

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rob Sperl, Director of Parks and Planning  
 Deb Seymour, Superintendent of Parks

THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director

RE: 2020-22 Herbicide Spraying Bid

DATE: September 3, 2020



**SUMMARY:**

Annually we treat our high use parks with a broadleaf herbicide to inhibit weed growth and encourage a dense growth of turf that can withstand the foot traffic that we have. Traditionally we have had a staff member utilize our boom sprayer to do this work. This is typically one of our trim crew leaders and it will take them approximately 5 weeks as they work this into their weekly ongoing tasks and work with the limited capacity of our sprayer.

Last year we tested using two lawn care companies to complete this work. There are several benefits that we see to outsourcing:

- Time herbiciding and impacting park use is reduced from several weeks to less than one by using larger capacity spray equipment and multiple machines
- Staff can dedicate their time to managing crews and their other tasks
- Boom sprayer (\$65,000) can be eliminated from the fleet since it sits idle most of year

When the cost of labor and equipment is factored, the cost of contracting is approximately even.

Specifications were made available to 14 bidders on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Bids were opened on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The results were as follows:

Company	Three Year Cost (Annual Cost) With Crabgrass Control	Three Year Cost (Annual Cost) Without Crabgrass Control
Eternally Green Lawncare	\$36,816.00 (\$12,272.00)	\$31,063.50 (\$10,354.50)
Spring Green	\$83,713.50 (\$27,904.50)	\$65,110.50 (\$21,703.50)

Last year's test of two lawn companies totaled just under \$10,000 for a slightly small scope of work, therefore staff anticipated a total cost similar to the low bidder's cost. References for the low bidder were checked and were favorable. Depending on the weather (first frost), timing for crabgrass control may not be favorable in 2020 and could be handled by staff. However, it would be staff preference to include crabgrass control in the contract moving forward.

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:**

N/A

**REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:**

Funding for this work is available within the current fiscal year and future years. (10-101-000-52-5210-0000)

**STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:**

While there has been some concern over herbicide use in neighboring communities, feedback we have received indicates more people support continued weed suppression. In other words, we get more complaints about weeds in parks than people who are concerned about the application. Typically, the concerns are based on the inability to use the fields until the product is dry.

We will continue to post notices as required by law. The time the notices will be up will be less with the more efficient application.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

Standard bid documents were used.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

We can continue to utilize in house staff. If this option is considered, we would need to replace our current boom sprayer.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioner's approve the proposal from Eternally Green Lawncare for a contract amount not to exceed \$36,816.00 for herbicide spraying from 2020 to 2022.