

## **RFPs in process**

### **Mowing and Landscape contract**

The City of Monticello Parks, Arts & Recreation Department is inviting proposals from qualified contractors for mowing and landscaping maintenance in Monticello, MN.

This service contract will encompass the maintenance of Riverside Cemetery and Hillside Cemetery, which includes semi-annual cleanups. Additionally, it will involve nuisance mowing related to blight orders, which are billed to property owners in violation of the ordinance. The department requests that the proposals include the continuation of contracted mowing services for a three-year period, with the option for a one-year extension, subject to mutual agreement between both parties.

The properties are owned by the City of Monticello. The location and property details are as follows:

- Riverside Cemetery: 19.72 Acres located at 1240 West River St, Monticello, MN 55362
- Hillside Cemetery: 3.5 Acres located at 7<sup>th</sup> St East, Monticello, MN 55362
- Downtown Landscaping (Alternate)
- Blight Property Mowing

### **Turf Conversion & direct hardwood seeding areas**

In line with the park master plan and the Monticello 2040 plan, PARC is being asked to approve 9 acres of turf conversion at Balboa Park, Groveland, and Featherstone Park, as well as 4 acres of direct hardwood seedings at Featherstone and Groveland Park. Rather than transplanting trees and shrubs from a nursery, this project aims to establish native woody species directly from seed on site. This approach requires more extensive site preparation to eliminate competing vegetation, control weeds, and prepare a suitable seed bed. A combination of farming techniques including plowing, tillage, and tarping are being utilized alongside various seeding strategies.

This approach is being pursued because while tree planting is effective in many cases, it can be expensive to plant at high densities, and transplanted trees and shrubs often face challenges such as transplant shock, competing vegetation, and damage from rodents and deer. Establishing trees from seed is not only a more cost-effective method but also allows for denser establishment and faster growth rates, which can help overcome other site pressures. Furthermore, this method of restoration closely replicates the natural succession seen around the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

Tree species in direct hardwood seeding:

<b>Species</b>
<b>White Oak</b>
<b>Bur Oak</b>
<b>Red Oak</b>
<b>Hackberry</b>
<b>Dogwood</b>
<b>Hazelnut</b>
<b>Maple</b>
<b>American Basswood</b>
<b>American Plum</b>
<b>Black Cherry</b>
<b>Viburnum</b>
<b>Oats</b>

**Project areas:**

1. CR 75 .10 prairie
2. Balboa Stormwater 1- 1.5 acres prairie
3. Balboa Stormwater 2- 1.25 acres prairie
4. Balboa Stormwater 3- 1.25 acres prairie
5. Featherstone .50 acres prairie
6. Groveland stormwater 3.5 acres prairie
7. Groveland- 2 acres of direct hardwood seeding
8. Featherstone 2 acres of direct hardwood seeding

As per PARCS recommendation, staff will engage with adjacent neighborhoods, conduct surveys, and host community meetings to gather community input on the project areas for the park. This inclusive approach is crucial for the success of the park, as it will provide valuable insights and ideas for park design while demonstrating to the community that their input is highly valued and integral to the park's success.

**\*\*MNDNR Tree Project Funding Update\*\***

The current grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) supports the enhancement of Monticello's urban landscape by planting 200 diverse trees in the identified Environmental Justice (EJ) area. This initiative specifically targets regions affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), located east of Highway 25, extending to County Road 18 along 7th Street East and its adjacent cross streets. However, the project is currently suspended until further notice, as the state requires more guidance regarding the allocation of IRA funds.

### **YMCA Splash Pad Agreement**

The partnership between the YMCA and the MCC enhances the membership offerings by providing an additional recreational experience for members from June through August 2025. This agreement pertains to the use of the YMCA splash pad located at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. During weekends, specifically on Saturdays and Sundays, the MCC lifeguard team will supervise the facility, thereby granting MCC members access to this program. Furthermore, all residents may utilize the facility by paying a daily fee established by the community partner.