



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Re: Parks and Recreation - Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of an ordinance authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant funding in the amount of \$6,910 to provide advanced forestry training and education for Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture staff members and appropriating the funds. The City's match for the grant will be force account labor and equipment travel costs.

Discussion

The Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant will provide funding in the amount of \$6,910 for Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture staff member training and education. The funding will assist four staff members in their efforts to become International Society of Arborists (ISA) Certified Arborists and provide two forestry staff members with the opportunity to attend a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) workshop. The funds will also be used to cover registration and housing costs for four staff members to attend the 2019 Missouri Community Forestry Council conference and 2019 Midwestern Chapter - International Society of Arborists conference and trade show.

Funds from the TRIM Grant will be used to pay the International Society of Arborist (ISA) certification fees for four members of the Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture staff. The grant funds will be used to pay for the necessary preparation classes and certification study guides required to pass the ISA exam. Pending successful completion of the exam, four additional staff members will become certified arborists. The total cost is \$1,635.

The TRIM Grant will allow two Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture staff members, who are certified arborists, to attend the 2019 Missouri Tree Risk Assessment Qualification workshop. The TRAQ workshop is an International Society of Arborists (ISA) qualification program that trains arborists on how to use the methodologies outlined in the ISA Best Management Practices for Tree Risk Assessment. This qualification promotes the safety of people and property by providing a standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk. The results of a tree risk assessment can provide municipal arborists and risk managers with the information to make informed decisions to enhance tree benefits, health, and longevity. The workshop will include education related to tree biology and mechanics, tree inspection and assessment, data analysis and risk categorization and risk reporting. The three day training workshop will enhance staff's skills and knowledge and contribute to the continuing improvements of the City of Columbia's urban forestry program. The workshop will provide the required annual certified educational units (CEUs) needed by each staff



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member to maintain their International Society of Arborist (ISA) certification. Total TRAQ workshop attendance costs, including registration, meals and lodging for the two staff members is \$1,775.

The remaining grant funds, \$3,500, will be used to cover the expenses associated with the attendance of four staff members at the 2019 Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) Conference and 2019 Midwestern Chapter - International Society of Arborists conference and trade show (MWISA). In addition to earning CEU's to maintain ISA arborist certification, staff will also benefit from educational sessions designed to increase knowledge and understanding of latest trends in building or enhancing community forests.

The City's total match for the grant is \$9,430 in force account labor and equipment travel costs, which will be met by staff's time attending the conference and use of a City vehicle for transportation to the conferences. The use of the grant funds is consistent with the City of Columbia service standards through the active participation in 40 hours of annual training.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The grant appropriation will add \$6,910 in travel and training funds to the FY-2019 Forestry operating budget. The City's match will be \$9,430 of in-kind costs.
Long-Term Impact: None.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
01/19/2016	Ordinance #22714: Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant to provide advanced forestry training and education for Parks and Recreation Department employees and appropriating funds. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=20259



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09/16/2013	Ordinance #21823: Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant to provide advanced forestry training and education for Parks and Recreation Department employees and appropriating funds. http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10945
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Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) and appropriating the funds.