

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	38082	Agenda Number	63.
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Meeting Date:	12/11/2014	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin to support implementation of the Austin Urban Forest Plan.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	March 6, 2014 – Council adopted the Austin Urban Forest Plan for public property.
For More Information:	Angela Hanson, Urban Forester (512-974-9551).
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

This item authorizes the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. This partnership would provide implementation support of the *Austin Urban Forest Plan: A Master Plan for Public Property* and Imagine Austin's Green Infrastructure Priority Program.

The *Austin Urban Forest Plan: A Master Plan for Public Property* was adopted by Council on March 6th, 2014. Implementation of the Plan involves multiple deliverables and cross departmental coordination. Imagine Austin's Green Infrastructure Priority Program focuses on the "Use [of] green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city." Development and implementation of the Austin Urban Forest Plan is a key priority action that has been identified to meet this goal.

The City of Austin Urban Forester is code mandated to administer implementation of the Plan. Due to the additional need for specialized resources required to accomplish the deliverables in the timeframe allotted by the Plan a

partnership with the UT Austin School of Architecture, Topics in Sustainable Development graduate class was sought for support and academic insight. The students benefit from addressing a real world problem and becoming exposed to municipal government processes. The graduate students, with extensive guidance and oversight from Professor Sarah Dooling, will participate in the following ways over the course of their spring semester:

- Facilitate and/or gather information at Urban Forest Summit
- Create Departmental Plans and Work Flows for core urban forest managing departments
- Develop Urban Forester Work Plan & Work Flows
- Complete draft of Urban Forest Performance Indicators for City of Austin
- Consult with Departments and Urban Forester to share information and connect to resources
- Research (Literature Review) to support the items above
- Support an Urban Forest Summit for City staff and stakeholders
- Produce final report covering results of Summit and class project

The City of Austin's contribution will be the consideration of UT's recommendations pertaining to implementation of the Austin Urban Forest Plan, minor operating expenses for the Urban Forest Summit, as well as approximately 600 budgeted staff hours to support this project in 2015.