

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION adopting the 2013 update of the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan.

WHEREAS, urban forests provide residents with environmental benefits by performing natural functions including retaining storm water runoff, cleaning the air and water, providing wildlife habitat and sequestering carbon; and

WHEREAS, a healthy urban forest enhances the quality of life in Seattle by creating green places for people to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that urban forests provide economic benefits such as increasing property values, office occupancy rates, and shopping frequency, as well as lowering crime rates and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council appreciate the value of a healthy and growing urban forest for the benefit of current and future generations of residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the City developed the Urban Forest Management Plan (“Plan”) to preserve and enhance the urban forest and established a 30-year goal of achieving 30 percent canopy cover across the city and laid out a schedule of updating the Plan every five years; and

WHEREAS, the goals and strategies in the Plan provide the guiding framework for City departments’ work plans and the Urban Forestry Commission's work plan and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Urban Forest Interdepartmental Team worked closely with the Urban Forestry Commission in the 2013 update of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 update of the Plan was informed by the most up-to-date findings on the state of Seattle’s urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Development has performed SEPA review and published a threshold determination of non-significance; and

WHEREAS, community input on the Plan was solicited through a 12 week public comment period in the summer of 2012; -and

WHEREAS, through Council input it was determined that changing the Plan’s title to Urban Forest Stewardship Plan would more clearly convey the importance of engaging residents, organizations, along with City staff in the care of Seattle’s urban forest;

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2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
4 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

5 Section 1. The 2013 update of the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan, which is attached
6 hereto as Attachment A, is hereby adopted as the City's framework to preserve and enhance
7 Seattle's urban forest.

8 Section 2. The City Council requests that departments move forward quickly on the
9 following actions and provide by December 31, 2013 an implementation strategy, schedule,
10 outline of policy decisions and cost to accomplish each of those actions:

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12 A. Identify programs, strategies and communication requirements to strengthen public
13 outreach, education and engagement, building on efforts already underway.

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15 B. Action Agenda Item R2 to update the existing regulatory framework to promote the
16 Plan's goals and mitigate the impacts of development while providing flexibility for
17 property owners to balance multiple goals and competing uses.

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19 C. Provide initial recommendations to implement funding-related Action Agenda Items
20 P23, P24 and P26 to explore coordinated approaches to seeking funding from private
21 sources, possible creation of a tree donation account, and creative urban forestry
22 financing mechanisms (such as the use of Parks Levy funds for tree maintenance on
23 parklands).

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25 D. Action Agenda Item U6 to further explore using the concept of eco-hoods as
26 geographic areas for urban forest management.

1 E. Action Agenda Item U13 to develop a methodology and decision tool for replacement
2 over time of the functional benefits lost when mid- and large-sized trees are removed.

3 F. Action Agenda Item C4 to develop decision-making tools related to tree retention or
4 removal decisions where infrastructure conflicts exist.

5 G. Action Agenda Item C5 to develop a monitoring framework and set of indicators to
6 track progress toward the Plan's goals.

7 H. Action Agenda Item I13 to work with local universities, agencies and research
8 organizations to pursue the Plan's research agenda including developing more
9 detailed methods for quantifying storm water and water quality benefits of trees.
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Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and signed
by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
of _____, 2013.

President Sally J. Clark of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment:

Attachment A: 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan Update