



## Resolution 2023-93

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH GREEN MINNEAPOLIS TO COLLABORATE ON TREE PLANTING PROJECT, THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD PLANTING PROJECT 2022**

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, The MPRB is the steward of the public urban forest in Minneapolis;

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis has been designated one of the 10 best cities for urban forests by American Forests, a national conservation organization;

Whereas, Conditions of the urban forest in Minneapolis indicate a compelling need for expansion of the public tree canopy;

Whereas, Green Minneapolis is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 conservancy with the mission to advance the vibrancy of Minneapolis through parks and greening;

Whereas, The MPRB approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Green Minneapolis to collaborate on the establishment of a carbon offset program and its initial funding as a means of expanding and perpetuating Minneapolis' urban forest and public tree canopy;

Whereas, Green Minneapolis has proposed the establishment of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022 as a program involving carbon offsets as means of funding continued tree planting and ongoing care of trees by the Forestry Department;

Whereas, The MPRB and Green Minneapolis seek to enter into a Project Implementation Agreement simultaneously to the Agreement to Collaborate on Tree Planting Project - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022;

Whereas, The MPRB is the Tree Owner and Green Minneapolis is the Project Operator in the Agreement to Collaborate on Tree Planting Project - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022;

Whereas, On behalf of the Tree Owner (MPRB), the Project Operator (Green Minneapolis) is collaborating with the Urban Forest Carbon Registry, doing business as City Forest Credits, a Washington non-profit corporation (the "Registry") in furtherance of the development of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022 (Registry project number "021") carbon reduction project (the "Project");



Whereas, Green Minneapolis is the Project Operator providing project monitoring and reporting as required by the carbon registry protocol, including the process for issuing, pricing, and selling carbon credits;

Whereas, The MPRB is the owner of the trees and the entity responsible and liable for the Project's funding required to purchase, plant and maintain the trees, the tree planting and ongoing maintenance of the trees and associated Carbon Stock, including, without limitation, the establishment, growth, protection, replacement, and maintenance of such Carbon Stock;

Whereas, The Tree Owner desires Project Operator to help fund this Tree Project and future projects by allowing Project Operator to develop potential carbon and environmental credits that it can attempt to sell to defray project costs and to plant and maintain additional trees;

Whereas, The Project consists of thousands of trees planted within the boundary of Minneapolis, MN planted in parks and along boulevards in 2022;

Whereas, MPRB legal counsel has reviewed the Agreement to Collaborate on Tree Planting Project as to form and legality; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, which sets the goal(s) "Goal 3. Provide core services with care" and "Goal 4. Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with Green Minneapolis to collaborate on Tree Planting Project, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Administration and Finance Committee

FROM: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent, Environmental Stewardship

DATE: 5/10/2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH GREEN MINNEAPOLIS TO COLLABORATE ON TREE PLANTING PROJECT, THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD PLANTING PROJECT 2022

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## **BACKGROUND**

This resolution approves an agreement to collaborate on tree planting project, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022, as a means of expanding and perpetuating Minneapolis' urban forest and public tree canopy (*Attachment A*).

A key strategy for mitigating the effects of climate change is to expand tree canopy coverage. Trees sequester carbon, capture stormwater, filter air pollutants, cool streets and buildings and provide wildlife habitat.

On June 16, 2021, Green Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board formed a public/private partnership to explore and employ alternative funding sources for tree planting and maintenance through a MOU to collaborate on the establishment of a carbon offset program. The initial focus of this partnership is a pilot Urban Tree Carbon Offset Program with the intent of planting new trees across the City of Minneapolis on the boulevards and in parks and selling carbon offset credits with proceeds being invested back into urban tree planting and care.

Green Minneapolis, working as the Project Operator, has worked with City Forest Credits as the carbon registry and certification organization for this program. As the Project Operator, Green Minneapolis will be providing project monitoring and reporting as required by the carbon registry protocol, including the process for issuing, pricing, and selling carbon credits

The MPRB owns the trees and has a long history of planting and maintaining trees along boulevards and in parks. With this expertise, the MPRB will execute the planting and maintenance of trees funded by the Carbon Offset Program, including determining the budget and approach for increasing MPRB's tree planting and maintenance capacity to support this program.



The Agreement to Collaborate on Tree Planting Project – Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022 is a twenty-five-year two-party agreement that sets forth certain rights, obligations, and restrictions relating to the Project with MPRB as Tree Owner and Green Minneapolis as Project Operator to ensure that Project Operator and Tree Owner remain in compliance with the Registry’s Tree Planting Protocol for the Project Duration and any extensions thereof. Specifying that the MPBR is financially responsible for avoidable tree losses and grants ownership of the carbon credits generated by this project to Green Minneapolis so Green Minneapolis can sell the carbon credits. Requires Green Minneapolis to pay City Forest Credits Registry Fees and Green Minneapolis Administration fees from proceeds of carbon credit sales and the requires remaining proceeds from carbon credits sales (~80% of gross proceeds) be paid to the MPRB. Requires all proceeds the MPRB receives from carbon credit sales to be used exclusively for purchasing, planting, and maintaining new trees and caps Green Minneapolis total aggregate liability to fees paid to Green Minneapolis for administering the project.

MPRB legal counsel has reviewed the Fundraising Agreement as to form and legality.

### **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS**

June 16, 2021	Resolution 2021-231: Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Green Minneapolis to Collaborate on the Establishment of a Carbon Offset Program and Its Initial Funding as a Means of Expanding and Perpetuating Minneapolis’ Urban Forest and Public Tree Canopy
June 15, 2022	Discussion 2022-32: CLIMATE RESILIENCY INITIATIVES - MPRB AND GREEN MINNEAPOLIS CLIMATE RESILIENCY INITIATIVE UPDATE

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the agreement with Green Minneapolis to collaborate on tree planting project, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2022.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

**Goal:**

03. Provide core services with care

**Strategy:**

06. Mitigate urban heat and climate change in park design, planning, programming, and management based on industry best practices, data-informed decisions, and innovations.



04. Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

03. Leverage partnerships with businesses, sponsors, volunteers, agencies, and non-profits to fill financial and service gaps in facilities, programs, and staffing.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Agreement to Collaborate on Tree Planting Project with Green Minneapolis

*Jbr 5.10.2023.*