



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: March 5, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Committee

LIAISON: Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: David Marquardt, Director of Parks and Recreation
Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT: **Resolution accepting a \$50,000 Community Forestry Grant Program award and executing an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Forest Resources Division**

Attached is a resolution accepting a \$50,000 FY24 Community Forestry Grant and authorizing execution of an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Forest Resources Division. The grant will support creation of a sustainable, proactive Forestry Operation & Management Plan. The grant requires a 50% match. The period of performance is through September 1, 2025.

While some proactive work exists within the Forestry division (primarily in comprehensive planting and young tree care programs), most of the work is reactive and initiated by customer service requests. This reactive model of management is both inefficient and inequitable, resulting in underserved areas with inadequate larger tree maintenance, poor urban tree species diversity and large vacant areas that could support trees.

The grant will support hiring a consultant to assist with the creation of a City Forestry Operation & Management Plan (Plan). The consultant will work with and seek input from key stakeholders, including the Grand Rapids Urban Forestry Committee, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, neighborhood associations, city residents and tree service contractors. The Plan will be a guide to shift Forestry division work from reactive to a sustainable proactive approach.


Matching funds up to \$50,000 will be contributed to the project, with a total project cost not to exceed \$100,000. Funds for the project were budgeted in the FY24 Parks Operating fund.

Prepared by Michelle Braate-Slykhouse, Administrative Analyst I

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution accepting a \$50,000 FY24 Community Forestry Grant and authorizing execution of an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Forest Resources Division.

RESOLVED:

1. That the City accepts a grant award in the amount of \$50,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Forest Resources Division; and
2. That an agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Forest Resources Division be approved, and the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement and related documents upon approval as to form by the City Attorney; and
3. That the period of performance is through September 1, 2025.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW