



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

March 4, 2025 – Common Council
March 10, 2025- Finance & Personnel
March 18, 2025-Common Council

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder Land, on behalf of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, requesting permission to create a new part-time position (LTE) to implement the outreach/education component of the DNR/IRA Urban Forestry grant (Grant Control # 00560) that was awarded to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department in 2024.

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)

PREPARED BY: Tom Molbeck, Director of PRCS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

PRCS is requesting permission to add one part-time (LTE) position to implement the outreach/education component of our DNR/IRA Urban Forestry grant (Grant Control # 00560) from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

Common Council approved (item 0735-24) the acceptance of the DNR/IRA Urban Forestry grant on September 3, 2024.

UW-Extension is partnering with PRCS on this grant. Their component is to provide bilingual outreach and education to City residents that live in eligible disadvantage neighborhoods. Residents will learn about the benefits of trees and be provided with training and services about proper tree planting and post-planting maintenance. One session is scheduled for 2025 and a second session in 2026. After each session, a free tree will be provided (one per residence) to be planted on their private property. 50 trees will be distributed after each session for a total of 100 trees.

UW-Extension originally intended to hire the part-time (LTE) employee, and provide supervision, project direction, and office space. Upon being awarded the grant we learned that they are not able to hire the employee, but can still provide supervision, project direction and office space. Approving this request will allow the City to hire the part-time (LTE) employee who will be supervised and provided with office space by UW-Extension. The grant end date is September 30, 2027, however, this project component is expected to be complete before December 31, 2026.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There is no City budgetary impact. The position will be funded by the DNR/IRA Urban Forestry grant.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the communication sponsored by Alder Land, on behalf of the PRCS Director, requesting permission to create a new part-time position (LTE) to implement the outreach/education component of the DNR/IRA Urban Forestry grant (Grant Control # 00560) be approved.