



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinators Office

**Date:** October 7, 2013

**To:** Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair Regulatory Energy & Environment Committee  
Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means Budget Committee

**Subject:** Contract for City Trees

**Recommendation:** Authorize execution of agreement with Tree Trust to manage City Tree Program in 2014 with an option for one-year contract extensions in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The proper City officers are authorized to negotiate and execute a contract with Tree Trust in an amount not to exceed the budgeted allocation for the City Trees program.

### Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Director 612-673-2931 Approved by: Paul Aasen, City Coordinator Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest
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### Financial Impact

To be funded within approved annual budget.

### Background

In mid-2013 the City issued a Request for Proposals for a provider and coordinator of the City Tree Program. Tree Trust was the lowest qualified responder.

Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program which has sold at discounted prices over 10,000 trees to Minneapolis residents and business. This is a low cost way to help build the city's tree canopy, increase the diversity of the urban forest by offering different species each year, educate residents about the importance of trees and replace the lost of trees due to disease, storms, etc. Emerald Ash Borer poses a special threat and planting new trees now will help mitigate its devastating impacts. As in the past, the trees are expected to cost property owners \$25 each and the trees are about six – eight feet tall. Depending upon the budget we anticipate between 1,000 – 1400 trees will be distributed.

Tree Trust has been the provider for this program since its inception. They are a local non – profit with a mission to improve the community environment by investing in people. Tree Trust provides employment training, case management, community forestry and environmental education programs with a particular focus on underserved populations and distressed neighborhoods.

Tree Trust purchases the trees, manages the ordering by individuals, helps publicize the program, provides technical assistance, recruits and manages the volunteers, and manages the distribution and follow up survey. We continue to improve the program. In 2013, based upon

the recommendations of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee, we targeted four wards that have historically had the lowest participation in the program and were able to see positive results. Tree Trust is also working with donors to fund tree planting in North Minneapolis.