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Dane County Parks staff and volunteers work on hundreds of acres of county parkland annually to restore natural communities. These natural communities, including oak savannas, prairie and oak woodlands, once dominated the area but are now increasingly rare. Competition from encroaching trees and brush contribute to declining oak tree health and heavy shade makes it nearly impossible for oaks to recruit a new generation of young trees. Removal of non-oak species is one important step to restoring these globally rare natural communities and improving habitat for wildlife. With nearby trees removed and sunlight enhanced, oak trees stand of chance of resuming their important role as the backbone of these communities in the region.

Dane County Parks staff worked with a certified forester to identify trees at Donald County Park that should be removed in order to allow the natural community to flourish. Cooper Forest Products of Arena, WI is the highest bidder at \$280,577. Land and Water Resources Department – Parks Division staff recommends approval of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a contract be awarded to Cooper Forest Products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Executive and the County Clerk be authorized to sign the Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land and Water Resources Department – Parks Division be directed to ensure complete performance of the contract.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that revenue account LWRPKOP 84917 Timber Management Revenue and LWRPKOP 20254 Timber Management Expense both be increased \$280,577. All Funds shall be carried forward until realized and expended.