

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****May 17, 2022**

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**SUBJECT: AMENDING THE TREE FUND POLICY TO SUPPORT AN URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN**

The May 24, 2022 City Council agenda contains an amendment to Resolution 5103-06-2019: Establishing A Policy Regarding Expenditure of Tree Fund Collections to allow Tree Funds to be used for professional studies and planning initiatives.

On June 18, 2019, Mayor and City Council adopted Resolution No. 5103-06-2019, adopting the policy regarding the expenditure of Tree Fund collections. Currently the policy does not allow for the use of Tree Funds to be spent on urban forest inventory or long-term planning initiatives. Since the policy's adoption, advancements in technology and the emergence of professional consulting organizations has yielded data and data-based modeling not readily available to the City for urban forest composition, condition, analysis and planning.

In January of 2022, the Texas Tree Foundation (TTF) approached Development Services Department (DSD) regarding the development of an Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP). The proposal by TTF included a request for funding in the amount of \$50,000. The requested amount will be combined with sponsorships, donations and other funding secured by TTF to complete the full scope of the project. The contribution of the TTF to the project will be a minimum of \$250,000.

DSD and Park and Recreation Department (PARC) both support the need for an UFMP. The support by PARC is based in large on a separate proposal from Texas A&M Forest Service to complete an Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis (UFIA) to be provided to Fort Worth in perpetuity. An inventory is the first recommendation and a key component of the UFMP which was acknowledged during discussions with TTF.

To utilize Tree Fund dollars for professional studies and planning initiatives such as the UFMP and UFIA, an amendment to Resolution 5103-06-2019: Establishing A Policy Regarding Expenditure of Tree Fund Collections is required. The proposed amended resolution contains the following added provision: "Urban Forestry mitigation fees deposited into the Tree Fund may be spent on tree survey tools, technical equipment, professional studies and master plans including work by consulting partners, organizations and corporations. This work serves to identify areas of importance in terms of preserving existing urban forest and prioritizing planting spaces."

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Leal, Assistant Director, Development Services Department 817-392-6214, or Sevanne Steiner, Planning Manager, Development Services Department, at 817-392-8012.

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**