

DATE: October 6, 2025

MEMO TO: Sara Knizhnik, Chair
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Woody Invasive Plant Control 2025-2028 at Multiple Preserves to Tallgrass Restoration, LLC; V3 Construction Group, Ltd.; Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.; and Native Restoration Services, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$652,000.00 in Year one.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Conservation

FINANCIAL DATA: Under the proposed contracts, contractors would perform work on an as-needed basis in response to “work orders” issued by the District. Work orders will be developed by staff consistent with the adopted budget for each Fiscal Year during the contract term.

Funding for the work to be done in 2025 was approved as part of the adopted FY 2025 Budget in the total amount of \$140,000.00, specifically, the Habitat Restoration Fund (11104100-803200-60004) in the amount of \$40,000.00, and the Ecological Land Management Fund (27644000-704800) in the amount of \$100,000.00. It is expected that up to \$1,200,000.00 will be budgeted and spent in FY2026, and up to \$1,600,000.00 will be budgeted and spent in FY2027 for Capital Improvement Projects at the following preserves: Captain Daniel Wright Woods (35504100-803200-6240), Greenbelt (5504100-803200-60802), Lakewood - 1,000-acre woodland (35504100-803200-61004), MacArthur Woods (35504100-803200-67201), Edward L. Ryerson (35504100-803200-61401), Kestrel Ridge (35504100-803200-67102), Waukegan Savanna (35504100-803200-64602), Oriole Grove (35504100-803200-65405) and Gander Mountain (35504100-803200-66801). Additional funding may become available through donations or grants during the course of the contracts. These amounts would be added to the appropriate Fiscal Year budget.

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 resources crews and is a significant challenge to habitat conservation. Therefore, to aid in accomplishing this work, each year the District also hires contractors to complete several winter projects to manage woody invasive plants.

In August 2024, the Operations and Finance Committees gave staff policy direction to solicit competitive bids for combined multi-year contracts for both woody and herbaceous species control. Under this program, multiple contractors are available to provide on-demand natural resource restoration work, on a per-acre cost. This type of contract is more efficient than entering into traditional, separate contracts each year.

Staff prepared a bid package for the winter season woody invasive plant control program seeking sought bids for the control of woody invasive species in a multi-year contract that covers multiple work sites distributed across four quadrants of the County. When services are needed, District staff will issue a work order to the contractor who was the low bidder for the relevant task in the applicable quadrant of the County. The contracts include the following tasks: mixed methods clearing, forestry mowing only, and hand clearing only which include herbicide treatments and brush disposal if applicable.

Staff recommends that the District award the contract to multiple contractors, to improve flexibility. The term of the contracts would commence on November 15, 2025 and continue through August 31, 2028. During this term, the District will issue work orders to contractors who were the lowest responsible bidders on an as-needed basis for work to be completed at one or more work sites. Contractors are required to accept and complete all work orders that are issued with at least 30 days' advance notice. If the District issues a work order with less than 30 days' notice, then the contractor will have seven days to respond to and accept or reject such work order. If a contractor does not accept the work order within seven days, then the District may withdraw the work order and offer it to the next lowest bidder/ vendor.

The bid package was advertised on August 19, 2025, and bids were received from four bidders. Staff recommends that Tallgrass Restoration, LLC; V3 Construction Group, Ltd.; Integrated Lakes Management, Inc.; and Native Restoration Services, Inc., each be awarded a contract for invasive species management services.

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
WOODY INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL 2025-2028
AT MULTIPLE PRESERVES**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has advertised in The Lake County News-Sun for sealed bids for woody invasive plant control services to be performed at multiple forest preserves on an as-needed basis in response to District work orders between November 1, 2025 and August 31, 2028 (the “Work”); and

WHEREAS, the bidding documents for the Work separated the Work into (i) type of work within each of the four geographic quadrants within Lake County, which types and quadrants are identified in the column titled “Project Work” in Exhibit A (each such type and quadrant is a “Work Portion”) and (ii) the contract year in which such Work Portion would be performed (each a “Work Year”), and invited bidders to provide a unit price bid for each Work Portion and Work Year (each a “Bid”); and

WHEREAS, all sealed bids were received and opened by the District at its Operations and Public Safety Facility, 19808 West Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 on September 12, 2025 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, the Operations Committee and the Finance Committee have reviewed the bids and recommend that the Board of Commissioners (i) finds that each bidder listed on Exhibit A (collectively, the “Bidders”) is a responsible bidder, and (ii) awards a contract to each such Bidder consistent with that Bidder’s Bid (each a “Contract”), which allows the Executive Director or their designee to issue work orders, as set forth in the Contract and this Resolution, to the lowest Bidder for each Work Portion (each a “Work Order”);

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 Contracts. A Contract for the Work is hereby awarded to each Bidder consistent with their Bid. Work shall be performed under such Contracts only pursuant to Work Orders issued in accordance with this Resolution.

Section 3: Execution of Contracts; Issuance of Work Orders. The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contracts for the Work. After execution of the Contracts, the Executive Director, or their designee, is authorized to issue Work Orders on an as-needed basis for any portion or portions of the Work in accordance with the Contracts’ terms, provided that: (i) sufficient funds have been budgeted and appropriated for the Work Order in the applicable Fiscal Year, and (ii) each Work Order shall be proffered first to the Bidder who Bid the lowest unit price for the relevant Work Portion and Work Year (each a “Low Bid”). Each

highlighted bid on Exhibit A is a Low Bid. In the event that the Bidder who submitted the Low Bid does not accept a Work Order in accordance with the Contract, then the Executive Director may proffer the Work Order to the Bidder who Bid the next-lowest unit price for the relevant Work Portion and Work Year, continuing until the Work Order is accepted in accordance with the Contract.

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 _____, 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. _____

EXHIBIT A

WOODY INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL 2025-2028

BID: 25102

ALL WORK INCLUDES HERBICIDE TREATMENTS AND BRUSH DISPOSAL
ALL WORK INCLUDES CUT STUMP AND RESPROUT TREATMENTS

| PROJECT WORK | TALLGRASS RESTORATION, LLC | | | V3 CONSTRUCTION GROUP, LTD. | | | INTEGRATED LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. | | | NATIVE RESTORATION SERVICES, INC. | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | YEAR 1 2025-2026 | YEAR 2 2026-2027 | YEAR 3 2027-2028 | YEAR 1 2025-2026 | YEAR 2 2026-2027 | YEAR 3 2027-2028 | YEAR 1 2025-2026 | YEAR 2 2026-2027 | YEAR 3 2027-2028 | YEAR 1 2025-2026 | YEAR 2 2026-2027 | YEAR 3 2027-2028 |
| UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE | UNIT PRICE |
| NORTH EAST QUADRANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MIXED METHODS CLEARING | \$3,475.00 | \$3,695.00 | \$3,915.00 | \$3,259.72 | \$3,357.51 | \$3,458.24 | \$5,200.00 | \$5,330.00 | \$5,464.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| FORESTRY MOWING ONLY | \$2,235.00 | \$2,335.00 | \$2,435.00 | \$2,022.29 | \$2,082.96 | \$2,145.44 | \$2,650.00 | \$2,716.00 | \$2,784.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| HAND CLEARING ONLY | \$9,762.00 | \$10,132.00 | \$10,502.00 | \$2,231.96 | \$2,298.92 | \$2,367.89 | \$9,998.00 | \$10,248.00 | \$10,505.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$4,600.00 | \$4,700.00 |
| NORTH WEST QUADRANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MIXED METHODS CLEARING | \$3,412.00 | \$3,632.00 | \$3,852.00 | \$2,650.00 | \$3,357.51 | \$3,458.24 | \$5,500.00 | \$5,637.00 | \$5,778.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| FORESTRY MOWING ONLY | \$2,212.00 | \$2,312.00 | \$2,412.00 | \$1,765.00 | \$2,082.96 | \$2,145.44 | \$2,850.00 | \$2,922.00 | \$2,995.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| HAND CLEARING ONLY | \$9,531.00 | \$9,901.00 | \$10,271.00 | \$1,855.00 | \$2,298.92 | \$2,367.89 | \$10,500.00 | \$10,762.00 | \$11,032.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| SOUTH EAST QUADRANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MIXED METHODS CLEARING | \$3,412.00 | \$3,632.00 | \$3,852.00 | \$2,845.00 | \$2,930.35 | \$3,018.26 | \$5,200.00 | \$5,330.00 | \$5,464.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| FORESTRY MOWING ONLY | \$2,212.00 | \$2,312.00 | \$2,412.00 | \$1,765.00 | \$1,817.95 | \$1,872.49 | \$2,650.00 | \$2,716.00 | \$2,784.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| HAND CLEARING ONLY | \$9,531.00 | \$9,901.00 | \$10,271.00 | \$1,948.00 | \$2,006.44 | \$2,066.63 | \$9,998.00 | \$10,248.00 | \$10,504.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$4,600.00 | \$4,700.00 |
| SOUTH WEST QUADRANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MIXED METHODS CLEARING | \$3,350.00 | \$3,570.00 | \$3,790.00 | \$2,845.00 | \$2,930.35 | \$3,018.26 | \$5,300.00 | \$5,432.00 | \$5,568.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| FORESTRY MOWING ONLY | \$2,190.00 | \$2,290.00 | \$2,390.00 | \$1,765.00 | \$1,817.95 | \$1,872.49 | \$2,750.00 | \$2,818.00 | \$2,890.00 | NO BID | NO BID | NO BID |
| HAND CLEARING ONLY | \$9,300.00 | \$9,670.00 | \$10,040.00 | \$1,948.00 | \$2,006.44 | \$2,066.63 | \$10,050.00 | \$10,302.00 | \$10,558.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$4,600.00 | \$4,700.00 |