



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

May 21, 2007

Agenda Item No. 73

Roll Call No. 07-

Communication No. 07-366

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director, and William G. Stowe, Public Works Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Receive and File the City of Des Moines Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments Forestry Report for the 2006 calendar year.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend that Council receive and file the City of Des Moines Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments Forestry Report for the 2006 calendar year.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines Forestry Report is a collaboration between the Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments. The report includes the number of trees that were removed and the number of trees that were planted on the City of Des Moines property for the 2006 calendar year, broken out by city ward, park, golf course, and cemetery. The grand total of trees removed from the City of Des Moines Property last year was 683 with a grand total of 2,033 trees planted. This equates to the Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments for the City of Des Moines planting three trees for every one removed.

In 2005, the Park and Recreation Department contracted with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to complete a forestry study for six of the city's parks. Those parks were Ewing, MacRae, Greenwood, Grandview, Pioneer and Union. This study conducted a tree assessment of each park and resulted in a reforestation plan recommending tree locations and species. Last year, that reforestation plan was put into action by combining funds from the previous fiscal year's Forestry Improvements capital account with the current budgeted funds to allow 330 trees to be planted in Union Park, 387 trees to be planted in Grandview Park, 132 trees to be planted in Greenwood Park and 158 to be planted in Pioneer Park. This completed the recommendations for reforestation plantings at these parks. This fall, trees will be planted in Ewing and MacRae Parks as outlined in the report.

The Park and Recreation Department will be working on phase 2 of the reforestation report which will include assessments and recommendations for Gray's Lake; Waveland, Grandview, and Blank Golf Courses; and Glendale, Laurel Hill, and Woodland Cemeteries. Those assessments will be completed this fall.

Another positive aspect of the reforestation report is the growing partnership between the City of Des Moines and Trees Forever. Through securing neighborhood grants from Home Depot, Trees Forever has been providing funding to purchase trees that volunteers help plant. These “kick-off” events create awareness about the mature tree canopy in Des Moines, which provides shade and character in our parks system, and the need for tree replanting to maintain that canopy for future generations.

Right-of-way tree plantings continue to be supported through funding provided annually by MidAmerican Energy. MidAmerican Energy’s tree planting grants directly assist with the City’s estimated 110,000 rights-of-way trees, which are maintained by the Public Works Department’s Forestry personnel.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 20, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-678

Action: [Iowa](#) Outdoor Products for items 1 and 5 on bid tabulation form, \$46,800.71; TNT Landscaping for items 2 and 4 on bid tabulation form, \$63,300; Perficut Lawn & Landscape for item 3 on bid tabulation form, \$13,102.50; to be used at various City Park locations. (Twelve bids mailed, six received). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: September 12, 2005

Roll Call Number: 05-2225

Action: Professional Services Agreement with Prairie Wetlands, (Tre Wilson, Proprietor, DSM) for services associated with natural forest regeneration, \$7,920. ([Council Communication No. 05-492](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: April 26, 2005

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Park and Recreation Board receives and files a Reforestation Report on six City parks

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE