

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** City Commission

**FROM:** Jamie Grabinski, Grants Coordinator  
Aaron Funk, Controller  
Melissa Hodnett, Finance Director

**SUBJECT:** Authorize City Manager to Ratify the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Grant Award Agreement for Branch Out Bozeman: Volunteer Planting Sites and Voucher Program -Round Two.

**MEETING DATE:** March 3, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Grant

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize City Manager to Ratify the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Grant Award Agreement for Branch Out Bozeman: Volunteer Planting Sites and Voucher Program -Round Two.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 1.3 Public Agencies Collaboration: Foster successful collaboration with other public agencies and build on these successes.

**BACKGROUND:** The City's Forestry Division began partnering with the Gallatin Watershed Council on tree planting projects in 2021. This quickly developed into annual volunteer events and the creation of Branch Out Bozeman: Urban Forest Network (B.O.B.). In an effort to provide a healthy and resilient urban forest for all community members, B.O.B. seeks to increase Bozeman's tree canopy to its full potential, and to develop tools that guide the community to strategically plant trees in priority areas.

The Forestry Division was awarded \$20,000 in grant funds in 2024 under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (distributed at the state level by MT Dept of Natural Resources). A second year of IRA funds were made available in 2025 and the City's application was recently awarded in December 2025.

This funding allows for the purchase of 40 additional trees to be planted during community volunteer events, allowing for increased canopy in our park spaces. It also funds the distribution of (50) \$100 vouchers to offset the cost of tree planting on private properties, with a focus on appropriate large-growing canopy trees to increase cooling shade for lawns and homes. Administrative assistance for this project is offered by Gallatin Watershed Council and also funded by the grant. These efforts will take place within neighborhoods recognized by the federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool for climate disadvantaged areas.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** As suggested by Commission.

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** Tree planting and voucher efforts are entirely dependent on this grant funding. If it were not available, these projects would not take place regardless of fiscal year or Forestry budget.

Attachments:

[UCF-24-323\\_Bozeman.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: February 19, 2026