



REQUEST FOR ACTION CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025
Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Department Origination: Community Development

Agenda Item: Approve Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening to allow a Controlled Burn of the Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi River Overlook Park

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

City staff is requesting an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening to allow a Controlled Burn of the Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi River Overlook Park. The specific scope shall include a prescribed grassland burn in spring of 2025, conducted by Great River Greening and/or our subcontractor, including all state and local permitting and notifications. A 48-hour notice of intent to burn will be given to City of Baxter. The Burn shall not occur if the prevailing winds are out of the south, as the City does not wish for smoke to impact the two public schools, which lie north/northeast of the Jack Pine Savanna. Lastly, all terms and conditions of the subcontract not specifically amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.

City staff has been working with GRG for over a year on environmental improvement projects within Mississippi River Overlook Park in southwest Baxter. Specifically, tree cutting has occurred in the Jack Pine Savanna Restoration Area. Additionally, a buckthorn removal project occurred in the southwest/west portion of the park land. In July of 2024, the City approved a one-year extension to the Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening to allow time to organize a controlled burn of the Jack Pine Savanna and to allow time for treatment of non-native plants. Great River Greening has received grant funding through the Minnesota and Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund for "Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Restoration and Enhancements". Specifically, the GRG has funding for restoration/enhancement improvement projects on public lands.

Jack Pine Savanna Restoration



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Cooperative Agreement Amendment may include some in-kind assistance from the Park Maintenance Department prior to or during the burn.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends Approval of the Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening to allow a Controlled Burn of the Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi River Overlook Park

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

Approve Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening to allow a Controlled Burn of the Jack Pine Savanna at Mississippi River Overlook Park