



Item Number: 1

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** December 17, 2024

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Community Development Committee

**LIAISON:** Mary Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** David Marquardt, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Parks & Recreation

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution adopting the Tree Manual and Standards of Practice for the enhancement, maintenance, and preservation of the City's urban forest and tree canopy**

Attached is a resolution to adopting the City's Tree Manual and Standards of Practice (Tree Manual). The Tree Manual was developed and reviewed by the City Forester with input from the Urban Forestry Committee. An overview was presented at a City Commission briefing on December 3, 2024.

Trees along streets, within parks, and in yards provide significant economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits to the community. Trees are known to reduce energy use, capture storm water, improve health, sequester carbon and mitigate the effects of climate change, and provide habitat for wildlife. Therefore, it is important to have a set of rules to protect trees in the City.

The City's Tree Ordinance (Grand Rapids City Code, Title III, Chapter 4,2, Section 3.36) states the City Manager is authorized to make the necessary rules, known as the Tree Manual and Standards of Practice, effective upon approval by City Commission. Important items in the Tree Manual include needing a permit to perform work on a city owned tree, tree planting guidelines, pruning specifications, protection of trees during construction, pest management, and utility vegetation management.

Once approved, the Urban Forestry Committee will review the Tree Manual on an annual basis. The Parks Department will consider updates based on industry standards, best practices, and other laws and regulations.

Your COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE recommends approving the following resolution adopting the Tree Manual and Standards of Practice for the enhancement, maintenance, and preservation of the City's urban forest and tree canopy.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Tree Manual and Standards of Practice be adopted as required in Grand Rapids City Code, Title III, Chapter 42, Section 3.36; and
2. That the Tree Manual and Standards of Practice will be kept on file at the office of City Clerk and Parks and Recreation Department available for distribution to the public.

**CORRECT IN FORM**  
  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**