



Interoffice Memorandum
City of Green
Public Service Department

To: City Council
Cc: Mayor Neugebauer, Lisa Carey Dean
From: Valerie Wax Carr, Director of Public Service
Date: June 1, 2021
Subject: **Parks Capital Purchase - Mulch Blower**

During the budget discussions for the 2021 Parks Capital Budget the Parks Division requested and was approved funds for a commercial grade mulch blower. Our original request was based on the purchase of a used mulch blower. However, with any purchase of a used piece of equipment sometimes the equipment is sold prior to the completion of our approval and purchasing process. Therefore, we investigated the purchase of a new piece of equipment.

New Mulch Blower – Equipment Increase by \$43,228.55

Currently in the park capital budget is appropriated \$64,000 for the purchase of a mulch blower. When this piece of equipment was submitted for a 2021 capital purchase the price reflected a smaller used unit. This used unit is no longer available. Service department staff have searched for a similar used unit with no success. So, we have priced a new unit. This is a larger unit but will address more of our needs.

Recently we had a demonstration of a mulch blowing unit. We are impressed with the efficiency in which mulch can be blow into landscape sites. In less than four (4) minutes the landscape site at the Southgate Park entrance at Boettler Park was completely mulched. Further, the machine leaves very little to clean up after use. In addition to mulching landscape areas and small mulched playgrounds, this unit can also spread mulch on trails and allow us to properly install just the right amount of mulch around the dozens of trees within the park system. And, instead of assigning an army of employees and/or volunteers to mulch the dozens of landscape sites, trees, and on city properties, the mulch blower requires only two employees.