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News Sun for sealed bids for planting at several locations within Lakewood Forest Preserve (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 June 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and;

WHEREAS, bids were received in the following amounts from the following bidders;

	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Apex Landscaping, Inc.	\$159,442.90
Countryside Industries, Inc.	\$262,900.00
Bluestem Ecological Services	\$269,957.40
Mark 1 Landscape, Inc.	\$384,041.50
JFV Landscaping Service, Inc.	\$393,376.00
V3 Construction Group, LTD.	\$475,246.00

and;

WHEREAS, the District’s staff, the Purchasing Manager, the Director of Planning, and the Planning Committee, have reviewed the bids and recommend that the Board of Commissioners find Apex Landscaping, Inc. to be the lowest responsible bidder and award a contract for the Work to Apex Landscaping, Inc. (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that Apex Landscaping, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder for the Work;

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 bid submitted by Apex Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$159,442.90 (the “Contract Price”) is hereby accepted, and a Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to Apex Landscaping, Inc.

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

Section 4: Payments. The 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 _____, 2025

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____