

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Richard McLeod
Date: October 26, 2020
Subject: One Million Trees Initiative

ITEM DESCRIPTION

This item is a request for the City of Dunwoody to become part of the One Million Trees Initiative. This is an initiative that brings together 10 Metro Atlanta Cities with 10 local nonprofits to plant and save one million trees in the metro area over the next 10 years.

The One Million Trees Initiative is the first of its kind in the United States to connect diverse communities and approaches that protect and improve urban forest in our region. The tree count will include trees planted on city land and public projects, preserved in forested areas, and installed on private property. These planting could mean capturing 1.4 billion gallons of rainwater annually, reducing stormwater runoff on our streets, and improving water quality.

Trees Atlanta is the nonprofit that will be leading this effort. Since 2013, the City of Dunwoody has worked with Tress Atlanty to plant almost 2,000 trees in Dunwoody.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **APPROVAL**.

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

RESOLUTION 2020-xx-xx

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ONE MILLION TREES INITIATIVE, A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE CITY OF DUNWOODY'S TREE CANOPY.

WHEREAS, the One Million Trees Initiative is an innovative collaboration of 10 Metro Atlanta Cities and 10 local nonprofits to plant and save one million trees in the metro area over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, this initiative advances our shared sense of urgency that we can and must lead Metro Atlanta's fight against climate change and environmental stresses from urban growth; and

WHEREAS, Trees Atlanta will lead the One Million Trees Initiative, the first of its kind in the United States to connect diverse communities and approaches that protect and improve the urban forest in our region; and

WHEREAS, the initial nonprofit partners committed to the initiative are: Atlanta Audubon Society, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Georgia Conservancy, Park Pride, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, WABE, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, and Trees Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the one million trees will include those planted on City land and in public projects, preserved in forested areas, and installed by individuals on private property, including residences and businesses; and

WHEREAS, planting and saving one million trees in the Metro Atlanta could mean capturing 1.4 billion gallons of rainwater annually, reducing stormwater runoff on our streets, and improving water quality; and

WHEREAS, trees can help lower the urban heat island temperatures and reduce air pollution. One million trees can capture 530,000 tons of CO₂ each year. By improving air quality, trees reduce rates of asthma and heat-related illnesses in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody while in regular session on October 26th, 2020 at 6:00 pm expresses its full support for the One Million Trees Initiative and commends Trees Atlanta and its partner organizations for their work toward reaching this bold and ambitious goal.

Approved:

Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk
(SEAL)