City Council Item

January 12, 2026

Item	Resolution 2026-XX - Approve Contract for 2026 City Tree Contractor with Pro Tree Expert Arborists	
File No.		**Item No:** D.16
Agenda Section	**CONSENT AGENDA**	
Prepared By	Jamie Marsh, Environmental Resource Specialist	
Reviewed By	Laurie Hokkanen	

SUGGESTED ACTION

"The Chanhassen City Council approves the contract for 2026 City Tree Contractor with Pro Tree Expert Arborists."

Motion Type	Simple Majority Vote of members present
Strategic Priority	N/A

SUMMARY

To effectively and efficiently handle annual tree removals, clearance pruning along streets and trails, and designated pruning within parks and streets, staff proposes hiring a tree contractor to address tree removal and pruning needs for 2026. To maximize the impact of an annual tree work contract, the city is split into three districts to ensure a three-year rotation for routine pruning. In 2026, District 2 will have focused pruning. That district covers the area of the city north of Highway 5 and west of Powers Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the city hired a city tree contractor to complete public tree removals and pruning projects. This was done to optimize efficiency for the tree removal work, secure fair pricing, and reduce staff time spent on bidding separate tree work orders throughout the year. Pro-Tree was awarded the contract in 2025 to perform tree removal and pruning services. The RFP presented an option to extend the contract

for a one-year period, and the city would like to exercise that option.

DISCUSSION

A city tree contractor is sought for tree work due to the scale of the projects and the time limitations of city staff to complete the projects. Tree removals on streets and in parks may involve very large trees with significant technical aspects to the removal. These projects require professional arborists and tree workers to complete them safely. Climbing and roping are technical skills requiring professional training in tree work. Since the city does not have a Forestry Department, these skills are not routine training for Public Works/Parks Maintenance staff, and therefore much of the needed tree work is contracted out.

Pruning projects also require a skill set. An improper pruning cut can later become a point of decay, causing the entire tree to lose vigor and eventually requiring removal. This can all be due to a simple pruning cut done improperly. Hiring out pruning work to professional tree workers protects and enhances the city's investment when planting and caring for the trees. Trees are part of the city's green infrastructure and must be routinely maintained and cared for. Since trees can potentially live a hundred years or more, proper care of them is an investment that can last for generations and benefit the city for decades.

BUDGET

The contract is written on a Not-To-Exceed (NTE) basis, where the contractor will get paid for work done, and with all work directed by city staff. The NTE fee for 2026 is $60,000.

This work is currently part of the 2025 budget as follows:
Forestry: 101-1425-4571 and 101-1425-4572

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adopting a resolution approving a contract with Pro Tree Expert Arborists for the 2026 City Tree Work.

ATTACHMENTS

Tree Contractor 2026 City Council Resolution
Pro Tree 2025 Proposal
Pro Tree Insurance 2026
Professional Services Agreement- Chanhassen City Tree Contractor 2025