



Public Works Service Operations

DATE: February 13, 2024

FROM: Steve Salwei, Director Public Works Services

ITEM: Permission to request donations for the Forestry Division's 2024 Partners In Planting and Arbor Day Fund.

REQUEST:

Permission to request donations for the Forestry Division's 2024 Partners In Planting and Arbor Day Fund.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Each year, the Forestry Division uses corporate sponsorship in the form of donations to encourage street tree planting along Bismarck's roadways. These corporate sponsorships are matched with City funds to provide a 50% match with a maximum of a \$100 per tree rebate. This program has been very successful and continues to provide property owners with an opportunity to recover some of their costs for planting street trees.

The Arbor Day donation allows Bismarck the opportunity to celebrate Bismarck's Tree City designation and promote tree planting in our community. The donations are used to purchase plaques for outstanding commercial landscaping, recognition of volunteers who planted trees in Bismarck under the Forestry Division's guidance, purchasing of the Arbor Day tree, Apple Seed awards, dedication plaque, printing of the Arbor Day celebration program, and billboard advertising promoting Arbor Day in Bismarck.

Both of these programs are in the Forestry Division's 2024 budget. These donations will be requested from February 2024 thru December 2024. Bismarck businesses will be contacted by a letter from the City Forester asking for their support of these programs.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:

Grant permission to the Forestry Division to request donations for its 2024 Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day Fund.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christy Ames-Davis, Forestry Programs Coordinator, 701-355-1723, comes@bismarcknd.gov

ATTACHMENTS:

None