

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

TRACY CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-043

APPROVING THE PROPOSED CITY-WIDE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN, TO APPROPRIATELY GUIDE CITY RESOURCES IN THE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY TREES.

WHEREAS, The City of Tracy was awarded a Cal Fire Urban Forestry California Climate Investment Grant in June of 2017; and

WHEREAS, The primary goals of this grant were to fund the planting of hundreds of trees throughout the community, and to formalize the City's commitment to its urban forest through the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP); and

WHEREAS, The City hired a consulting firm, Davey Resource Group, through the formal bidding process, per TMC 2.20.140, to work in conjunction with staff to create this dynamic plan; and

WHEREAS, On March 4, 2021, staff presented the UFMP to the City's Parks and Community Services (PCS) Commission, where PCS and the public were able to provide feedback and ask questions about the UFMP; and

WHEREAS, The PCS Commission then recommended, by a vote of 5-0, that the UFMP move forward to the City Council for consideration and approval; and

WHEREAS, On April 19, 2022, staff presented the draft UFMP to the City Council as an informational item, during which meeting the Council provided feedback and asked that staff revise the plan, prior to adoption; and

WHEREAS, Following the Council meeting, staff implemented the requested changes and on October 26, 2023, staff presented the revised UFMP to the newly established Environmental Sustainability Commission (ESC), where ESC Commissioners and the public were able to ask follow-up questions, provide comments on the process and recommend revisions; and

WHEREAS, By motion, the ESC voted, and passed with a 4,1,0 vote, to recommend adoption of the plan by City Council with their recommended revisions; and

WHEREAS, The UFMP helps build a vision for the City's urban forest and provides a myriad of benefits by providing an ecological approach to the long-term health of trees in the Tracy community, and a greater understanding of the positive effects trees have on the lives of Tracy residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The UFMP identifies best management practices that support tree health, improve the environmental impacts of the community's urban forest, aide in creating a sustainable urban forest, and potential for increases in community wellbeing and health; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of the plan helps to provide other positive impacts on the environment such as carbon sequestration, stormwater pollution prevention, and improved air quality; and

WHEREAS, Key Amendments, based on recommendations from the City from Council and Commissions, are as follows:

- Elevating the overall canopy cover goal to 40%, a testament to Tracy's commitment to expanding its green landscape.
- Ensuring that the City's newly planted trees receive adequate irrigation, aligning with Tracy's high standards for tree care.
- Updating policies and regulations to reflect the latest in urban forestry thought leadership.
- Strategic Partnerships for Urban Infrastructure: The introduction of language aimed at fostering collaborations with utility providers, such as PG&E, to minimize the necessity for tree trimming around above-ground infrastructure. This approach not only preserves the integrity of Tracy's urban canopy but also promotes a harmonious coexistence between urban development and natural beauty.
- Innovative Solutions for Urban Greening: The requirement that all new trees planted in sidewalks and public rights of way are equipped with root barriers, as per Tracy Standard Plans (Parks & Streetscape) Section D 7.4.1. This measure is designed to prevent root-related infrastructure damage, ensuring the long-term health and viability of the urban forest.
- Preservation of Native Trees: A clarification on the impact of the 10/20/30 rule on native tree species, ensuring a diverse and resilient urban forest that honors and incorporates Tracy's indigenous flora.
- Sustainable Water Management Practices: A mandate for the provision of irrigation to trees, even under drought conditions, showing the City's commitment to sustaining its green infrastructure through innovative water management strategies; and

WHEREAS, City staff conducted multiple outreach events throughout the grant period including a workshop on May 1, 2019, and four Arbor Day events where residents and stakeholders were able to participate in discussions and identify goals and objectives for the plan; and;


NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Tracy finds that the adoption of the amended City-Wide Urban Forest Management Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §§ § 15306, 15378; and be it further


RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Tracy, by recommendation from the Environmental Sustainability Commission, adopts the proposed City-Wide Urban Forest Management Plan shown in Attachment A.

The foregoing Resolution 2024-043 was adopted by the Tracy City Council on April 2, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS: ARRIOLA, BEDOLLA, EVANS, DAVIS, YOUNG
NOES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE
ABSENT:	COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE
ABSTENTION:	COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE



NANCY D. YOUNG
Mayor of the City of Tracy, California



ATTEST:
ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Tracy, California

Attachments:

A: City-Wide Urban Forest Management Plan