

Memorandum

To: Parks Advisory Commission

From: Scott Spooner, Parks and Recreation Deputy Manager, Maintenance
Josh Landefeld, Parks and Recreation Manager

Date: March 19, 2024

Subject: Resolution to Recommend Awarding a One-Year Contract to The Davey Tree Expert Company for Routine Park Tree Pruning & Park Forestry Services (\$450,000.000, RFP #23-47)

Attached for your review and action is a resolution to recommend approval of a one-year not to exceed \$450,000.00 contract with Davey Tree Expert Company for Routine Park Tree Pruning & Park Forestry Services, with an option to extend the contract at the same terms and conditions for up to four additional one-year periods, subject to available budgeted funding and agreement by the City and contractor. If the contract is extended, an escalator of no more than 2% may be added to the submitted rates. A written request from the Contractor at the end of the contract period will be required to consider any rate adjustments.

Work to be done under this contract includes tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, and emergency tree work in the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Natural Areas. In July of 2018 Park Operations moved from Public Services to Community Services, becoming a part of Parks & Recreation Services. City Forestry staff remained in Public Services and are budgeted in the Stormwater Fund and are focusing on work on City street trees. In order to manage park tree care, staff issued a bid for tree work in the Parks. After three successful contracts awarded to The Davey Tree Expert Company, the contract was once again put out to bid in September of 2023. The focus of the work under this contract will be on pruning.

Routine tree pruning is an important component of a sustainable community forest management program. Trees pruned on a routine basis develop proper form and structure leading to a variety of benefits, including:

- Lower cost per tree trimmed compared to reactive pruning done in response to storm damage, sight clearance or immediate hazards
- Early identification and correction of insect/disease problems leading to less tree mortality
- Reduction in storm related tree damage
- Lower future maintenance costs
- Reduction in tree-related service requests and improved customer service
- Development of a healthy and sustainable urban and community forest

The Davey Tree Expert Company was the one of three bidders. After reviewing the submitted bid prices, along with each companies' qualifications, experience, submitted work plans and past involvement with similar projects, staff judged that the Davey Tree Expert Company to be the most qualified responsible bidder. Based on their knowledge and experience pruning trees as part of a municipal street tree pruning cycle in the City of Ann Arbor, staff recommend moving forward with their bid.

Parks aims to prune in the region of 800 trees under this contract. Areas of highest need will be identified with an emphasis on neighborhood parks. The contract also includes funding for the removal of trees that are diseased or safety concerns. Some of the parks pruned in the previous two contracts include: Allmendinger, Burns, Brookside, Cranbrook, Depot, Fuller, Gallup, Glacier Highlands, Huron Highlands, Leslie, Maryfield/Wildwood, Meadowbrook, Mushroom, North Main, Scheffler, Sugarbush, Veterans Memorial, Waterworks, West, Windemere, Wheeler and Wurster Parks.

Sustainability Framework

The work completed under this contract moves the City towards fully implementing recommendation #1 of the Urban and Community Forest Management Plan, to implement a proactive routine maintenance program. In addition, it will help further goals in the City's Sustainability Framework, including Sustainable Systems, Clean Air and Water, and Healthy Ecosystem.

Budget/Fiscal Impacts

Funding has been included in the FY25 Parks and Recreation Park Operation Millage Maintenance Budget plan and will be included in the budget plan for future fiscal years if approved.

The resolution includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$45,000.00 to cover potential change orders to be approved by the City Administrator.

Staff

Prepared by: Scott Spooner, Parks & Recreation Deputy Manager - Maintenance

Reviewed by: Josh Landefeld, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

Body

Whereas, Ann Arbor's park and community forest is a defining and valued characteristic of the city that residents call "Tree Town," making it a desirable place to live, work and play;

Whereas, Routine tree pruning is an important component of a sustainable urban and community forest management program;

Whereas, Competitive bids for parks tree pruning were received by Purchasing on September 20, 2023;

Whereas, Three proposals were received and the Davey Tree Expert Company received the highest score among the proposals reviewed by the selection committee;

Whereas, The Davey Tree Expert Company possess the qualifications/experience in performing tree pruning needed as part of this contract;

Whereas, The Davey Tree Expert Company complies with the City non-discrimination and Living Wage Ordinances;

Whereas, The contract cost of \$450,000.00 will be included in FY25 Park Operations Millage Maintenance budget plan;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend approving a one-year contract in the amount of \$450,000.00 to The Davey Tree Expert Company for park tree pruning, removals, stump grinding, and emergency tree work in the parks and natural areas of the city with an option to extend the contract for up to two additional one-year periods under the same terms and conditions; and

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend a contract contingency in the amount of \$45,000.00 (10%) be established to approve change orders to the contract with The Davey Tree Expert Company.