

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	23-263	Meeting:	May 22, 2023
	Agenda Item:	41	Roll Call:	23-0749
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Inflation Reduction Act Grant Application seeking \$5,000,000 for Forestry Division Tree Planting and Maintenance Program.

SYNOPSIS:

The U.S. Forest Service is requesting proposals for projects that will provide access to trees and green spaces and benefits they provide in disadvantaged urban communities. The Forestry Division is applying for up to \$5,000,000 for planting and two (2)-year maintenance of trees in vacant locations situated in underserved areas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$5,000,000

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service urban and Community Forestry Program. Match waiver applied for that removes the non-federal cost-share requirement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Inflation Reduction Act provides up to \$1.5 billion for urban and community forest investments that foster:
 1. Increased and equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated human health, environmental, and economic benefits and disadvantaged communities.
 2. Broadened community engagement in local urban forest planning, tree planting, and management activities.
 3. Improved community and urban forest resilience to climate change, extreme heat, forest pests and diseases, and storm events through best management and maintenance practices.
- The City of Des Moines Forestry Division is preparing an application for a \$5 million grant via the option of match waiver (due to the targeted areas being in underserved neighborhoods), which are outlined in the climate and economic justice screening tool provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If approved, the funding will be used primarily to plant trees in the vacant locations situated in the underserved areas and then maintain those trees for the first two (2) years. Working

with our local nonprofit, Trees Forever, and the Growing Futures program, students from those areas will be encouraged to apply for the Growing Futures program to help maintain the trees.

- This project will be run over a period of five (5) years. The project will be administered by the Forestry Division, with oversight provided by other City departments (Finance, City Manager's Office, Legal, etc.).
- If the match waiver is granted, then the work must be tracked at the level that designates disadvantaged communities. Semi-annual financial and progress reports are required for IRA grants: Financial and Progress reports will be submitted for the periods ending June 30 and December 31. Reports are due 30 days from the period end. Timely submittal of financial and progress reports for each grant as indicated in your award agreement will be required. Payments will be withheld until missing reports are received and approved. Progress reports should highlight direct quantitative and qualitative investment activities and outcomes and include stories and photographs that illustrate these.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 14, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-0060](#)

Action: [Exception](#) to procurement ordinance competitive bid process for good cause and approving an agreement with Trees Forever, Inc. for planting and watering of trees. ([Council Communication No. 19-023](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Grant agreement if funding is awarded.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.