



Resolution 2023-100

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACTS AS REQUESTED PER B.E. NO. 2227 FOR AN ESTIMATED \$2,400,000 FOR TREE REMOVAL AND ESTIMATED \$400,000 FOR STUMP GRINDING FOR AN ESTIMATED TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$2,800,000 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, PENDING APPROVAL BY CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENTS

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Forestry Department is the steward of the public urban forest in Minneapolis;

Whereas, To slow the spread of Dutch Elm Disease, the MPRB initiated a program 50 years ago called "Sanitation Removal" which regularly enforces the removal of diseased Elm trees growing on private property;

Whereas, The invasive exotic insect called Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is in the process of destroying one fifth of the City's tree canopy cover since being discovered in 2010 within the City of Minneapolis;

Whereas, To contain the destructiveness of EAB, the MPRB enforces the removal of infested Ash trees that are growing on private property before they become structurally unstable;

Whereas, The Forestry Department uses private contractors to remove trees that have been condemned on private property upon request of the property owner or when the property owner has not acted within a specified period of time after receiving notification of such;

Whereas, Stump grinding is an integral component of the site preparation that is needed to plant new trees on boulevards and in parks; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, which sets the goal(s): Goal 2 to "Steward a continuum of nature and recreation", Goal 6 to "Strengthen ecological connections" and Goal 7 to "Connect through communications and technology;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves contracts as requested per B.E. No. 2227 for an estimated \$2,400,000 for tree removal and estimated \$400,000 for stump grinding for an estimated total expenditure of \$2,800,000 for the period ending June 30, 2024, pending approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments; and

RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

FROM: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent, Environmental Stewardship

DATE: 6/7/2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACTS AS REQUESTED PER B.E. NO. 2227 FOR AN ESTIMATED \$2,400,000 FOR TREE REMOVAL AND ESTIMATED \$400,000 FOR STUMP GRINDING FOR AN ESTIMATED TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$2,800,000 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, PENDING APPROVAL BY CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENTS

BACKGROUND

This action considers the approval of contracts with private tree care companies to provide services necessary to remove trees that are condemned on private properties and grind stumps on public properties. There are typically two types of trees that are condemned on private properties. These are elms infected with Dutch Elm Disease and ash infested with Emerald Ash Borer. Stumps on public properties are located on boulevards and in parks.

As part of the program to control the spread of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) during 2023, the Forestry Department estimates that approximately 300 diseased elm trees and approximately 3000 infested ash trees will be condemned on private properties in Minneapolis. Only a portion of these trees are contractually removed upon the request of property owners or because property owners have not removed their tree by a specific date. Of the trees that are contractually removed, only a portion are placed on property taxes. Attachment A provides responses to frequently asked questions pertaining to the condemnation of private trees. Attachment B provides information for homestead property owners on available options for deferring an assessment payment.

Contractors submit bids for tree removal based on the trunk diameter of the tree. Every effort is made to utilize the contractors that have provided the lowest and best bid. The removal costs that are not paid for by the property owners after being notified are later recouped through property tax assessments. In 2022 the Forestry Department condemned nearly 300 elm trees and nearly 3000 ash trees growing on private properties.

In addition to contracted removals on private property, the Forestry Department occasionally contracts the removal of public trees. These trees are in a location or of a condition that poses a significant liability and/or hazard. Using private companies to do this work removes the MPRB from assuming associated risks.



Stump grinding is completed following the removal of public trees. This work continues throughout the year and focuses on removing stumps from boulevards and parks. In 2022 there were approximately 1,100 stumps contractually removed at a cost of \$281,223.00.

The 2023 budget for public stump removal is nearly \$280,000. The cost for public stump grinding is based on the number of surface inches ground to a specified depth. There are over 3700 stumps to grind citywide with new stumps being added annually. Factors such as location and accessibility of stumps plus the depth of the grind affect the quantity that can be removed. For these reasons, during 2023, the Forestry Department will not be able to grind all the boulevard stumps that were created during 2022. It is important to note that stump grinding is not a service provided for trees that are condemned on private properties.

B.E. 2227 is being issued to solicit bids for contracted tree removal and stump grinding. Besides being publicly advertised, notification of B.E. 2227 is also being sent to local tree care companies. Depending on the category of work, approximately a dozen companies typically submit bids to provide tree removal and/or stump grinding services. The companies that are recommended as being able to furnish all personnel, fees, equipment, vehicles and incidentals necessary to accomplish the removal and disposal of trees and stumps for the MPRB will be listed in the recommendation of acceptance letter that will be sent from the City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement Department. The process of soliciting bids is currently underway.

The companies that are submitting bids will require approval of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights (MDCR). This means that prior to a contract being awarded, companies must have an affirmative action plan approved by MDCR. When applicable, the contractor must comply with the Small and Underused Business Program (SUBP) which includes, but is not limited to, making a good faith effort to meet the Minority-Owned Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises goals established on City construction and development projects.

After contracts are in place for use, work will be assigned to the approved companies beginning with the low bidder. The amount of work assigned will depend on the amount of work that is available during the season as well as the volume of work that bidders can accomplish in a timely manner. During a typical year, most companies listed will be assigned some work because, during peak times, more than one company is needed to keep up with the work that needs to be done.

In 2023, the Forestry Department is revising its method for soliciting bids for condemned private trees. Historically bids have been labeled as regular or special. Regular bid prices were submitted in advance and based solely on tree size. Contractors did not visit regular bid trees until being given a list to remove. With special bid trees, contractors provided exact pricing after visiting the tree.

The new process will no longer include regular bid trees. It will require contractors to provide bids for every condemned tree as was done with special bid trees. The intent is to increase the



number of participating contractors. This should increase competition and result in more competitive pricing. The result will be a removal process that is more understandable and streamlined for property owners.

The contracts funded through this resolution will not exceed an estimated total expenditure of \$2,800,000.00. These contracts provide for contractual services. The portion that pertains to contracted private property tree removal is covered by private property direct payments and special assessment bonds and accounted for in the special assessment fund. The portion that pertains to contracted stump grinding is covered by the contractual services budget of the Forestry Department general fund. It is the responsibility of the Department Director to manage the expense within the appropriate Fund, Department, and 2023 contractual services budget.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

April 20, 2022 Resolution 2022-164: approval of the contracts for an estimated \$625,000 for tree removal and estimated \$875,000 for stump grinding for an estimated total expenditure of \$1,500,000 for the period ending March 31, 2023, pending approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approves contracts as requested Per B.E. No. 2227 for an estimated \$2,400,000 for tree removal and estimated \$400,000 for stump grinding for an estimated total expenditure of \$2,800,000 for the period ending June 30, 2024, pending approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

Goal:

02. Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

06. Strengthen ecological connections

Strategy:

05. Establish and steward natural habitat areas in neighborhood parks and prioritize in parts of the city that don't have access to regional parks connected through a thriving urban tree canopy.

04. Enhance and support habitat and green space connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation, recognizing the interconnection between street trees, parks, and the city as a whole.



06. Strengthen ecological connections

07. Connect through communications and technology

07. Develop a city-wide, equity-driven tree canopy preservation and enhancement program to mitigate urban heat island effects, foster biodiversity, improve air quality, ecological connections, habitat, the pedestrian experience, and evaluate for pollen impacts on human health.

04. Educate staff and the community on critical issues facing the city and region, specifically: health and wellness benefits of parks;

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A
Attachment B

FAQs Regarding Private Tree Condemnation
Options for Deferring an Assessment Payment

Jbr 6.7.2023.