

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Tom Wesolowski , City Engineer
DATE: February 21, 2023
SUBJECT: Accept quotes from Sorenson Tree Service, LLC for the Removal of Trees on Public Property
ITEM NUMBER: 9.j
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To accept the base and alternate quotes from Sorenson Tree Service, LLC in the amount \$97,125.00 for the Removal of Trees on Public Property.

INTRODUCTION

The city's 2023 tree removal budget includes an allowance for the removal of boulevard ash trees. Staff has solicited quotes to complete the tree removal work and is recommending the city council accept the low quotes.

DISCUSSION

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that has been spreading throughout the eastern U.S. since the late 1990s and is now in 35 states. The larval stage of the insect kills ash trees by eating the layer under the bark that transports nutrients and water necessary for the tree to survive. EAB was first discovered in the City of St. Paul in 2009, in Minneapolis the following year, and the City of Shoreview in 2011 along with many of the cities in the metro area. It is likely the insect had already been present three to four years prior to the official discovery. Therefore, it is estimated that Shoreview is in year 14 of EAB infestation. Once EAB is present in a community, it will kill all native ash trees that are not treated with an insecticide. Given the amount of time EAB has been in Shoreview infestation is extremely high and approaching 100% of the untreated ash trees in the city.

Shoreview has close to 1,000 ash trees in city parks and right-of-way/boulevard and an unknown number of ash trees on private property. It is estimated that ash trees account for approximately 15% of the trees in the city. The only options for these trees are insecticide treatment or removal. The city has offered a treatment program to residents since 2012 and as part of the program many ash trees in the city parks are treated and some residents have paid to treat ash trees located in the boulevard. Approximately 800 ash are located in the city's right-of-way and treatment is not practical given the number of trees. Given the state of EAB infestation, the city is at a point where removing all untreated ash trees within the right-of-way is necessary. In the last several years many cities within the metro area have started the removal of public ash trees.

The cost to remove the public trees is significant and an increase in future funding for tree

removal will be required. Given the state of EAB infestation it is necessary to remove the ash trees as soon as possible. An increase in funding will also be necessary to replant trees in the public right-of-way after the ash trees are removed. Staff is currently updating the city's EAB management plan that will include a removal and replanting plan and will be presented to the city council at a later date.

The 2023 forestry budget includes an allowance of \$150,000 for the removal of public trees and staff solicited quotes from qualified contractors for tree removal services. The quotes received are summarized below:

Contractor	Base Quote - 100 trees	Alternate Quote - 31 trees	Total Quote - Base + Alternate
Sorenson Tree Service, LLC	\$74,125.00	\$23,000.00	\$97,125.00
Rivard Companies	\$114,150.00	\$35,000.00	\$149,150.00
Northeast Tree Inc.	\$149,250.00	\$47,210.00	\$196,460.00
Langer's Tree, LLC	\$162,390.00	\$50,785.00	\$213,175.00
NWI Tree Service & Landscaping	\$167,010.00	\$42,445.00	\$209,455.00
A+A Tree & Landscaping	\$168,396.68	\$52,437.16	\$220,833.84
Vineland Tree Care	\$198,740.00	\$62,395.00	\$261,135.00
Hugo's Tree Care	\$224,075.00	\$74,330.00	\$298,405.00
Precision Landscape & Tree	\$226,855.00	\$71,300.00	\$298,155.00

The request for quotes included a base quote for the removal of 100 ash trees and an alternate quote to remove an additional 31 ash trees. The removal areas were selected based on the condition and number of the trees in the area. A map of the removal areas is attached at the end of this report.

Sorenson Tree Service provided the low quotes for the base and alternate removals for a total of \$97,125.00. Sorenson has not completed tree removal work for Shoreview, but has completed removals for the cities of Golden Valley, South St. Paul, Richfield, and New Brighton.

Given the total quotes are less than the allowance of \$150,000 and there are additional trees to be removed, staff will negotiate with Sorenson for additional tree removals.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the city council accept the base and alternate quotes from Sorenson Tree Service, LLC in the amount \$97,125.00 for the Removal of Trees on Public Property.

ATTACHMENTS

[Ash Tree Removal Areas](#)