



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. VII.W.  
2/16/2016

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution accepting the gift of a tree inventory valued at \$120,800 from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Location Various locations throughout the park system.

Background The City of Oklahoma City (City) provides and maintains an extensive system of public parks, trails, and recreational venues for the use and enjoyment of the public. The mission of the City's Parks and Recreation Department is to provide parks, recreation, and cultural services to residents and visitors so they can enjoy an enhanced quality of life, and the Department feels that the urban canopy is a critical element of its mission.

On December 31, 2015, staff received notice that the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (Community Foundation) wishes to provide the City a complete tree inventory. The Community Foundation will fund the project using \$95,000 from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust and an additional \$25,800 received from the Oklahoma Department of Forestry Services. The project will create a tree inventory (up to 20,000 trees) for all City parks and along City trails.

Among other things, the tree inventory would identify the species of each tree and provide its approximate size, health, and general maintenance needs. This information would help staff make best management decisions about the City's trees and illustrate how the trees enhance the quality of life in Oklahoma City through improved air quality, economic development, and environmental and psychological health.

The data would be delivered using a software package that enables staff to efficiently manage the tree inventory, generate work orders, and create maps and reports, both in the field and office. The software would also make data available to the public online, so they could learn about the value of trees within the urban forest and obtain information about tree species best suited to Oklahoma City. Also, an oversight committee, comprised of Oklahoma urban forestry experts (including staff of the City's Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments), will be established to oversee and support the project.

The Community Foundation's stated goal for this gift is to help the City manage its trees and identify locations that lack tree cover, thereby facilitating efforts of other groups wishing to add trees to the park system.

The City thanks the Community Foundation for its long history, through the Margaret Annis Boys Trust, of contributing to the beautification of Oklahoma City by planting and maintaining trees in public spaces.

Review

Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.