



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 19, 2025  
**To:** Utilities Committee  
**From:** Laura Jungwirth, Director of Public Works  
Peter Neuberger, City Engineer/Deputy Director of Public Works  
Luke Vandenberg, Project Engineer  
Paul Krause, Horticulturist  
**Subject:** Sole Source Award of 2025 Native Landscape Management Contract (K-25) to NES Ecological Services – A Division of Robert E. Lee & Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$181,899.05.

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The Department of Public Works recommends sole source award of the 2025 Native Landscape Management Contract to NES Ecological Services – A Division of Robert E. Lee & Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$181,899.05.

In January 2022 a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to three consulting firms. Three proposals were received, and the recommendation of contract award to NES Ecological Services (NES) was approved at Utilities Committee on February 22, 2022, and Common Council on March 2, 2022. The RFP stated: *“With satisfactory performance by the selected contractor in 2022, additional yearly annual single-source contracts may be negotiated without an RFP process for 2023-2026, at the City’s option, and subject to Utilities Committee and Council approval each year.”* Since 2023, DPW has hired NES each year using this single source authorization process. Based on their 2022 proposal and their continued high quality of work during 2024, staff again recommends awarding the 2025 contract to NES.

Work under this contract includes the following:

- Native vegetation maintenance and new installations at City stormwater facilities.
- Provide vegetation inspections and recommendations.
- Provide invasive species and algae control through herbicide, mowing, brushing, and/or controlled burns.
- Provide preparation, seeding, planting, and erosion control at sparsely established areas and new sites.
- Maintain pond aerators.

The proposed contract amount includes an estimated \$5,193.51 of work at Facilities Department owned stormwater facilities. Stormwater Utility will be reimbursed for this work by the Facilities Department via interdepartmental billing.