



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#20-0034

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: February 18, 2020

TITLE: Motion Approving NatureScape and Residential Rebate Irrigation Service
Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for \$122,113.52 Over a Five-
Year Period – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the NatureScape and Residential Rebate Irrigation Service Interlocal Agreement with Broward County in the amount of \$122,113.52 over a five-year period.

Background

The NatureScape Irrigation Service (NIS) was conceptually developed and promoted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Broward County for the purpose of promoting water conservation. The primary goal of the NIS program is to achieve water savings and protect water quality through more efficient irrigation operations and landscaping practices.

The NIS is a specialized irrigation service offering a free water use audit to irrigation system owners. NIS staff evaluates the effectiveness of a property owner's irrigation system and then recommends efficiency improvements. The City has received this service from Broward County for the last 15 years. Since inception of the 2015-2020 NIS agreement, 219 evaluations have been completed on 159 unique sites with an actual water savings of 157,128,970 gallons. This is an average saving of 10,475,265 per year and an average reduction of 27.8% per site. This number will continue to grow as year five of the current agreement concludes and year one of the proposed agreement commences.

Based on the proposed NatureScape portion of the Agreement (Exhibit 1), the City will have the opportunity to identify three properties each year for the NIS to perform an initial and follow-up site evaluation. In addition, the County will annually evaluate nine additional properties within the City in coordination with City staff. This will bring the total number of inspections to 15 per year or 75 over the term of the five-year agreement. The City's cost for the five-year plan is \$70,876.97; Year 1: \$13,350.00, Year 2: \$13,750.50, Year 3: \$14,163.02, Year 4: \$14,587.91, Year 5: \$15,025.54.

Broward County has created a new program called the Residential Irrigation Rebate Program that was pilot tested in March 2019. The program was so successful that the County is including this program into this five-year NatureScape agreement. This program incentivizes water conservation on residential properties by providing rebates for residents who upgrade their irrigation systems to achieve water savings. There are four types of rebates available that may be used, for a rebate up to \$600 per applicant. (Exhibit 3). The application and details for residents are located here: <http://www.broward.org/IrrigationRebate/Pages/default.aspx>

Based on the residential irrigation reimbursement portion of the Agreement (Exhibit 1), residents will have the opportunity to seek irrigation rebates up to \$600.00 per system. The County will evaluate the measured long-term water use reduction achieved as a result of the new Residential Irrigation systems within the City. This will have a total number of 15 rebates per year or 75 over the term of the five-year agreement. The City's cost for the five-year plan is \$51,236.55; Year 1: \$4,000.00, Year 2: \$11,620.00, Year 3: \$11,743.60, Year 4: \$11,870.91, Year 5: \$12,002.04.

The County administers both programs and prepares annual summary reports on water savings. The implementation of the programs will help the City meet water conservation regulatory requirements as outlined in the City's Consumptive Use Permit issued by the SFWMD, improved irrigation efficiency, appropriate landscaping choices; best maintenance practices will save money, valuable resources, reduce runoff, improve water quality, and help in addressing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nutrients.

Resource Impact

There is a current fiscal year impact to the City in the amount of \$17,350. There is a combined fiscal impact in the amount of \$104,763.52 for the four subsequent contract years for both programs. Funding for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025 is contingent upon Commission approval of respective annual operating budgets.

<i>Funds available as of January 22, 2020</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	PURCHASE AMOUNT
450-PBS690602-3299	Water and Sewer Environmental Resources	Services/Materials - Other Services	\$195,059	\$167,669	\$17,350
PURCHASE TOTAL ►					\$17,350

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.

- Objective: Secure our community's water supply and support water conservation measures.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We Are Ready*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1: 2020 NIS Interlocal Agreement

Exhibit 2: NatureScape 2018 Annual Report

Exhibit 3: Public Outreach for Residential Irrigation Rebate Program

Prepared by: Larry Teich, Public Works

Department Director: Raj Verma, Public Works Director