



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2017

Re: Accepting a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant and Appropriating Funds

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and appropriating grant funds for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant to update and expand the current Urban Tree Canopy Analysis and develop an outreach educational tool in the form of an online web-based Story Map.

Discussion

In December of 2016, the City entered into a consulting services contract with Davey Resource Group to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan for the City of Columbia. The scope of services detailed a plan for the care and protection of Columbia's street trees, nature areas, forests and parks in order to effectively and proactively manage Columbia's urban forest. The Public Works division of Street Operations pursued this contract to specifically better manage trees within the right of way. Staff believes that a more robust urban tree canopy analysis for the entire City, and a component for public education, would provide better overall long term tree management for the entire City. However, due to limited funding, the original scope of services with Davey did not include these components, so staff applied for and received a \$25,000 TRIM grant from MDC for this purpose.

The TRIM grant will provide funding to create an outreach educational tool in the form of an online web-based Story Map that will facilitate communication and education to the public as to the benefits of trees and the City's proactive approach to resource management. Additionally, the grant will allow for the update and expansion of our current urban tree canopy analysis and will enable the City and the public the ability to understand the benefits of the entire urban tree canopy as it relates to:

- priority planning analysis
- socio-economic & demographic analysis
- i-tree hydro stormwater pollution assessment
- critical forest identification
- tree canopy health assessment
- forest fragmentation

The City Arborist will perform the project oversight on behalf of the City.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Staff is appropriating \$25,000 from the state grant revenue account for the TRIM grant project. The City's match is \$8,500 of in-kind costs including staff time.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/19/2016	Professional Services Agreement with Davey Resource Group for development of an Urban Forest Master Plan

Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant, and appropriate grant funds.