City of Kansas City, Missouri

Docket Memo

Ordinance/Resolution #: 240882
Submitted Department/Preparer: Neighborhoods
Revised 6/10/24

Docket memos are required on all ordinances initiated by a Department Director. More information can be found in Administrative Regulation (AR) 4-1.

Executive Summary

Accepting $12,000,0000 Grant from the United Stated Department of Agriculture's IRA Urban and Community Forestry Grant program. The purpose of this grant is to increase the density of Kansas City's Urban Tree Canopy through a collaborative effort by the Neighborhood Services Department, the Office of Environmental Quality, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Discussion

The Kansas City Urban Tree Canopy Program is designed to reduce the impact of climate change in environmental justice communities by improving the tree canopy in climate vulnerable communities. Improving the tree canopy will provide more equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated human health, environmental and economic (workforce) benefits in climate vulnerable communities.

The primary project partner for The Kansas City Urban Tree Canopy Program is Bridging The Gap (BTG), a non-profit organization that has partnered with the City for over twenty years. BTG's Heartland Tree Alliance program has planted and maintained over 35,000 trees since 2002, targeting areas where tree canopy is lacking. BTG will carry out the educational and neighborhood engagement activities of this project in partnership with the City's Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ). For this project, Heartland Tree Alliance program will oversee all planting, both under their organization and any additional contractors, if needed, in conjunction with any planting activity, staff will go door-to-door, engaging with the community about the tree planting and educating them around the importance of trees and tree care. Our other community partner, Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) currently supports 90 urban orchards located within disadvantaged neighborhoods in Kansas City, Missouri identified by the CJEST. These orchards include 1,529 fruit and nut trees and 437 brambles. Combined these orchards have the capacity to provide 363,672 pounds of fruit (over 1 million servings) on an annual basis, over a productive lifetime of 30+ years. KCCG staff train and provide ongoing support to two or more volunteers from each neighborhood to serve as orchard stewards, who take the lead on orchard care and harvest distribution. Led

by the stewards, neighbors design, plant, prune, harvest, and distribute food from their orchard. The orchards are designed to be within walking distance of food insecure residents, removing the transportation barrier to receiving free, healthy food the orchards provide. For this project, KCCG will create new orchards in willing neighborhoods within the CJEST-identified areas. They, along with the OEQ's Natural Systems Coordinator will recruit and provide training for orchard stewards, along with providing holistic care supplies.

The Kansas City Urban Tree Canopy Program will:

- Complete a Tree Master Plan for climate vulnerable communities within Kansas City;
- Increase equitable access to the urban tree canopy coverage through an aggressive infrastructure building, planting, and maintenance program;
- Broaden public awareness and engagement through public education and outreach will focus on the importance of the tree canopy, including preservation and maintenance techniques.

All grant program activity will be overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Neighborhood Services Department will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant funding.

The Kansas City Urban Tree Canopy Program will target areas identified as climate vulnerable communities in the Kansas City Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan.[i] The Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan planning process defined climate vulnerable communities, in its Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, as areas with the highest energy burden, exposure to extreme heat, likelihood of experiencing disproportionate impacts during times of extreme heat and during flooding events, and includes areas with a high percentage of people:

- Living below 200% of the poverty line
- Over the age of 65
- Without access to a vehicle
- With a disability
- In a home built prior to 1960

Fiscal Impact

1. Is this legislation included in the adopted budget? ☐ Yes ☒ No

2. What is the funding source?
   25-2580-575013-G57USDA24

3. How does the legislation affect the current fiscal year?
   No

4. Does the legislation have a fiscal impact in future fiscal years? Please notate the difference between one-time and recurring costs.
   No – Federal Grant

5. Does the legislation generate revenue, leverage outside funding, or deliver a return on investment?
   No – Federal Grant

Office of Management and Budget Review
(OMB Staff will complete this section.)

1. This legislation is supported by the general fund. ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. This fund has a structural imbalance. ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Account string has been verified/confirmed. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Discussion (if needed)
Click or tap here to enter text.

Citywide Business Plan (CWBP) Impact

1. View the Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan
2. Which CWBP goal is most impacted by this legislation?
   Housing and Healthy Communities (Press tab after selecting.)
3. Which objectives are impacted by this legislation (select all that apply):

   ☐ Utilize planning approaches in neighborhoods to reduce blight, ensure sustainable housing, and improve resident wellbeing and cultural diversity.
   ☐ Maintain and increase affordable housing supply to meet the demands of a diverse population.
   ☐ Address the various needs of the City's most vulnerable population by working to reduce disparities.
   ☐ Foster an inclusive environment and regional approach to spur innovative solutions to housing challenges.
   ☐ Ensure all residents have safe, accessible, quality housing by reducing barriers.
   ☒ Protect and promote healthy, active amenities such as parks and trails, play spaces, and green spaces.

Prior Legislation

N/A – Federal Grant

Service Level Impacts

Click or tap here to provide a description of how this ordinance will impact service levels. List any related key performance indicators and impact.

Other Impacts

1. What will be the potential health impacts to any affected groups?
   Increase the tree canopy in which reduces greenhouse emissions.

2. How have those groups been engaged and involved in the development of this ordinance?
   No

3. How does this legislation contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?
   Yes. Reduces blighted trees and plants new trees in

4. Does this legislation create or preserve new housing units?
   No (Press tab after selecting)

   Click or tap here to enter text.
   Click or tap here to enter text.

5. Department staff certifies the submission of any application Affirmative Action Plans or Certificates of Compliance, Contractor Utilization Plans (CUPs), and Letters of Intent to Subcontract (LOIs) to CREO prior to, or simultaneously with, the legislation entry request in Legistar.

   No - CREO's review is not applicable (Press tab after selecting)
   Please provide reasoning why not:
   Will follow CREO policies when applicable.

6. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from an Invitation for Bid?

   No(Press tab after selecting)

   Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q)?

No(Press tab after selecting)