



MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION REQUIRED FOR URBAN COMMUNITY TREE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Trees are vital components of urban environments. In addition to their aesthetic value, trees have significant economic and environmental benefits, including reducing stormwater runoff, energy conservation, improving air quality, and enhancement of community vitality, stability, and property values for residential and business areas; and

WHEREAS, Urban Tree Canopies, which consists of the layer of leaves, branches and stems of trees that shade the ground when viewed from above, directly contribute to meeting a city's regulatory clean air requirements, as they produce oxygen, intercept airborne particles, and reduce pollution, enhancing a community's respiratory health. Trees and tree canopies sequester carbon (CO₂), reducing the overall concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Title 3, Chapter 10, § 1031 of the Delaware Code authorizes Delaware municipalities to prepare a Comprehensive Urban Forest Resource Plan, for the purpose of caring for and managing their tree resources which could be enhanced through technical and financial assistance from a state urban and community forestry program, that properly planned and implemented, local community forestry programs can provide the necessary basis for local governments to develop local tree care programs and improve quality of life, and both the State and City concur that forests are a necessary and important part of community and urban environments and are critical to the environmental, social and economic welfare of the State; and

WHEREAS, The City of Dover has specifically a City Tree Ordinance Code, Article 5, Section 16, that it follows carefully in the obtaining and maintenance of its trees and their canopies. The City of Dover obtained and has kept a Tree City USA designation for 30 years, and is committed to replacing, as needed, and enhancing its tree population for the betterment of the city and residents. The Charter of the City of Dover, Delaware authorizes the Mayor and Council to exercise its power in the interest of good government and the safety, health, public welfare of the Town, its inhabitants and affairs, including but not limited to the power to provide for and preserve the health, peace, safety, cleanliness, ornament, good order and public welfare; and

WHEREAS, Delaware's Forest Service Urban Community Forestry Program provides guidelines to municipalities in order to effectuate the goal of having well-drawn and executed Comprehensive Urban Forest Resource Plans for all of Delaware municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, in consultation with Delaware’s Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program confirm the City of Dover’s existing forest canopy is 25.7 % and desires to grow these resources to 27% in 10 years to further articulate the city’s commitment to preserving and enhancing forest resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 3, § 1031 of the Delaware Code and the City of Dover’s City Tree Ordinance, Article 5, Section 16, hereby recognizes the following:

1. The City’s existing canopy density of 25.7% and commit to growing this resource to 27% over the next 10 years as part of the Town’s continued commitment to preserving and enhancing its natural resources.

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 22, 2021



ROBIN R. CHRISTIANSEN
MAYOR



WILLIAM F. HARE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Actions History

02/22/2021 – Introduction – City Council