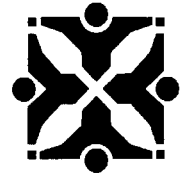


# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



**Agenda Item Number:** R 32-15

**Department Source:** City Manager

**To:** City Council

**From:** City Manager & Staff

**Council Meeting Date:** 2/16/2015

**Re:** Creation of a Community Tree Task Force

## Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council Memo, Resolution/Ordinance

**Supporting documentation includes:** None

## Executive Summary

Council has asked staff to draft legislation for the creation of a Tree Board. As the intended purpose of the board could be to fill gaps in the City's current tree policies and technical expertise, staff determined the most appropriate and productive use of citizen and expert input would be the creation of a Community Tree Task Force to review policies and recommendations for the care of trees on private property, review ordinances and recommend changes/best practices and to develop a process for conducting a city-wide tree inventory every 10 years

## Discussion

The City of Columbia manages local trees through the following: an award winning utility tree trimming program; an arborist on staff with Community Development who reviews development plans, inventories the City's trees, and makes recommendations to private property owners; a forestry division within the Parks Department responsible for the health of individual trees and forests on City property.

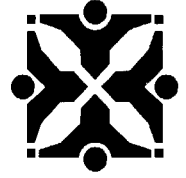
As a result of the breadth of the City's expertise and well recognized tree programs, the need gap for the management of trees and forests is small. However, there is potential need for recommendations to private property owners to care for their trees, educational materials for tree care, and recommendations for Neighborhood and Homeowner Associations. In addition, there could be a need for the review of tree policies and ordinances and for a city-wide tree inventory. Therefore, staff recommends a tree task force focused on trees located on private property, ordinance and policy review and the development of a method to perform decennial, community wide tree inventories.

The presented resolution would create a task force of 7 members that would meet for 12 months. The task force would be composed of 4 members that hold some form of professional certification as an arborist, forester, urban forester, or dendrologist; 1 member that is also a member of the Environment and Energy Commission; and 2 members at large.

Desired outcomes from the task force would be: recommendations to private property owners for the

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care of their trees, educational materials for tree care, recommendations for Neighborhood and Homeowner Associations, tree policy and ordinance review, and the creation of methodology for decennial city wide tree inventories.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A

Long-Term Impact: N/A

## Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impact: Environmental Management, Livable & Sustainable Communities

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing the formation of a task force.

## Legislative History

Councilmembers Hoppe and Skala requested draft legislation for the creation of a tree board during the 1/20/2015 Council Meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leah Christian".

Department Approved

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "D. Re".

City Manager Approved

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Council Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ R 32-15

## **A RESOLUTION**

establishing a Community Tree Task Force.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure a tree rich community the City Council desires to engage in the study and evaluation of tree care on private property, review current tree policies and ordinances, and develop a process to perform decennial city-wide tree inventories which will benefit all citizens of Columbia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the Community Tree Task Force. Its purposes include providing recommendations to private property owners for caring for their trees, developing educational materials for tree care, providing recommendations for neighborhood and homeowner associations to manage trees, reviewing current tree policies and ordinances within the City of Columbia, and recommending a methodology for decennial city-wide tree inventories.

SECTION 2. The Task Force shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the City Council. Four (4) members shall hold professional certification as either an arborist, forester, urban forester or dendrologist; one (1) member shall be a current member of the Environment and Energy Commission; and two (2) at-large members who shall be residents of the City of Columbia. A quorum to hold a meeting shall consist of four (4) members. All meetings shall be open to involvement and participation by as many additional interested community members who desire to attend.

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall make a report to the City Council of its findings and recommendations by March 21, 2016. The Task Force shall be dissolved upon submitting its final report.

SECTION 4. The Task Force shall be provided reasonable staff support.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Counselor