

Amendment to the Dallas City Code to Allow Usage of Reforestation Funds for Planting Trees on Private Property

**Government Performance and
Financial Management Committee
May 26, 2020**

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Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- Background/History
- Issue
- Proposal
- Next Steps



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Purpose

- Brief the Committee on current restrictions to planting trees on private property using Reforestation Fund
- Propose amendments to Chapter 51A, the City of Dallas Development Code, to provide a means to use Reforestation Fund to plant trees on private property in certain situations

Background/History

- The tree preservation/conservation requirements of Article X were first adopted by City Council in 1994 and most recently amended in June of 2018
- Article X establishes tree mitigation requirements for trees removed to accommodate development and provides the option of contributing to a reforestation fund to meet mitigation requirements

Background/History

- The reforestation fund may be used for forest management, the acquisition of trees to be planted on public property and the acquisition of wooded property
- Currently, there is no provision to allow the use of funds to plant trees on private property

Background/History

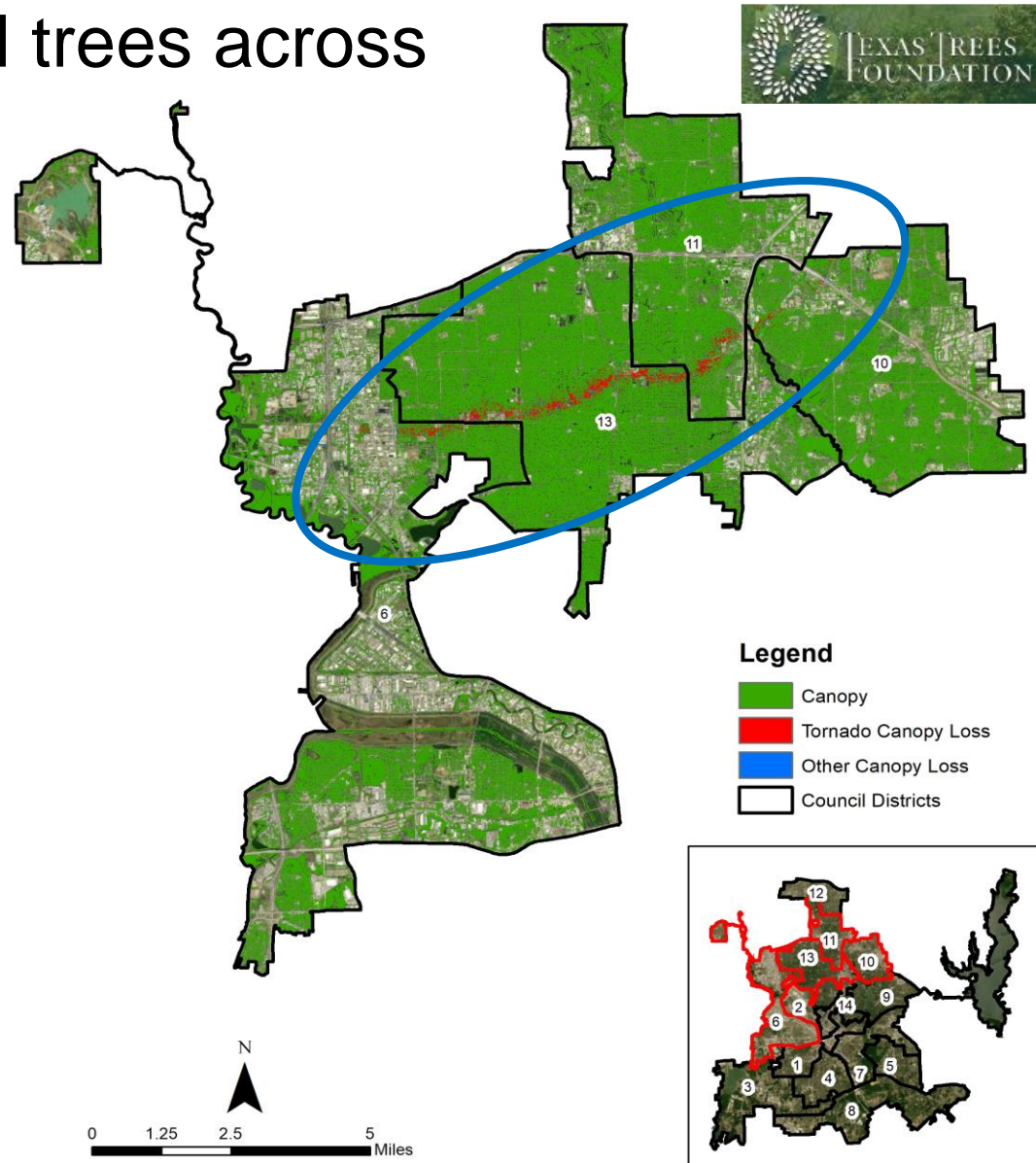
- As a result of tornadoes in October 2019, the city's tree canopy suffered severe damage in the path of the storm
- Property owners, the City of Dallas, and partner organizations wish to restore trees lost or severely damaged during the storm
- Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) completed a storm analysis detailing the extent and location of tree loss

Background/History

- ~ 5,000 lost/damaged trees across 4 Council Districts
- ~200 acres canopy lost

Council District	% Tree Canopy Change
13	-2.14%
11	-0.98%
6	-0.57%
10	-0.47%

City Council



Issue

- Section 51A-10.135(i)(2) of the Dallas City Code:
 - *“The director shall administer the reforestation fund to purchase trees to plant on public property, to create an urban forest master plan and to update it periodically, to fund a staff position for managing and directing the fund for planting and urban forest education, or to acquire conservation easements or wooded property.”*
- The Code does not currently allow funds to be used to plant trees on private property, per the intent of City Council when the ordinance was originally approved
- As a result of the October 2019 tornadoes, as well as the June 2019 major storm, there is both a strong need and desire to plant on private property

Program Consistency



CECAP GOAL 6: *DALLAS PROTECTS AND ENHANCES ECOSYSTEMS, TREES AND GREEN SPACES THAT IN TURN IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH*

- Leverage green spaces to provide climate adaptation benefits
- Increase, enhance and maintain healthy forests, parks, and green spaces
- Integrate nature-based solutions into the public realm as a public health strategy

9 Actions related to ecosystems and green spaces, including debris management and reforestation



Proposal

- In response to natural deforestation events, the director may administer the Reforestation Fund to purchase trees to plant on private property
 - A recorded weather event which causes localized catastrophic tree failure and irreparable structural tree damage resulting in a loss of the urban forest canopy

Proposal

- Must be an existing single-family or duplex use in a residential district
- Located within a declared federal, state, or local disaster area; or declared eligible for reforestation by the City Council

Proposal

- A minimum of one of the following must be provided in determining whether an area has been affected by a natural deforestation event
 - A tree survey or forest stand delineation that meets minimum requirements established by the director
 - Physical evidence by the owners of individual lots documenting individual tree loss

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Proposal

- All reforestation tree planting projects on private property must be conducted from October through March
- Property owners are not required to participate in a neighborhood reforestation project to replace damaged or destroyed trees
 - The City will not replace a parkway tree if the adjacent property owner chooses not to receive a tree for a location the property owner must maintain

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Proposal

- Replacement trees must be planted on the same property that sustained the tree loss
- The caliper size of replacement trees will be between one and three inches
- Boundary tree replacements must be placed on a single property; two adjoining properties may each qualify for a tree
- Reforestation fund expenditures are limited to the purchase and provision of trees, not to be spent on installation or maintenance

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Next Steps

- Schedule a public hearing for full City Council consideration of the proposed amendments to the Development Code

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