


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>24-345</b>	Meeting:	<b>August 19, 2024</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>25</b>	Roll Call:	<b>24-1154</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving Fee-For-Service Work Order agreement with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the resolution to enter into a Fee-For-Service Work Order with the Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa for work to be performed in numerous park properties.

## FISCAL IMPACT: [SELECT ONE]

Amount: \$18,600

Funding Source: \$3,600 FY2025 Adopted Operating Budget, Parks and Recreation Department, page 186, Volunteer Programs, G001 PK201275 and \$15,000 2024-2025 CIP, page 70, Urban Conservation Projects, PK167, G.O. Bonds

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and AmeriCorps grantee, engages hundreds of youths and young adults each year in programs and initiatives that improve access to outdoor recreation, restore natural habitat, protect waterways, and respond to community needs and natural disasters. As an AmeriCorps grantee, AmeriCorps members serve directly with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa to give back to their communities while gaining a foundation of marketable skills for their future. Young adults, ages 18-25, who join this program are enrolled as AmeriCorps members, volunteering to serve their community through environmental stewardship.
- Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa in 2022 served the Parks and Recreation Department with work directed towards the Gray's Lake Park Woodland Improvement project. The area of work was focused within the recently acquired properties on the east side of Gray's Lake Park, primarily north of the Meredith Trail to the Raccoon River. The initial Fee-For-Service Work Order created improved park conditions by removing invasive materials from this area.
- The Conservation Corps' 2024 work will consist primarily of vegetation management and debris removal assisting in natural resource management areas by addressing invasive species and

planting native plugs. This work will be a significant contribution to returning various park areas to ecologically healthy conditions.

- Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa will provide four (4) to five (5) crew members to perform vegetation management work for three 40-hour work weeks, September 23-27, October 7-11 and October 21-25, 2024. Their primary function will be hand cutting and removing invasive material. City staff will assist the Conservation Corps by mechanically removing and properly disposing of the vegetation debris. To improve efficiency, three separate weeks were selected to allow for continuity in the city staff's regular responsibilities and to allow time for equipment to be used for debris removal.
- This is the second time the Parks and Recreation Department will work with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa and expectation is another interaction resulting in high value and successful outcomes.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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