



City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
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Legislation Text

File #: 2024-1677

Urban Forestry Management Plan

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Unified Development Code Chapter 167.03 requires Urban Forestry to complete a tree canopy analysis or equivalent study every ten years; and

WHEREAS, the last comprehensive Urban Forestry plan was completed in 2012 and, since that time, Fayetteville has seen tremendous growth, changes in species recommendations due to climate change and new tree diseases, and an ever-expanding knowledge of trees; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2022, City Council approved a contract with PlanIT Geo to prepare a 10-year Urban Forestry Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was completed in 2023 with the assistance of the City's Urban Foresters and input from the Urban Forestry Advisory Board; the general public, and internal stakeholders including the Parks, Natural Resources, and Cultural Affairs Department; Public Works Department, Development Services Department, and the Sustainability Division; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Urban Forestry Management Plan is a visionary document guiding improvements, setting goals, and establishing standards based on the principles of Equitable and Resilient Canopy Cover; Maintenance and Management; Tree Preservations and Protection; Funding and Levels of Service; and Community Education, Engagement, and Stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby approves and adopts the Urban Forestry Management Plan, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution.



MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2024

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council

THRU: Ted Jack, Park Planning Superintendent
Alison Jumper, Director of Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs
Jonathan Curth, Development Services Director
Jessica Masters, Development Review Manager
Susan Norton, Chief of Staff

FROM: John Scott, Urban Forester

DATE:

SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Urban Forestry staff recommends that the City Council adopt the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The last comprehensive Urban Forestry plan was completed in 2012. Much has changed in urban forestry since then; our city has seen tremendous growth, there have been changes in species recommendations due to climate and new tree diseases, and we learn new things about trees regularly. The Unified Development Code Chapter 167.03 requires Urban Forestry to complete a tree canopy analysis or equivalent study every ten years.

Accordingly, the City Council approved the contract with PlanIT Geo on June 21, 2022, to draft a 10-year Urban Forestry Management Plan. This plan was completed in 2023 by consultants PlanIT Geo with a sample tree inventory, public survey, internal survey, benchmarking, audits, and recommendations. The Urban Forestry Advisory Board was a main stakeholder throughout the entire process. Survey data was collected from the public for one month. During the process, we received input from Parks, Natural Resources, and Cultural Affairs, Public Works, Development Services, and Sustainability Departments. With as much growth as our city has seen and changes to urban forestry, it is time to have an updated Urban Forestry Management Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) is a visionary document guiding improvements and setting goals and standards. The UFMP is a flexible framework that evaluates current tree inventory, Urban Forestry programs, development code, and maintenance practices while considering stakeholders' values. The plan includes recommendations and tree-planting goals for the next ten years.

Key Information:

- 39.4% of Fayetteville was shaded by urban tree canopy cover in 2019.
- Tree Goal- 44.4% across the city over a 10-year planning period.
- Planting 1,850 trees annually (planting and giving away).
- Fayetteville’s urban forest provides an annual estimated benefit of \$76.5 million by improving air quality and reducing stormwater volumes.
- A 2022 analysis shows Fayetteville’s overall Tree Equity Score is 87 out of 100. The national average score is 85 (as of 2023).

The vision for the future and recommendations are based on the principles of:

- Equitable and Resilient Canopy Cover,
- Maintenance and Management,
- Tree Preservation and Protection,
- Funding and Levels of Service,
- Community Education, Engagement, and Stewardship.

Within each principle are strategies and priority actions. These principles and the plan contain further guidance and recommendations to continue providing high service levels now and over the next ten years.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS: SRF (#3), Urban Forestry Management Plan (#4), Supplemental Information (#4)

Mailing address:

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