

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director**
Date: **May 11, 2020**

Contract Extension with Rainbow Tree Care for EAB Treatments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2015 the Council adopted the City's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) action plan. This plan included a pledge to save as many public ash trees as possible by using chemical injection treatments. On March 13, 2017 the City Council approved a contract agreement with Rainbow Tree Care to perform EAB injection treatments of public ash trees. This agreement also offered residents a discounted rate to treat their private ash trees. The City will continue to treat ash trees in 2020 with most trees getting their 2nd injection treatment. Treatments usually last for 2-3 years. The City has recently (accepted December 9, 2019) been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to plant trees on boulevards and other public spaces throughout the City. The City's Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan, which the Council approved in 2012 is a three-part plan; treat, remove and replace. With tight budgets staff has only been able to replant a small number of trees over the last few years. The grant will allow the City to plant up to 100 new trees and get us caught up with our Action Plan. The entire EAB program is summarized in the attachment that was also provided to you in January 2020.

The 2017 agreement with Rainbow Tree Care had a provision to extend the contract by mutual agreement. The contractor and staff would like to exercise that provision using the same rates as in the existing contract price of \$3.60 per inch (DBH) for City trees and \$5.75 per inch (DBH) for private resident's trees. Given the City's great experience with Rainbow Tree Care over the past three years, staff is recommending the contract extension.

The City will continue to educate residents about EAB and encourage them to either treat their private trees with Rainbow Tree Care or one of many other vendors listed on the City's website, or remove them before they die and become hazardous.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City Council is set to approve a budget of no more than \$30,000 for ash tree injection treatments in 2020, the same as in previous years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the contract extension for 2020 with Rainbow Tree Care for ash tree injection treatments.

Attachments: Current 2017-18 Contract, EAB Program Update