

# DRAFT Resolution

## Fiscal Note

The proposed resolution includes 24 recommendations for future action. The implementation of these recommendations do not have an immediate fiscal impact but may result in the need for increased funding in future years.

## Title

Accepting the final report and recommendations from the Urban Forestry Task Force

## Body

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Task Force was created by the City of Madison Common Council at their August 1, 2017 meeting and charged with the following objectives:

- 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.

WHEREAS, the Task Force included:

- Chair: Jeremy Kane, Associate Director of Urban Tree Alliance, Resident
- Vice Chair: Jackie Suska, Resident
- Alderperson David Ahrens, Common Council, District 15
- Alderperson Sheri Carter, Common Council Vice President, District 14
- Marla Eddy, City Forester
- Julie Laundrie, Resident
- Dan McAuliffe, City Planner
- Michael Rewey, Resident
- James Wolfe, City Engineer; and,

WHEREAS, the Task Force first convened on January 11, 2018 and held a series of thirty (30) meetings plus one (1) Public Input meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the Task Force, in consultation with City staff, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison Gas & Electric, the University of Wisconsin-Madison/UW-Extension, reviewed available research and best practices on promoting a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable urban forest as well as City policies, practices, programs, and operations that impact the urban forest; and,

WHEREAS, the final report contains recommendations regarding Canopy Coverage, Preservation and Expansion of Urban Tree Resources, and the Protection and Promotion of a Diverse and Sustainable Urban Forest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council accepts the final report and recommendations of the Urban Forestry Task Force.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Common Council directs the Council Chief of Staff to present next steps to Common Council Executive Committee.