

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Health, Environment & Community Engagement
Date: 2/22/2016
Referral: Ways & Means
From: Health Department
Prepared by: Erin Streff
Presented by: Kenneth Smith
File type: Action
Subcategory: Contracts & Agreements

Subject:

Contracts with Tree Trust and Wetland Habitat Restorations to provide tree planting services as part of the Urban Forestry Program.

Description:

Authorizing agreements with Tree Trust and Wetland Habitat Restorations to provide tree planting and community outreach services for the Urban Forestry Program for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 over 3 years, for a period of up to three (3) years with an extension of the contracts on an annual basis for two additional years at the sole option of the City, contingent upon funding and performance.

Previous Actions:

5/2/14 Council Approved Tree Trust contract with Health Dept.

Ward/Address:

All Wards

Background/Analysis:

Following a competitive RFP process for tree planting services to support the Urban Forestry Project, Tree Trust and Wetland Habitat Restorations were selected to provide tree planting services for the Health Department. These services include: 1) tree planting on commercial and industrial properties to increase the urban tree canopy and promoting species diversity within the City, and 2) consulting with businesses to evaluate space for tree plantings and following up to ensure continued maintenance.

The Urban Forestry Project was started as a way to address the quarter million trees that are estimated to be eliminated in the City over the next decade due to emerald ash borer, and specifically looks at adding to the urban canopy by planting trees at businesses and commercial properties. In total, this project has planted over 520 trees with 160 different businesses in the last 3 years.

The program has partnered with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and utilized seasonal technicians to monitor the health of the trees to focus on quality verses quantity. In 2015 we developed a mobile phone app to assess tree health and map the location of trees to better monitor in the future. The Urban Forestry Project also partners with business

owners and non-profits such as Environmental Initiative to provide funding. In 2016 we are looking into expanding these partnerships to include community groups and MNDOT for additional funding and support.

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget. From fund/department 00100-8600155

- Future budget impact anticipated.**
- Approved by the Permanent Review Committee.**
- Meets Small and Underutilized Business Program goals.**

Attachments:

1. List attachments or delete.