



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinators Office

Date: April 4, 2010

To: Honorable Betsey Hodges, Chair Ways and Means Budget Committee

Subject: Contract for City Trees

Recommendation: Authorize execution of agreement with Tree Trust for City Trees Program. The proper City officers are authorized to negotiate and execute a contract with Tree Trust in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the City Trees Program. Funding for this service has been included in the 2010 budget and no additional appropriation is required.

Department Information

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| Prepared by: June Mathiowetz, Sustainability Project Coordinator 612-673-2027 Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator 612-673-2032 Presenters in Committee: June Mathiowetz |
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Financial Impact

No financial impact

Background

The City of Minneapolis is partnering with Tree Trust to provide 1,000 trees to Minneapolis residents for planting this spring. Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program, a low-cost way to help build the city's tree canopy. The trees cost residents \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Last month, emerald ash borer was found in Minneapolis. It poses a special threat to the 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, which make up more than 20 percent of the city's trees. Planting new trees now will help start the next generation of trees.

Tree Trust is a local non-profit with a mission to improve the community environment by investing in people. By merging lives and landscapes, their programs provide meaningful opportunities for greening our local community; give youth the chance to experience success, boost their self-confidence and find direction; teach practical job skills to help adults re-shape their lives and help neighbors understand and connect with each other and the natural world. Tree Trust oversees all aspects including purchases the trees, accepts orders via web and phone, publicizes the program, provides technical assistance and manages the distribution. They have provided exceptional service in the past. Permanent Review Committee (PRC) has reviewed and concurred with staff's recommendation.