



## **STAFF REPORT**

DATE: July 19, 2016

**REGULAR**

ITEM #: 21

**MOTION**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Kristina Handt, City Administrator

**REVIEWED BY:** Rob Weldon, Public Works Director

Cathy Bendel, Finance Director

**AGENDA ITEM:** Rain Garden Maintenance

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since the City began a Rain Garden Program in 2008, there have been a total of 34 rain gardens to be maintained privately and 6 rain gardens to be maintained by the City as follows:

- Tablyn Park.
- Demontreville Park.
- Demontreville Trail DNR Boat Launch area.
- Jane Rd.
- Legion Avenue.
- Reid Park (30th Street).

The 6 city maintained rain gardens are shown in red on the attached map

### **ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Should the seasonal parks workers be retained to maintain the city owned rain gardens?

### **PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:**

The water work group of the Environmental Committee discussed rain gardens at their July 8, 2016 meeting. The work group discussed the concern of a resident expressed at recent Council meetings regarding the upkeep of the rain gardens. The discussion included the possibility of organizing a group of volunteers to weed the gardens, hiring the work out or expanding the use of the City's seasonal parks staff to complete this work.

The work group reported back to the committee that they would recommend the Council have the task completed by seasonal employees. Furthermore, a member of the work group, Wendy Griffin, volunteered to provide a brief training to staff on what to pull from the gardens.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Our seasonal employees make \$10-11/hour. It is estimated to take about a week to make it through all of the city rain gardens. This would be an additional cost of \$473.66. The budget for PT employees in Parks was \$32,500 for 2016. Staff is projecting the actual to be \$46,135.50 given the fact that the City was successful in filling the rink attendant position in 2016 as well as successfully recruiting and hiring summer help earlier in 2016 which did not occur in previous years.

### **OPTIONS:**

- 1) Approve keeping seasonal parks staff on to complete rain garden maintenance
- 2) Approve hiring out maintenance of rain gardens

- 3) Approve establishing a volunteer group to maintain rain gardens
- 4) Do not take any action with regarding to maintaining rain gardens.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Environmental Committee recommendation:

**Motion to approve keeping seasonal parks staff on to complete rain garden maintenance.**



City Maintained Rain Garden █

Privately Maintained Rain Garden █

