



Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Approve a Contract with Landscaper, LLC for Mowing along Highway NC-54 and Town Properties

Purpose: To request Town Council, approve the contract with Landscaper, LLC to provide mowing services along Highway NC-54 and grassy areas at Town Properties.

Department: Public Works

1. What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?

Inequities related to public space maintenance stem from long-standing disparities in how infrastructure, amenities, and municipal services have historically been distributed across communities. In Carrboro, as in many towns, neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low-income residents or residents of color have often experienced uneven investment in public infrastructure, including parks, rights-of-way, and general maintenance. These inequities are rooted in broader systemic issues such as historic segregation, discriminatory land-use practices, and unequal access to public resources.

2. Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?

Currently, community burden is felt most in areas where public space maintenance may be inconsistent, particularly in neighborhoods with lower-income residents or residents of color. Uneven mowing or litter removal can reduce walkability, neighborhood appearance, and safety. If this action is passed, no new burdens are expected because it maintains consistent service levels across all designated areas. If it is not passed, reduced maintenance could disproportionately affect residents who rely on well-kept public spaces for mobility and daily use, reinforcing existing inequities.

3. Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?



Currently, community benefit is experienced by residents, visitors, and commuters who rely on well-maintained public spaces for safety, mobility, and recreation. If this action is passed, these benefits will continue for all who use Highway NC-54 and Town properties, supporting accessibility and neighborhood appearance. If it is not passed, reduced maintenance could lessen walkability and safety, with the greatest impact on communities already facing historic underinvestment.

4. What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Unintended consequences could include uneven maintenance across neighborhoods if service delivery is not monitored, which may reinforce existing disparities. Routine mowing may also unintentionally reduce pollinator habitat or disturb small wildlife.

5. What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

The department works to mitigate burdens and inequities by applying consistent maintenance standards across all Town properties and rights-of-way and monitoring service delivery to prevent uneven maintenance. Staff also considers feedback from community members to identify areas where service levels may need adjustment.

To address future impacts, the department will continue evaluating equitable service distribution, explore opportunities for reduced-mow or pollinator-friendly practices, and continue to incorporate equity considerations into future bid cycles.