

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR CONTRACT

This Contract is entered into by and between Yellowstone County, Montana, herein referred to as "COUNTY", and River Ridge Landscape Company herein referred to as "CONTRACTOR", whose address is 3223 River Road, Laurel, MT 59044

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. SCOPE OF SERVICES: CONTRACTOR agrees to complete and perform the work or services in accordance with the solicitation, plans, and specifications attached and hereby incorporated as Exhibit [A]

Fourteen (14) 24" DBH Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthids*), around the parking lot and front of building manage/improve health by applying: natural pruning to maintain the tree's characteristic growth pattern. Branch removal cuts on live and dead branches .5-inch diameter and larger. Deadwood all trees, raise canopy thin interior canopy for better growth pattern, air flow, reshape them and haul away all debris.

2. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR: COUNTY hereby employs CONTRACTOR as an independent contractor to complete and perform the scope of services. Neither CONTRACTOR nor its principals or employees are employees of COUNTY.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME OF PERFORMANCE: CONTRACTOR shall commence work upon approval of this Contract by both parties and shall complete the work described by Sept 30th, 2026

4. COMPENSTATION: For the satisfactory completion of the scope of services, COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR a total of ~~\$\$\$~~**\$9,800.00**. CONTRACTOR should submit invoices directly to COUNTY upon satisfactory completion of services for the period being invoiced. Any Change Orders for the project must be approved in writing by COUNTY prior to work being started. COUNTY shall pay invoices within 30 days of invoice date.

5. CONTRACTOR'S REPRESENTATION:

1. CONTRACTOR has examined and reviewed Contract Documents and other related paperwork
2. CONTRACTOR has visited the site and become familiar with and is satisfied with the general, local and site conditions that may affect cost, progress, performance and furnishing of the work.
3. CONTRACTOR is familiar with and is satisfied as to all federal, state and local laws and regulations that may affect cost, progress and furnishing of the work.
4. CONTRACTOR has given COUNTY written notice of all conflicts, errors, ambiguities or discrepancies that CONTRACTOR has discovered in the Contract Documents and that the Contract Documents are generally sufficient to indicate and convey the understanding of all terms and conditions for performance of the scope of services.

6. **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:** The Contract Documents, which comprise the entire agreement between COUNTY and CONTRACTOR, consist of the following:

1. This agreement
2. CONTRACTOR's proposal dated Aug 12th, 2026
3. CONTRACTOR's certificate of insurance and workers compensation coverage
4. List any other applicable documents or exhibits
Exhibit A

7. **WARRANTY:** All work completed, and materials provided by CONTRACTOR must be warranted for a period of one (1) year from the time the services are completed.

8. **MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT:** This Contract contains the entire agreement between parties, and no statements or promises made by either party, or agents of either party, which are not contained in the written Contract, are valid or binding. This Contract may not be modified or altered except upon written agreement signed by both parties. Any subcontractor shall be bound by all of the terms and conditions of this Contract.

9. **INSURANCE:** CONTRACTOR shall maintain at its sole cost and expense, commercial general liability insurance from an insurance carrier licensed to do business in the State of Montana in the amount of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) for each occurrence (minimum) and one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) aggregate. CONTRACTOR also agrees to maintain workers compensation insurance from an insurance carrier licensed to do business in the State of Montana. Proof of general liability and workers compensation insurance shall be provided to COUNTY at least ten (10) days prior to beginning work under this Contract. COUNTY must be listed as an additional insured on the general liability insurance certificate for this Contract.

10. **INDEMNIFICATION:** CONTRACTOR agrees to waive all claims and recourse against COUNTY, including the right of contribution for loss and damage to persons or property arising from, growing out of, or in any way connected with incidental to CONTRACTOR's performance of this Contract except for liability arising out of concurrent or sole negligence of COUNTY or its officers, agents or employees. Further, CONTRACTOR shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend COUNTY against all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses or liability arising out of CONTRACTOR's negligent performance of this Contract except for liability arising out of the concurrent or sole negligence of COUNTY or its offices, agents or employees.

11. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** CONTRACTOR shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations, including the Montana Human Rights Act, Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. CONTRACTOR or their subcontractors agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualification and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the person performing under the Contract.

12. **PERMITS:** CONTRACTOR is responsible for obtaining any and all permits required to perform work under the Contract.

13. **PREFERENCE:** CONTRACTOR agrees to give preference to the employment of bona fide Montana residents in compliance with MCA 18-2-403 (1). In accordance with MCA 18-2-409, CONTRACTOR shall ensure that at least 50% of the workers of the CONTRACTOR (including workers employed by subcontractors) working on the project shall be bona fide Montana Residents.

14. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE, CONSTRUCTION, AND VENUE:** Performance of this Contract is in Yellowstone County, Montana and venue for any litigation arising from performance of this Contract is the 13th Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County, Montana. This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Montana.

15. **ATTORNEY FEES:** In the event of litigation between CONTRACTOR and COUNTY, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reimbursement of court costs and reasonable attorney fees by the non-prevailing party.

16. **SUSPENSION:** Without terminating this Contract, COUNTY may suspend CONTRACTOR's services following written notice. On the suspension date specified in the notice, CONTRACTOR shall have ceased its services in an orderly manner. CONTRACTOR shall be reimbursed for all reasonable costs incurred and unpaid for services rendered through the suspension date specified in the notice, but in no case will CONTRACTOR be paid for services rendered after the date of such suspension. If resumption of CONTRACTOR's services requires any waiver or change in this Contract, any such waiver or change shall require the written agreement of all parties, and the writing shall be attached as an addendum to this Contract.

17. **TERMINATION:** COUNTY reserves the right to terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, at any time by providing thirty (30) days written notice to CONTRACTOR. On the termination date specified in the notice, CONTRACTOR shall have ceased its services in an orderly manner. If a new contractor is retained to, or COUNTY will itself complete the services, CONTRACTOR will fully cooperate with COUNTY in preparing the new contractor or COUNTY to take over completion of services on the specified termination date. CONTRACTOR will be reimbursed for all reasonable costs incurred and unpaid for services rendered in conformance with this Contract through the date of termination specified in COUNTY's notice to CONTRACTOR. In no case will CONTRACTOR be paid for services rendered after the date of termination.

In the event of a material breach of this Contract by COUNTY, the CONTRACTOR shall have the right to terminate this Contract thirty (30) days after written notice to COUNTY specifying such material breach, unless COUNTY has cured such material breach within said period.

This Contract may be terminated without cause by either party. In that event, the party seeking to terminate this Contract must give ninety (90) days written notice to the other party of the intent to terminate the Contract.

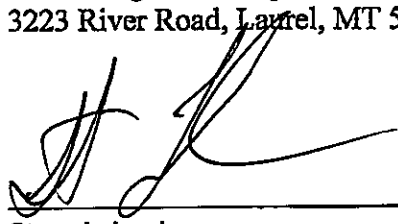
In witness whereof, COUNTY and CONTRACTOR have signed this Contract in duplicate. One counterpart each will be delivered to COUNTY and CONTRACTOR. All portions of the Contract Documents have been signed, initialed or identified by COUNTY and CONTRACTOR.

This Contract will be effective Aug 12th, 2026

COUNTY:
Yellowstone County
Billings, MT 59101

CONTRACTOR
River Ridge Landscape Co.
3223 River Road, Laurel, MT 59044

Mark Morse, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



8-12-26

Steve Lehenbauer

ATTEST:

Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder

Exhibit A



Date: July 30, 2026

From: Steve Lehenbauer
River Ridge Landscape Company

To: Yellowstone County
Jen Jones
Financial Director

Re: Ostlund Building landscaping

Jen,

Here is the price to do the pruning on the 14 Honeylocust trees at the Ostlund building. This price does not have Davis Bacon wages in it.

Fourteen (14) 24" DBH Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), around the parking lot and front of building manage/improve health by applying: Perform natural pruning intended to maintain the tree's characteristic growth pattern to

- branch removal cuts on live and dead branches .5 inch diameter and larger Deadwood all trees, raise canopy Thin interior canopy for better Growth pattern and air flow and reshape them Haul away all debris

Total: \$9,800.00

Thank you for allowing us to give you a proposal on your landscape.

Sincerely,

Steve Lehenbauer
River Ridge Landscape Co.
3223 River Road, Laurel, MT 59044
steve@riverridgelandscape.com
(406) 628-7317