



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Scott R. Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer  
**DATE:** April 28, 2021  
**RE:** Street Tree Grant

### Action Requested

Approve A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS FOR TREE PLANTING.

### Background and Facts

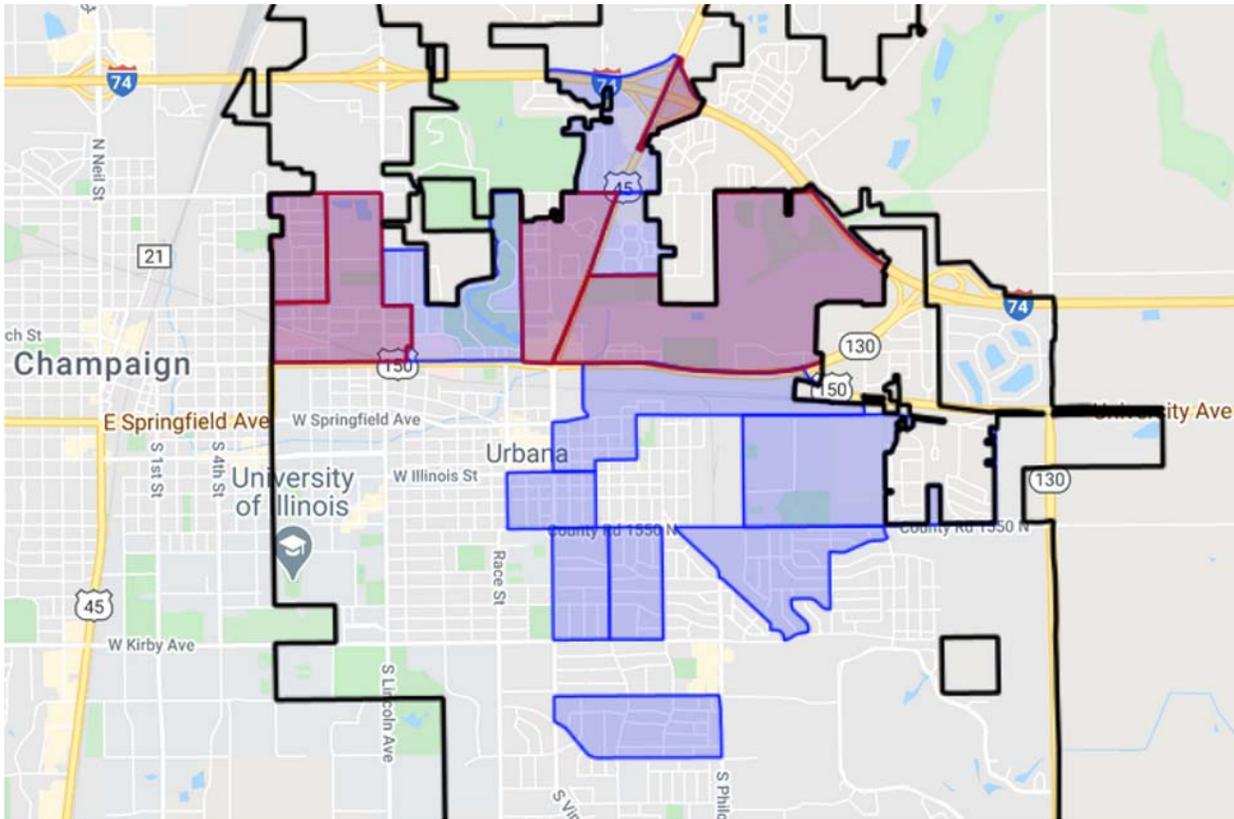
The City of Urbana plants and maintains all trees in City rights of way, usually between the street curb and the sidewalk. At present there are 11,207 such street trees planted in City rights of way. Additionally, there are 4,119 vacant street tree sites. A vacant street tree site is a geocoded location intended for a future street tree planting. Vacant and planted sites can be viewed at <https://urbana.mytreekeeper.com/>. Street trees are essential urban infrastructure that shade people walking and bicycling and in their homes, physically protect people walking from traffic, beautify the streetscape, and draw carbon pollution out of the air.

An anonymous donor working with the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois (CFECI) has made an incredibly generous donation of \$98,650.00 to the City for the purposes of planting more street trees in Urbana. The donor and CFECI have asked that the donation be used specifically to plant trees in the Urbana Community Development Target Area and in the Illinois Solar for All Environmental Justice areas. These are areas of our community with lower incomes and higher racial minority residents.

Staff estimate that this donation can fund the planting of 200 additional street trees over the course of three years. Those plantings would be above and beyond the nearly 200 trees each year that the Urbana Arbor Division typically plants. This donation alone will plant nearly 5% of our currently vacant street tree planting sites.

### Financial Impact

These grant funds will be used for contract planting of street trees allowing the City's forestry crew to continue their normal workflow of tree planting and tree pruning maintenance. Some City staff time will be invested to conduct the procurement to select a tree planting vendor, select planting sites, and select tree species.



Illinois Solar for All Environmental Justice Community is in red.

Urbana Community Development Target Area is in blue.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05-020R**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS FOR TREE PLANTING**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana (“City”) is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, and the passage of this Resolution constitutes an exercise of the City’s home rule powers and functions as granted in the Illinois Constitution, 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the City plants and maintains trees as essential urban infrastructure in the rights of way along City streets; and

**WHEREAS**, street trees shade people walking and bicycling, making these healthy activities more enjoyable on a hot day; and

**WHEREAS**, street trees physically protect people from traffic making walking safer; and

**WHEREAS**, street trees shade our houses, keeping people cooler longer; and

**WHEREAS**, street trees provide a beautiful, leafy, flowering frame to our streets; and

**WHEREAS**, street trees draw carbon pollution out of the air and turn it into wood, helping to stabilize our climate; and

**WHEREAS**, an anonymous donor and the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois have offered a \$98,650.00 grant to the City for the purposes of street tree planting; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, after due consideration, finds that the acceptance of this grant is in the best interest of the residents of the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council, of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1.**

The City of Urbana, Illinois, hereby accepts a \$98,650.00 grant from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois to plant street trees, substantially upon such terms as contained in the copy of the Grant Acceptance Agreement attached hereto and hereby incorporated by reference.

**Section 2.**

The Mayor of the City of Urbana, Illinois, be and the same is hereby authorized to execute and deliver and the City Clerk of the City of Urbana, Illinois, be and the same is hereby authorized to attest to said execution of said Agreement as so authorized and approved for and on behalf of the City of Urbana, Illinois.

**Section 3.**

From and after the execution and delivery of such Agreement, the Urbana Public Works Department is hereby authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary on behalf of the City of Urbana to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** this Date day of Month, Year.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

**APPROVED BY THE MAYOR** this Date day of Month, Year.

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Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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\* deceased



**GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT**

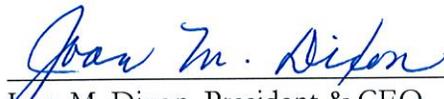
**Grant Recipient:** City of Urbana Tree Program

**Grant Amount:** \$98,650.00

**Purpose of Grant:** Planting Trees in Urbana, IL

- This grant is provided to plant trees in the Urbana Community Development Target Area and in the Illinois Solar for All Environmental Justice Community.
- It is to be used to plant additional trees, above and beyond the typical tree planting volumes provided for by the city's annual budget appropriations.
- It is agreed that the grant will be used for the purpose requested
- The distribution of funds from the Community Foundation will be made by July 1, 2021.
- Proof of purchase such as copies of invoices for contract planting and annual project reports will be sent to the Community Foundation
- Any funds remaining at the end of the project or not used specifically for this purpose will be returned to the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.
- The donor will remain anonymous

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Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor  
City of Urbana

  
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Joan M. Dixon, President & CEO  
Community Foundation of East Central Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date