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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

Councilor Chris Rivera

Councilor Renee Villarreal

A RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TREESMART SANTA FE, A
COMPREHENSIVE TREE CANOPY PROJECT IN THE CITY OF SANTA FE.**

WHEREAS, trees can provide significant environmental benefits to a city, including moderating the local climate, improving air quality, conserving water, and harboring wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees in Santa Fe increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify the community; and

WHEREAS, planting trees and maintaining older trees provides an opportunity for community interaction, volunteerism, economic development, and environmental conservation;
and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and renewal; and

WHEREAS, trees provide environmental benefits for present and future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, those benefits vary by tree species and placement of trees within the environment; and

1 **WHEREAS**, scientifically oriented tree management can maximize the benefits achieved
2 from trees and minimize any negative consequences associated with certain species or placements;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe River Commission has a long history of establishing,
5 maintaining, and protecting tree cover and healthy ecosystems; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2007-28 directed staff to develop a comprehensive tree policy
7 for the City; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2009-129 directed the City to celebrate National Arbor Day
9 annually and directed staff to establish the Municipal Tree Board and work toward becoming a
10 National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA, which the City has now been for 10 years; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and the conservation and
12 protection of the natural resources of the City of Santa Fe and its values necessitates the
13 implementation of a comprehensive, strategic, and cross-sectoral program to maintain a healthy
14 tree canopy in the City of Santa Fe.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
16 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that staff is directed to lead and implement TreeSmart Santa Fe, a
17 comprehensive, equitable, and strategic initiative to increase and maintain a healthy urban tree
18 canopy in Santa Fe by taking the following actions:

- 19 1. Develop, coordinate, and maintain environmental data with equity-based
20 prioritization and City staff direction for a phase-in model of TreeSmart Santa Fe.
21 TreeSmart will focus on highest-need areas first and expand as resources allow
22 and as directed by City staff.
- 23 2. Work and collaborate with non-profits and other community organizations to
24 engage residents in planning and implementing equitable projects that provide for
25 the canopy needs of the city.

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3. Work with City staff, the Municipal Tree Board, and the River Commission to coordinate an assessment of the extent of the existing urban tree canopy cover, and assist City staff to complete an inventory of trees on public lands.
4. Annually recognize Arbor Day with a tree-planting celebration that encourages residents to plant trees and take advantage of the benefits of City parks and our existing tree canopy.
5. Consider public and private lands and varying projects, incentives, and programs to replace lost trees, minimize heat islands, and increase the canopy cover.
6. Develop a City of Santa Fe urban forest and tree canopy plan.
7. Conduct a Canopy Pilot Project to test the methods utilized, complete needed canopy assessments, and kick start a larger, long-term effort to preserve and restore an appropriate urban tree canopy in the City of Santa Fe.
8. Develop and conduct public outreach to promote the Canopy Project and the Santa Fe River watershed.
9. Develop educational materials and provide training and education of volunteers with respect to watershed issues that relate to canopy cover and urban tree management.
10. Create an application or handbook for the City to increase community awareness of the techniques of planting and maintaining plant canopy and community understanding of the value of the benefits of our urban forest in Santa Fe.
11. Identify and work to secure additional funding by means of applying for funding on the City’s behalf via private donations, grants, company sponsorships, capital improvement project funding, other legislative funding, and bonds.


PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

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ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY