



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 4, 2016

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 that will accept a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant in the amount of \$3,795, execute the grant agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and appropriate the funds. The goal of this grant is to provide advanced forestry training and education for four Parks and Recreation Forestry & Horticulture staff members. The City's match for the grant will be force account labor and equipment travel costs.

Discussion

This Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant will provide funding in the amount of \$3,795 for four Park and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture certified arborists to attend a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) workshop and for the Parks and Recreation Horticulturist and Natural Resources Supervisor to attend the Missouri Community Forestry Council Conference.

The TRIM Grant will allow four Parks and Recreation Forestry and Horticulture staff members, who are certified arborists, to attend the 2016 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 member to maintain their International Society of Arborist (ISA) certification. Total TRAQ workshop attendance costs, including registration, meals and lodging for the four staff members is \$3,095.

The remaining grant funds, \$700, will be used to cover the expenses associated with the attendance of the Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Supervisor and Horticulturist at the Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) Conference. The 2016 MCFC Conference will be in St. Joseph, Missouri on March 8, 9, & 10, 2016. 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 \$5,422 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 \$3,795 in travel and training funds to the FY-2015 Forestry operating budget. The City's match will be \$5,422 of in-kind costs. The Parks and Recreation Department applies for this grant annually and has received this grant in nine of the last eleven years.

Long-Term Impact: None.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/16/2013	Ordinance #21823; Council approved an ordinance authorizing a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant for advanced forestry training and education for Parks and Recreation Department employees and appropriating the funds. http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10945



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant, executing the agreement, and appropriating the funds.