

Executive Order City of Pittsburgh Office of the Mayor	
Subject: Creation of the City Task Force on Tree Protection	Number: 2017-07
By Direction of: William Peduto, Mayor	Date: April 21, 2017

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh (the “City”) recognizes the importance of a thriving urban forest and how it positively influences the City’s ranking as the #1 Most Livable City in the United States; and

WHEREAS, trees are critically important to the City, and the Department of Public Works Forestry Division provides a valuable service to residents impacting the livability of the City; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission(PSTC) has restored and maintained the City’s tree population and is of high priority to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City works closely with non-governmental organizations to enhance and care for our urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the City is known for cherished and historic parks and green spaces that are invaluable to the community and its citizenry.

WHEREAS, forty percent (40%) of the City’s land area is covered by an Urban Tree Canopy with a structural value of \$1.13 billion, with the ultimate goal of increasing canopy coverage over time; and

WHEREAS, trees are responsible for a \$24 annual benefit per capita resulting in a total annual benefit of over \$7.2 million. The City and the Department of Public Works Forestry Division must carefully maintain our trees and urban forest; and

WHEREAS, this urban tree forest provides countless benefits to our citizens and to the broader region including storm water management, air quality improvements, habitat for wildlife, ecological stabilization, cooling effects, and many other environmental, economic, and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, the City needs a system of accountability for all City Departments and Authorities and their Contractors and Developers to ensure compliance with the standards established for the care and maintenance of public trees, and the development and landscaping requirements for construction in the City, and to enforce those standards as required by the applicable codes; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Mayor's Office is to protect and expand the urban canopy of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Peduto, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the City Charter and laws of the City of Pittsburgh do hereby direct the following actions:

1. Effective immediately, the creation of the City Task Force on Tree Protection (Task Force), co-chaired by the Mayor's Chief of Operations and the Chair of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, with a mandate for all City of Pittsburgh Departments to participate.
2. The Task Force shall consist of a member of the Pittsburgh Greenspace Alliance and the Directors, or their appointed representatives, of: Department of Public Works(DPW); The City Forester (DPW Forestry Division); Department of City Planning(DCP); Department of Permits, Licensing, and Inspections(PLI); City Law Department; Shade Tree Commission; Sports and Exhibition Authority; Stadium Authority; Parking Authority; Housing Authority; and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.
3. The Task Force shall develop a plan to consolidate current city policy and change city procedures to enhance and protect the urban forest while also educating departments and authorities as to the benefits of trees to the City. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:
 - a. An updated inventory of the City's street trees and urban forest;
 - b. A 10 year maintenance and implementation schedule beginning in 2017;
 - c. A streamlined process to allow the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission(PSTC) to access and make expenditures from their dedicated funds, with authority from the Director of the Department of Public Works;
 - d. A coordinated fundraising plan to support these efforts.
4. The Task Force shall develop and publish one (1) manual of applicable policies and procedures relating to tree protection.
5. The Task Force shall have all Departments and Authorities enforce ~~non-~~compliance to tree protection standards within their jurisdictions.
6. The Task Force is charged with scheduling quarterly meetings for a period of three (3) years, or until the goals of the Task Force are reached.

7. All Departments and Authorities are accountable to the Mayor for upholding the tree protection standards established by the Task Force.

All City departments and authorities under the Mayor's jurisdiction shall work cooperatively to ensure the success of the missions outlined above. Independent agencies, City-affiliated entities, and City-related institutions are also strongly encouraged to work to help advance these efforts and adopt similar initiatives, where applicable. All actions and outcomes shall be in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Mayor.