



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 09, 2011

Council Session

## Item G13

**#2011-197 - Approving Greener Nebraska Towns 2011 Program  
Grant Agreement**

Staff Contact: Joni Kuzma

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Joni Kuzma, Community Development

**Meeting:** August 9, 2011

**Subject:** Approving Greener Nebraska Towns Program Grant Agreement

**Item #'s:** G-13

**Presenter(s):** Joni Kuzma, Community Development Administrator

## Background

The City of Grand Island is one of eight Nebraska communities that has been selected to receive a \$55,000 Greener Nebraska Towns Program grant. In March 2011, the City applied for a Greener Nebraska Towns Initiative grant that would enable Grand Island to create short and long-range greenscape goals and a green community education plan. A planning committee, comprised of city staff and community representatives, was formed to identify potential community greenscape needs, collect information for the grant and create a comprehensive list of potential project partners if the grant was awarded.

Between 1995 and 2009, the community has received 16 grants from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum for landscape development and tree plantings. Some beneficiaries of these grants have been the City, Parks & Recreation, Downtown Grand Island, Plum Street Station, educational facilities, many transportation routes and the Senior Center. The Greener Nebraska Towns Initiative is a new program that encouraged communities to submit an application that:

- builds on the EPA Phase II work of the Public Works Stormwater Technician in reducing stormwater runoff and associated problems (pollution, erosion, etc.)
- reduces consumption of municipal water for landscape irrigation
- improves community forest, including increasing tree canopy and greater tree diversity
- improves biodiversity across the community
- reduces energy consumption
- creates a more aware and better educated public regarding landscape sustainability, and
- creates a greener, cleaner, more attractive, livable and viable community

## **Discussion**

Grand Island is one of eight communities across Nebraska that were selected as a Greener Nebraska Towns partner community. The \$55,000 grant will enable each partner community to intensively plant trees, implement waterwise landscape demonstration projects and implement public outreach and education activities. The Initiative is coordinated by the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) in partnership with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. (NSA). Grant funds to partner communities are provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), a beneficiary of the Nebraska lottery. The other communities include Scottsbluff, Bellevue, Fremont, Hastings, Ralston, North Platte and Chadron.

The project will include the planting of at least 300 trees at key locations within the community and the implementation of at least one "waterwise" landscape project that demonstrates the wise use of water in the landscape. Grant funds will be allocated over a two-year period and require a 1:1 match from the community. Matching funds must comprise 50% of any project funded with the grant. The project timeframe will be July 1, 2011 to November 30, 2013.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the 2011 Greener Nebraska Towns Project Agreement.

## **Sample Motion**

Motion to approve the 2011 Greener Nebraska Towns Project Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign all grant related documents.

RESOLUTION 2011-197

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is one of eight Nebraska communities that has been selected to receive a Greener Nebraska Towns Program grant; and

WHEREAS, the \$55,000 grant will enable each partner community to intensively plant trees, implement waterwise landscape demonstration projects and conduct public outreach and education activities; and

WHEREAS, the project will include the planting of at least 300 trees at key locations within the community and the implementation of at least one "waterwise" landscape project that demonstrates the wise use of water in the landscape; and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be allocated over a two-year period from July 1, 2011 to November 30, 2013 and require a 1:1 match from the community.; and

WHEREAS, the required 1:1 cash match will be met by the City and community through a variety of sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that:

1. The City of Grand Island, Nebraska is hereby authorized accept the 2011 Greener Nebraska Towns grant; and
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Project Agreement and other documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such grant process.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 9, 2011.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form    ☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
August 4, 2011            ☐ City Attorney