



City Council Report

Date: May 6, 2024
To: City Council
Through: Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer
From: Edward Quedens, Business Services Director
Kristy Garcia, Procurement Administrator
Subject: Three-Year Term Contract with a Three-Year Renewal Option for the Development, Management, and Implementation of the Trees are Cool – Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards in the Desert Southwest Project for the Environmental and Sustainability Department **(U.S. Forest Service Grant) (Single Response) (Citywide)**

Recommendation

Council is requested to approve the award as recommended.

A committee representing Environmental and Sustainability, Mesa Public Schools, and Procurement Services evaluated responses. The evaluation committee recommends awarding the single, responsive, and responsible proposal from Arizona Sustainability Alliance up to \$673,000 for the total term of the project based on the term of the grant.

Background / Discussion

In partnership with the City, Mesa Public Schools (MPS), and Trusts for Public Lands, Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA) will work, develop, manage, and implement the U.S. Forest Service grant funded Trees Are Cool – Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards in the Desert Southwest project.

AZSA will offer planting and educational activities that inspire students to grow a greener, cooler, healthier community. The project will show students how to grow a healthy urban forest, increase tree canopy coverage, mitigate urban heat, and use our community's water resources efficiently. The project will plant trees and support teachers so they can implement local solutions at their schools. Students will explore and learn about urban forests through classroom and hands-on learning. Together, the City, MPS, AZSA, local water conservation, sustainability, and urban forestry organizations will show students how to grow a sustainable urban forest on their school campuses and in the community for future generations.

Trees Are Cool is a federally funded tree planting and education project for students living in Justice40 neighborhoods per the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) with little to no nature.

