

TO: Board of Commissioners

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

THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director

RE: Mowing and Line Trimming Services Bid

DATE: March 16, 2022



SUMMARY:

Hiring seasonal staff to keep up with mowing and trim work in our parks has become increasingly difficult in recent years. The parks south of Butterfield Road also require the most time to transport equipment. For these reasons staff decided to explore the possibility of contracting mowing and trim work.

The turf areas in our parks require seasonal care and maintenance that is currently being performed by Park Services employees. This work includes the following procedures:

- Mowing of turf areas
- Trash and debris pick-up in lawn areas
- Trimming (around trees, shrubs, plants, play equipment, signs, fences, sidewalks/paths)
- Blowing off all surfaces

Seasonal mowing and trim work services were proposed within the bid for the following parks, south of Butterfield Road (totaling 17.8 acres of work):

- Arboretum Mews
- Albright Park
- Blacksmith Park
- Hull Park
- Scotts Cove Park
- Clydesdale Park
- Appleby Park
- Scottdale Park

Bids were solicited on February 3, 2022. 16 contractors received bid packets. Bids were opened on February 17, 2022. The results were as follows:

Contractor	2022	2023	2024	Total Bid Amount – 3 Yr. Contract
Apex Landscaping Inc.	\$27,475.00	\$28,310.00	\$29,155.00	\$84,940.00

Unit Costs:

Contractor	Add'l. Week of Service
Apex Landscaping Inc.	\$915.83 per week

It is disappointing that only one bid was received. We followed up with several of the other 15 potential bidders and received some of the following reasons for a lack of response:

- General lack of staff industry wide
- Public mowing is least profitable (maintenance is not prevailing wage)
- Not enough time to respond, in part due to snow operations

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

N/A

REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:

No budget was determined for this project. A bid was sent out to determine if contracting this work would be cost effective. Only one bid was submitted, and the bid amount is high in proportion to similar services being contracted by other area park districts. For example, the Bolingbrook Park District contracts out similar services at an approximate rate of \$923 per acre per year. The proposed bid shows a rate of \$1,590 per acre per year, (over a three-year period, which is over 1.7 times the BPD rate).

LEGAL REVIEW:

Our legal counsel provided the front-end bid documents and sample legal agreement that will be used with the selected bidder.

ALTERNATIVES:

We will continue to look at other cost-effective options for this type of work and present them if applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioner's reject the bid from Apex Landscaping for \$84,940.00.