



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item # 94

TO: The Metropolitan Planning Commission
FROM: Mark Donaldson, Executive Director
DATE: May 2, 2007
SUBJECT: **Knoxville Knox County Tree Conservation and Planting Plan
(5-C-07-OB)**

Recommendation: Approve.

I recommend that you approve the resolution adopting the [Knoxville Knox County Tree Conservation and Planting Plan](#). In turn, it will be forwarded to City Council and County Commission with recommendations for adoption.

Background: Action on an earlier version of this plan was postponed in June 2005 with concerns that various interests be further involved in the review of the document. Since that time, there have been several workshops and meetings with City and County staff, the Home Builder's Association and various civic and community groups. In response to concerns that the original plan was targeted to regulatory means of tree conservation and planting as opposed to information dissemination and incentive-based programs, references to potential ordinances regarding private tree protection were deleted. One ordinance, which will have to be created via a separate review process, is recommended: the creation of a joint City-County Tree Board (or alternatively, if the County wishes to have its own tree board, the maintenance of the City Tree Board). The board's purpose would be to advise the mayors and legislative bodies on public tree plantings and future tree conservation and planting programs. A draft of that ordinance is included in the appendices.

Objectives of the plan:

- Develop landscape and tree planting plans for parks, schools, libraries, and other civic properties
- Set standards for landscape buffers between residential uses and commercial or other higher intensity uses
- Plant trees native to East Tennessee
- Protect/replant trees in environmentally sensitive areas (specifically stream corridor and steep hillsides)
- Enhance street and highway projects through tree protection and planting.

- Educate the public and utility providers about tree protection and planting near utility lines

Other Public Review: the revised draft was made available to various organizations and city county agencies via a web-link and/or hard copy. . Various organizations have endorsed the concepts with the plan, including Keep Knoxville Beautiful, the Knoxville Tree Board, the American Society of Landscape Architects, Wesley Neighbors Association, West Knox Association of Retired Persons, and the Association of West Knox Homeowners. Changes were made to the riparian tree conservation and street tree planting concepts to align with storm-water control proposals and highway design considerations as suggested by County Engineering staff. In addition to Engineering staff, we have worked with the County's Office of Neighborhoods in developing this plan. As suggested by Commissioner Tony Norman, we will work with him in conducting a workshop with the County Commission as the plan is brought forward for their review. The City Tree Board has adopted the plan and is willing to pursue the creation of a City County Tree Board.

**KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE KNOXVILLE KNOX COUNTY TREE
CONSERVATION AND PLANTING PLAN**

WHEREAS, there are many benefits associated with the growth of trees in Knoxville-Knox County, including beautification, air pollution reduction, storm water control, energy savings, and increased property values; and

WHEREAS, a Tree Conservation and Planting Plan has been prepared, outlining significant areas where tree conservation should be considered, planting principles, appropriate species, strategies to plant and conserve trees along roads and public grounds, and the need to create tree planting programs; and

WHEREAS, public surveys and website postings were administered to develop and review the plan's contents; and

WHEREAS, the plan was shared with City and County staff, the Home Builder's Association, the Knoxville Tree Board, and various civic and community organizations through meetings, workshops and MPC's website, and comments from those interests were taken into account in preparing the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION:

SECTION 1: The commission hereby adopts the Knoxville Knox County Tree Conservation and Planting Plan, dated May 2007.

SECTION 2: This resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

Date

Chair

Secretary