



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Michael J. Brunk, City Arborist
DATE: April 21, 2014
RE: Request to Utilize City Funds for Sim Hackberry
(Update) Recuperate Costs

Introduction

Staff requests the transfer of \$5,000 in surplus tree inventory funds to the Legacy Tree Program. This request targets less than half the remaining surplus in the Tree Inventory line item for use as seed money for the Legacy Tree Program.

The seed money will be invested into marketing the program for purposes of highlighting Urbana's legacy of trees and the community's leading supporters. Staff's goal for the Legacy Tree program is to create a self-sufficient program following the success of the Landscape Recycling Center and the Arbor Division's public education program both of which have been successful without tax dollar support.

The historic hackberry (Sim hackberry) and the public involvement with this tree will be acknowledged in the Legacy Tree Program literature. None of the requested funds will be used towards completing additional artisan works for a Sim Hackberry memorial. Additional projects to memorialize the tree will be limited to community donations and raised funds.

Fiscal Impact

The Arbor Division saved money in tree inventory costs by seeking an intergovernmental partnership with the Urbana Park District and limiting its hardware purchases. The anticipated surplus is expected to be over \$10,000. Staff requests to invest \$5,000 of this surplus into creating a self-sustaining Legacy Tree Program. The goal of this request is to gain a return on this investment that will continue to support the Legacy Tree Program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval to transfer \$5,000 from B09-1-0400-0416 "Tree Inventory Costs" to a B09 expenditure line item for the Legacy Tree Program.