



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Master

File Number: 47689

File ID: 47689

File Type: Resolution

Status: Passed

Version: 1

Reference:

Controlling Body: BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

File Created Date : 06/14/2017

File Name: Establishing an Urban Forestry Taskforce to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council regarding the promotion of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable urban forest and tree canopy.

Final Action: 08/01/2017

Title: Establishing an Urban Forestry Taskforce to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council regarding the promotion of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable urban forest and tree canopy.

Notes:

Sponsors: Paul R. Soglin, David Ahrens, Samba Baldeh, Marsha A. Rummel, Michael E. Verveer, Ledell Zellers and Amanda Hall

Effective Date: 08/08/2017

Attachments:

Author: Eric Knepp

Enactment Number: RES-17-00659

Entered by: nmiller@cityofmadison.com

Hearing Date:

Published Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Parks Division	06/14/2017	Referred for Introduction				
	Action Text:		This Resolution was Referred for Introduction				
	Notes:		Sustainable Madison Committee, Board of Park Commissioners				
1	COMMON COUNCIL	06/20/2017	Refer	SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE		07/17/2017	Pass
	Action Text:		A motion was made by Rummel, seconded by Baldeh, to Refer to the SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.				
	Notes:		Additional referral: Board of Park Commissioners				
1	SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE	06/20/2017	Refer	BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS		07/12/2017	
	Action Text:		This Resolution was Refer to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS				
	Notes:						

1	BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS	07/12/2017	Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval	SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE	07/17/2017	Pass
	Action Text:	Registered Speaker Marsha Rummel spoke in support.				
		Motion made by Leopold, seconded by Cheeks, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE. Motion passed by voice vote/other.				
1	SUSTAINABLE MADISON COMMITTEE	07/17/2017	RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER			Pass
	Action Text:	Green stated the Taskforce was a recommendation of the Street Tree sub-committee and that it would review all policies related to trees. Motion made by Ald. DeMarb to approve creation and seconded by Ald Ahrens to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.				
		In discussion Ald. Ahrens stated that four residents and city staff from Parks, Planning, Engineering Traffic Engineering and two alders would review city policies and procedures related to the urban canopy. Initial target was to meet bi-weekly and produce plan by year end for Council to review.				
	Notes:					
1	COMMON COUNCIL	08/01/2017	Adopt			Pass
	Action Text:	A motion was made by Rummel, seconded by Baldeh, to Adopt. The motion passed by voice vote/other.				
	Notes:					

Text of Legislative File 47689

Fiscal Note

The proposed resolution establishes an Urban Forestry Taskforce. No expenditure is required at this time. Forestry staff will be primarily responsible for staffing the task force with existing resources. Strategies and recommendations may eventually have capital and operating impact on various departments, subject to future Common Council approval.

Title

Establishing an Urban Forestry Taskforce to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council regarding the promotion of a vibrant, healthy and sustainable urban forest and tree canopy.

Body

Whereas, a healthy, dense and varied population of canopy trees provides many important benefits for our city. Their shade mitigates urban heat and cools buildings, reduces energy use and stores large amounts of carbon. They reduce stormwater run-off, improve air quality and abate urban noise. Trees improve the streetscape and increase property values. Studies have shown that canopy trees reduce stress levels, slow traffic, and create outdoor environments which encourage people to get outdoors, walk and bike and stay more active - all of which encourage better health. These benefits must be considered in calculating the costs of preserving and maintaining our urban forest.

Whereas, Madison's Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2012, calls for the City to:

“Minimize loss of tree cover and green space in public rights of way;

Promote, expand and replace tree canopy trees whenever possible and encourage landowner collaboration on strengthening tree canopy and woodlands;

Create a policy to facilitate underground placement of power lines and overhead wires.”

Whereas, a 35-inch Ash tree provides overall benefits of: \$191 every year. It can intercept 3,764 gallons of storm water runoff this year. It can conserve 321 Kilowatt hours of electricity for cooling and reduce consumption of oil or natural gas by 47 therm(s).

Whereas, the Forestry Section of the Parks Division provides tree planting, pruning and maintenance for over 96,000 trees along Madison's 700 miles of city streets. In addition, Forestry is responsible for hundreds of thousands of trees located in the City's parks, golf courses and cemetery.

Whereas, while Madison's tree canopy is managed by City Forestry, its viability is determined by a wide range of policies, ordinances and practices and overseen by several City agencies, including Parks, Engineering, Public Works, Streets, Zoning, Fire and Planning as well as utility companies' pruning programs

Whereas, city street development and reconstruction can lead to loss of many mature canopy trees. Current design standards for streetscapes do not always provide optimal soil volume or set-backs for planting canopy trees.

Whereas, other threats to the survival of existing or planned canopy trees are posed by salt, vehicles, improper mowing and weed-whackers, fire truck clearance, underground utilities, bike racks, street lights and signs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Common Council direct the creation of a taskforce on Urban Forestry that will be comprised of the following department/division heads or their representatives and other members. The taskforce shall be staffed by the Parks Division and chaired by a resident member of the taskforce.

- Two Alderpersons
- Four Residents Appointed by the Mayor
- Parks Division / Forestry
- Engineering
- Planning & Zoning
- Other City Departments as determined necessary by the taskforce

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the taskforce shall conduct and complete the following actions/duties:

- Review available research and best practices on promoting a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable urban forest.
- Review City policies, practices, programs, and operations that impact the urban forest (e.g. Zoning Code, Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan).
- Solicit input from local stakeholders with additional information on the issue as needed (e.g. WI DNR).
- Develop recommendations to the Mayor, Common Council, Committees or Commissions, and/or City agencies on the establishment of a Canopy Coverage Goal and action plan for the city covering both public and private trees.
- Develop recommendations to the Mayor, Common Council, Committees or Commissions, and/or City agencies to preserve and expand our urban forest resources through a well-planned and systematic approach to tree management.
- Develop recommendations to encourage private landowners to protect, preserve and promote a diverse and sustainable urban forest.

- Provide guidance for a long-term strategy to departments to promote the sustainability of a healthy urban forest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the taskforce complete its review and make final recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council within one year of its initial meeting.