



**City of Racine, Wisconsin**  
**Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM**

**AGENDA DATE:**

March 3, 2026 – Common Council  
March 9, 2026- Finance & Personnel  
March 17, 2026-Common Council

**SUBJECT:**

Communication sponsored by Alder Land, on behalf of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director, requesting permission for the Purchasing Manager to sole source the purchase of 250 trees from Johnson’s Nursery, for the United States semiquincentennial celebration.

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)

**PREPARED BY:** Matt Kopenick, Director of PRCS

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

That the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director be directed to waive formal bidding and the Purchasing Manager be directed to purchase of 250 trees from Johnson’s Nursery, for the United States semiquincentennial celebration.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

- 250 trees are needed for the United States semiquincentennial celebration. The trees will be planted in parks during public events.
- We have purchased these specific types (containerized and balled-and-burlapped) numerous times over the past 10-years. Prices have varied by species from year-to-year depending upon species availability.
- This nursery is known for producing high quality trees and is a leading tree nursery in the Midwest. Containerized trees are not readily available at all nurseries, particularly in the quantities we require. Trees are always high-quality, true to type and form, and meet ANSI Z60.1 standards.
- Alternatives were not examined this year but have been examined in the past. Johnson's Nursery is a known entity that we have worked with many times and we know we will get high quality trees at fair prices without worrying about tree availability/having enough stock.
- We requested a quote for the specific tree species and sizes we require. The quote is based on wholesale and bulk purchase costs.
- Johnson's Nursery has proven themselves over the past 15 years to be competitively priced, especially when considering the species that they have available and the quality of the tree provided. Johnson's Nursery is a leader within the nursery industry.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** This is a one-time purchase quote in the amount of \$53,700 (for 250 trees) from Johnson’s Nursery, for the United States semiquincentennial celebration. Funds are available in account #6048401-57110.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Director be directed to waive formal bidding and the Purchasing Manager be directed to purchase of 250 trees from Johnson’s Nursery, for the United States semiquincentennial celebration.