

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 22, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Urban Forestry Update**

The City has been working on a number of initiatives included in the recommendations from the Dallas Urban Forest Master Plan, adopted June 2021. As part of a high-level overview, staff has presented items that have been accomplished during the past year and next steps to the Environmental Commission, Park Board and Environment & Sustainability Committee over the past month.

Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager, will serve as the lead executive from the City Manager's Office. His oversight will continue to advance internal and external collaboration to preserve, maintain, and enhance the urban canopy on public and private property. He will be available to address any questions or concerns you may have as we move forward with implementing the short- and long-term actions identified in the plan.

Dallas Water Utilities and the Park and Recreation Department will co-lead the implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan. The departments are working cohesively to leverage and execute all strategies.

In June, the Environment and Sustainable Committee will receive a detailed briefing that will delve into broader policy discussions and a status update. Input from this meeting will augment existing work plans and possible budget enhancements for the coming two to three fiscal years. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the process for potential modifications to Article X that will require extensive collaboration between internal departments, as well as the private development community. Following this briefing, the Committee will be receiving quarterly updates from the Forestry Task Force's progress on action plan items.

We do want to make you aware of opportunities over the next month to share with your constituents:

- Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, Flag Room: Press conference to launch the City of Dallas Forestry website(<https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/Pages/home.aspx>). This website contains information such as programs offered by the City, upcoming neighborhood meetings, helpful information on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), development regulations, as well as volunteer opportunities. This website is a "one stop shop" that will connect our residents, businesses and development community to resources and will be dynamic, with regular updates. This official launch coincides with National Arbor Day.
- Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Public Comment Period Extended for the Draft EAB Plan (<https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/Pages/home.aspx>)

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- Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30, Camp Broadway (8400 Eagle Mountain Circle, Fort Worth 76135). This will be an opportunity to view an active Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) site led by the Texas Forest Service.

The support from the community, the City Council, and the staff has been overwhelming as we have formalized our partnerships internally and with our local, state, and federal partners. The recent meeting with the non-profit partners to discuss their planning efforts, marketing, and support they need over the next several years is an iterative process and we hope that everyone will participate this summer as we begin engaging you and your constituents for specific neighborhood needs.

Please contact Carl Simpson at 214-671-9735 should you have any questions or need additional information at this time.



T.C. Broadnax  
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Robert Perez, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Genesis Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors