

RESOLUTION 2020-08

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ONE MILLION TREES INITIATIVE, A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PRESERVE ATLANTA'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, Tree 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.

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.

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.

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

WHEREAS, tree can help lower 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.

WHEREAS, the City of Smyrna already has strong partnerships with the Smyrna Tree Board and Keep Smyrna Beautiful. The Smyrna Tree Board implemented the first tree scarf initiative in Smyrna last fall and was instrumental in the revision of the Smyrna Tree Ordinance. Keep Smyrna Beautiful has an Adopt-A-Tree initiative and gives out seedlings at Bring One for the Chipper. Both organizations work together each year on Arbor Day to educate and promote planting trees.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Smyrna, Georgia hereby 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.

Read and adopted in the meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, held on August 17, 2020.

Derek Norton, Mayor

City Seal:

ATTEST:

Heather K. Peacon-Corn, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Scott A. Cochran, City Attorney