

Sponsor(s):  
Tara Dunderdale

Passed 11-0-0

**RESOLUTION 2025-02**

**TO INCREASE ALLOCATION FOR URBAN FORESTRY IN THE 2026 CITY BUDGET**

- WHEREAS, when adjusted for inflation city budget allocations for Urban Forestry have decreased almost 30% since 2018; and
- WHEREAS, the city's Urban Forestry office is responsible for more than 23,000 inventoried trees; and
- WHEREAS, the size of the inventories trees maintained by the city has almost doubled since 2019; and
- WHEREAS the City of Bloomington is currently behind on emission goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan; and
- WHEREAS the city's inventoried trees provide environmental and cost savings benefits for the city in Carbon Dioxide Uptake, Storm Water Mitigation, and Air Pollution Removal; and
- WHEREAS, proper maintenance of trees mitigates long term expenses and emergency action; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Urban Forestry Plan states "The City of Bloomington has a legal and moral obligation to maintain healthy and safe trees on municipal land and public streets. The Urban Forestry Plan is a reasonable and responsible plan to make the City and its neighborhoods healthier for humans, more aesthetically pleasing, and to reduce tree-related problems"; and
- WHEREAS, the cost of removing and replacing invasive trees such as callery pear is an expensive undertaking.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Bloomington should increase the budget of the Urban Forestry Department in 2026 to match the real dollar value of the 2018 budget.

SECTION 2. The City of Bloomington should continue to prioritize the wellbeing of the urban canopy by maintaining appropriate funding levels.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this 9th day of September, 2025.

*The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*

  
JUSTIN VASEL, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability