



Consent Item

RE: Parks Mowing Contract

Department/Program: Parks and Recreation

Explanation: The City budgeted \$97,850 for contractual mowing of parks and miscellaneous green spaces. Under the original 2025 agreement with Ideal Landscaping which includes the plans and specifications from RFP 25-02, the City holds the option to renew the contract for the 2026 and 2027 seasons. Additionally the City has the right to negotiate should a proposed fee increase surpass 3%. IDEAL Landscape has proposed a renewal for 2026 with no fee increase.

As a reminder, when the decision was made to contract mowing we eliminated one full time maintenance position in 2025 offsetting a majority of this expense. Furthermore, outsourcing this work allows the remaining park maintenance staff to focus on specialized projects rather than routine mowing. This shift in resources recently enabled the team to complete:

- Ferris Park: Hillside stabilization
- New Ballwin Park: Fishing deck rebuild
- Vlasik Park: Bridge rebuild
- Multiple large tree removal projects

These projects would have been difficult to manage if staff were tied up with mowing duties. Looking ahead, the 2026 schedule includes a pergola rebuild at North Pointe, playground surfacing installations, refinishing park furniture, and a second bridge rebuild at Vlasik Park.

Recommendation: IDEAL performed well throughout 2025 and is offering to hold their current pricing. Therefore, staff recommends renewing the contract with IDEAL Landscape for the 2026 season for an amount not to exceed \$94,121.16.

Submitted By: Chris Conway, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: 2/3/2026