

6.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND CAPABILITES

D.A. Hoerr & Sons, Inc. (dba Hoerr Nursery), founded by David A. Hoerr in 1926, is the longest established landscaping, nursery and garden center in the Peoria metropolitan area. David's sons, Rudy, Jim, and John moved the business forward in the 1950's through the year 2000. The current third generation owners are Nathan Hoerr (President/CEO and overseeing retail and commercial sales), Jeff Hoerr (Secretary/Treasurer and Landscape Manager), and John W. Hoerr (Vice President and Sod Manager).

Hoerr Nursery provides beautification by providing trees, shrubs, flowers and other landscape products. We have all the needed trucks - from pickup trucks to large tree spades and tandem dump trucks - and equipment – from rototillers to skid loaders to wheel loaders - to complete jobs of all magnitudes. Our staff are qualified, college graduates with degrees in many fields, including landscape architecture and horticulture. We employ many trained and qualified field personnel, many of whom have been working at Hoerr Nursery for decades. We love to serve our clients and develop relationships with them, treating them as friends and not simply as a transaction to be made.

A sampling of Hoerr Nursery's project experience is listed on the following **Attachment B Reference Page**.

Our mission statement is to:

- Provide the highest quality landscape products and services that exceed our customers' expectations.
- Maintain a team-based environment that builds trust and allows our employees to achieve their goals while balancing their personal and professional lives.

We provide only the highest quality trees and soil. Our trees are grown in house under close attention and care, or they sourced from experienced, trusted growers who have a proven record of growing hardy, beautiful trees, and with whom we have a long-time relationship.

Our mission goes far beyond providing materials and services, however. We care deeply and are committed fully to all the communities of the city of Peoria. Having landscaped thousands of homes, commercial properties, and public and governmental buildings and grounds, we feel the pride in making our city a better place to live.

Our passion for plants originates from the beauty that they give to all of us. We are especially excited about the City of Peoria Tree Planting project, since it will help beautify the areas of our city that are most in need of good, hardy, long-lived trees. Trees will improve the quality of life in all urban areas, especially in those areas that are less affluent. In fact, studies show that trees do indeed improve the health of citizens of poorer communities.

One study found in the NIH Public Access Author Manuscript showed that “areas with more street trees experienced a lower prevalence of early childhood asthma. Poor urban areas in the USA experience an especially high prevalence of childhood asthma. Although temporal patterns in air quality or pollen counts have been associated with exacerbations of asthma, the geographical variation in the prevalence of asthma within cities has not been adequately explained.

Our findings, while not conclusive, suggest that street trees may play a role in preventing early childhood asthma. These data did not support an association between street trees and hospitalisations (sic) owing to childhood asthma. Future work to prospectively evaluate a major tree planting intervention will allow stronger inference as to the effects of nearby trees on the prevalence of childhood asthma.”

This study can be found at

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3415223/pdf/nihms394846.pdf>.

In conclusion, we have considered it a privilege to work with the City of Peoria, and we would be honored to be selected as the firm to carry out this work again in 2023.