E Environment Committee

Meeting date: October 13, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	September 29, 2009
Subject:	Authorization to Amend Tree Trust License Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	District 15, Daniel Wolter
Policy/Legal Reference:	
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Bill Moeller (651) 602-4504
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore, General Manager 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the license agreement between Tree Trust and the Metropolitan Council to utilize Council property near the Regional Maintenance Facility through December 31, 2014.

Background

Tree Trust has had a working relationship with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Division dating back to 1975. Tree Trust has utilized a portion of the property near the Regional Maintenance Facility for a nursery and to act as a training and operations base for its Youth Employment Training program, Young Adult Conservation Corps and Landscape Services. The existing license will expire December 31, 2009 and staff recommends extending the license to use Metropolitan Council property until December 31, 2014.

Rationale

The Tree Trust provides educational and employment experiences that develop individual responsibility and environmental stewardship. They employ and train disadvantaged and special needs youth and young adults. The youth complete environmental park construction projects throughout the metropolitan area. They also provide residential mowing and snow removal for low income and handicapped seniors. Tree Trust provides environmental education support and trees for schools, neighborhood groups and other entities.

Trees are grown in the nursery and two small pole buildings act as an operations and training facility.

In return for the use of Council property, MCES utilizes Tree Trust personnel and trees for a variety of grounds keeping, landscaping and capital improvements projects across the system.

Funding

No funding is required.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.