



## **CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: September 5, 2023  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Contract with HortScience | Bartlett Consulting for a Street Tree Management Plan

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### **SUMMARY**

This agenda item requests the City Council to authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract in the amount of \$96,000 with HortScience | Bartlett Consulting to prepare a Street Tree Management Plan (STMP).

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-61, authorizing the City Manager to execute Contract No. C23-64 with HortScience | Bartlett Consulting for a Street Tree Management Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), unanimously adopted by Albany City Council in December 2019, outlines key policy measures to meet the City's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 including the development of a comprehensive Street Tree Management Plan (STMP). The CAAP directs the City to devise and implement a plan that includes, but is not limited to, canopy and planting targets; a planting guide that prioritizes increasing available soil, resilience, and other co-benefits; creating incentives and/or requirements for street tree planting; and retiring trees and addressing unintended consequences such as sidewalk uplifts.

On November 8, 2022, City Council passed Resolution No. 2022-113, executing a contract with ArborPro for an inventory of all existing street trees and vacant planting sites in Albany. The street tree inventory lays a foundation for the forthcoming STMP and allows the City to better maintain and identify opportunities to expand the City's canopy. Further on March 6, 2023, staff presented to City Council a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for consulting services to help the City develop a STMP, which was authorized by Council for release.

### **DISCUSSION**

The RFP for STMP consulting services was released on March 27, 2023. The City received five proposals, of which three moved forward to an interview process.

On May 8, 2023, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Commission (PROSC) delegated a representative to help staff review proposals and participate in the interview panel. The PROSC designated Commissioner Kent as the PROSC representative for the process.

Staff and the PROSC representative have determined that HortScience | Bartlett Consulting (HBC) as the most competitive proposal for this project based on their demonstrated knowledge of local context and capacity to produce a dynamic and implementable plan that fits the unique needs of the City of Albany and the greater community.

As part of the project, staff and HBC will kick off the planning process with a Council study session in October. The study session will provide the City Council an opportunity to receive community input early in the process and provide staff and consulting team with guidance.

Community engagement will be ongoing throughout the planning process. Among other considerations, in response to input provided at recent Parks Recreation and Open Space Commission discussions, the plan is expected to include the importance of stakeholder engagement to compose a shared vision of what the community wants the City's tree canopy to become, and the role of the street tree management plan to help achieve that vision. The plan is also expected to take into consideration the aesthetic importance of street tree selection and placement to the urban design and function of the city. The consulting team will also utilize data collected from the recently completed street tree inventory.

### **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The CAAP identifies the development of a STMP as a priority planning initiative to improve and expand natural systems to promote resilience and carbon storage to offset emissions the City is not yet able to cap. Rising global temperatures continue to escalate the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, further intensifying the urban heat island effect in vulnerable neighborhoods with little to no canopy cover.

### **SOCIAL EQUITY & INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

To ensure long-term sustainability and community resilience, the STMP will propose policies and programs that not only protect and enhance the natural environment, but also produce community benefits such as shade and enhanced urban beautification citywide.

### **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

This action helps further City Council Strategic Plan – Goal 1: Advance Climate Action & Adaptation – Identify opportunities to enhance City program for management of street trees.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This contract will be funded using existing funds appropriated for Community Development Department professional services.

### **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2023-61
2. HBC Scope of Services for C23-64