

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: Tree Supply and Planting Services with the Suburban Tree Consortium
2004/2005
DATE: July 22, 2004
PREPARED BY: David Barber, PE, Public Works Director
Kerstin G. von der Heide, Village Forester
PURPOSE: Review recommendation and resolution, and place on agenda for Council approval
DOLLAR AMOUNT: \$69,600.00 **ACCOUNT:** 001.335.0000.5443

DISCUSSION:

For more than a decade, tree supply and planting services have been obtained through the Suburban Tree Consortium (STC). Originally started in 1985 with only 2 communities, the STC has now grown to 31 members. Downers Grove has been an active member since 1987. The STC goal is to provide the members with a consistent supply of quality trees of the species and varieties requested for the municipal parkways. The most efficient and cost effective means for the members to obtain a consistent supply and variety of quality trees has been with a 5-year growing contract with a nursery as well as a 5-year contract for planting services. Currently, Beaver Creek Nursery, Hinsdale Nurseries, Possibility Place Nursery, and Wilson Nurseries are contracted to grow said tree supply, and Pugsley & LaHaie Ltd provide planting services.

All the contracts allow members **two options** : **first** - to order trees in advance so that the trees are grown to size and are available for a future year (a maximum of 5 years out), and **second** – to buy trees currently available from the nursery. All prices are fixed for each year of the 5-year period, and members and nurseries renew the contracts annually. Collectively between the 31 members, over 1,000 trees have been ordered in advance for each of the next 5 years. When each planting season comes about, most municipalities add trees to their order depending on their need and availability from the nursery – for the past 3 years, the members have purchased more than 5,000 trees annually. This contractual arrangement works for both parties. The nurseries know that at a minimum their sales will be the number pre-ordered. For the municipalities, the tree prices are fixed for more efficient budgeting, and if an order is increased, the additional trees will be of the same shape and quality as those ordered in advance. These contracts are administered by the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC), and copies are on file with the Village.

With the growth of the STC over the years to include a diverse number of municipalities, the paperwork involved has become more complicated. As a way to simplify matters for each individual municipality and to show commitment to the program, the STC has determined that each individual municipality must annually present a resolution to remain in the STC. Included in this resolution is a list of trees that staff has ordered for Downers Grove. This will be the sixth year that Council has been presented with such a resolution.

In terms of the 5 year order for Downers Grove, the tree species chosen include those which have been more difficult to obtain on a regular basis such as certain species of oak trees, as well as tree species typically requested by residents. The orders are placed with 3 of the 4 contracted nurseries to ensure a variety of species and maximize availability. Since 1993, Forestry staff has been working more closely with residents to ensure that their input and their tree preferences are honored whenever practical. The number of residents requesting a particular tree has increased with every year, and some have actually requested unusual choices such as ginkgo and catalpa. To ensure quality and consistency, a tagging committee representing the consortium members selects and tags individual trees at all the participating nurseries before the trees are dug and delivered. Forestry staff actively participates in the tagging committee. Visiting the nurseries also allows staff to view other tree selections which may not be currently ordered but have potential for future use. Staff has found interesting trees such as miyabe maple and various new hybrid elms that are more resistant to Dutch elm disease, and has added them to current and future tree orders.

The forestry goal is to maintain the stability of the current tree inventory by planting as many new trees as possible to offset tree removals. In the Forestry Grounds budget, tree supply and planting services are funded in the Tree Services Account (001.335.0000.5443). The table below lists the accounts and dollar amounts that have paid for tree supply and planting in previous fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	Tree Services	Developers	Capital Projects	TIF	Total	Trees Planted
FY1996/97	\$26,317.29	\$12,812.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,130.02	243
FY1997/98	\$43,449.25	\$14,248.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,697.25	305
FY1998/99	\$69,005.59	\$6,504.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,510.48	369
FY1999/2000	\$30,342.85	\$8,342.68	\$30,155.37	\$11,972.75	\$80,813.65	411
FY2000/01	\$43,004.94	\$8,566.80	\$13,000.00	\$12,359.00	\$76,930.74	380
FY2001/02	\$34,128.77	\$15,775.44	\$21,190.25	\$5,783.00	\$76,877.46	314
FY2002/03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
FY2003/04	\$59,845.58	\$3,417.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,262.86	263

In that there were no plantings in the 2002/03 fiscal year, tree plantings for the 2003/04 fiscal year were those that were postponed. This fall's planting will include any tree replacements from last summer's storms, and next spring's tree planting list replaces trees removed so far this summer. The only locations being kept vacant at this point are any locations not by a residence such as along parks. The following table lists the planting quantities per season and the number of specific tree species requests by residents.

Season	Planting Quantity	Resident Species Requests
Fall 2004	168	42
Spring 2005	115	15

The average cost of a supplied two inch caliper tree which grows to heights of greater than 40 feet is \$160.00 (shorter trees average \$90.00), and the planting charge is \$80.00. To plant all the trees this fiscal year, staff is requesting \$69,600.00. The tree services account (001.335.0000.5443) has several tree contracts including planting, pruning and removals, and \$265,000.00 is budgeted. Several months ago, Council approved the contract for tree and stump removal services for \$108,137.50 and the Manager approved the contract for demand pruning services for \$9,410.00. To date, staff has been keeping these two contract costs as low as possible in hopes of being able to plant all the trees this fiscal year and also have a pruning contract in the winter.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution expressing intent to continue participation in the Suburban Tree Consortium and to authorize certain purchases for FY 2004/2005.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff's recommendation to the Village Council is to approve both the resolution for participating with the STC and to approve doing so at a dollar amount of \$69,600.00 for this fiscal year.

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING INTENT TO CONTINUE
PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBURBAN TREE CONSORTIUM AND
TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PURCHASES FOR FY 2004/2005**

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove has heretofore joined the cooperative known as the Suburban Tree Consortium and has, on September 7, 1999, previously adopted Resolution No. 99-63 entitled "A Resolution Expressing Intent to Participate in the Suburban Tree Consortium"; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has determined that it is necessary and desirable to authorize purchases from the tree consortium for FY 2004/2005 and to amend the policy as established in Resolution No. 99-63 as provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Village does hereby express its intent to remain a member of the Suburban Tree Consortium and to procure parkway trees through the Consortium, subject to sufficient annual budgeting therefor for the five-year period. A summary of the anticipated 5-year order is attached.

SECTION 2. The Village Manager is authorized to cause the purchase of trees and other vegetation in an amount not to exceed \$69,600.00 as recommended by the Village Forester for FY 2004/2005.

SECTION 3. All ordinances and resolutions, or parts of ordinances and resolutions, in conflict with this resolution are hereby rescinded.

SECTION 4. The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Suburban Tree Consortium Secretariat at the West Central Municipal Conference Office.

Mayor

Passed:

Attest: _____
Village Clerk

Suburban Tree Consortium 5 year orders

For Downers Grove only

Fall 2004	10 2" White Ash, 5 2" Honeylocust, 5 2" Kentucky Coffeetree, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 15 2" Freeman Maple, 5 2" Hackberry
Spring 2005	2 2" River Birch, 10 2" White Ash, 5 2" Ginkgo, 10 2" Crabapples (5 red, 5 white), 10 2" Swamp White Oak, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Frontier Elm, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 2 2" Catalpa, 5 2" Hackberry, 15 2" Pear, 5 2" Shingle Oak, 10 2" Chinkapin Oak
Fall 2005	10 2" White Ash, 5 2" Honeylocust, 5 2" Kentucky Coffeetree, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 15 2" Freeman Maple, 5 2" Hackberry
Spring 2006	2 2" River Birch, 10 2" White Ash, 5 2" Ginkgo, 10 2" Crabapples (5 red, 5 white), 10 2" Swamp White Oak, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Frontier Elm, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 2 2" Catalpa, 5 2" Hackberry, 15 2" Pear, 5 2" Shingle Oak, 10 2" Chinkapin Oak
Fall 2006	5 2" Sugar Maple, 5 2" Honeylocust, 5 2" Kentucky Coffeetree, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 5 2" Hackberry
Spring 2007	5 2" Sugar Maple, 2 2" River Birch, 5 2" Ginkgo, 5 2" Red Crabapples, 10 2" Swamp White Oak, 5 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Frontier Elm, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 2 2" Catalpa, 5 2" Hackberry, 15 2" Pear, 5 2" Chinkapin Oak, 5 2" Tree Lilac
Fall 2007	5 2" Sugar Maple, 5 2" Honeylocust, 5 2" Kentucky Coffeetree, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 5 2" Hackberry
Spring 2008	5 2" Sugar Maple, 2 2" River Birch, 5 2" Ginkgo, 5 2" Red Crabapples, 10 2" Swamp White Oak, 5 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Frontier Elm, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 2 2" Catalpa, 5 2" Hackberry, 15 2" Pear, 5 2" Chinkapin Oak, 5 2" Tree Lilac
Fall 2008	5 2" Sugar Maple, 5 2" Honeylocust, 5 2" Kentucky Coffeetree, 10 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 5 2" Hackberry
Spring 2009	5 2" Sugar Maple, 2 2" River Birch, 5 2" Ginkgo, 5 2" Red Crabapples, 10 2" Swamp White Oak, 5 2" Littleleaf Linden, 5 2" Frontier Elm, 5 2" Miyabe Maple, 10 2" Freeman Maple, 2 2" Catalpa, 5 2" Hackberry, 15 2" Pear, 5 2" Chinkapin Oak, 5 2" Tree Lilac

All 31 STC members collectively order over 1,000 trees annually

Arlington Heights, Batavia, Berwyn, Brookfield, Burr Ridge, Des Plaines, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Evanston, Geneva, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Glenview, Harwood Heights, Hickory Hills, Hinsdale, Justice, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lisle, Lombard, Maywood, New Lenox, Northlake, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Park Ridge, Sugar Grove, Western Springs, Westmont, Wheeling