



City of Kansas City, Missouri

Docket Memo

Ordinance/Resolution #: 250837

Submitted Department/Preparer: Neighborhoods

Revised 6/10/24

Docket memos are required on all ordinances initiated by a Department Director. More information can be found in [Administrative Regulation \(AR\) 4-1](#).

Executive Summary

Accepting and approving a \$49,000.00 grant award from the Missouri Department of Conservation, through a cooperative agreement, to educate about native plants by providing training for both Community Engagement Officers and the general public and increase the number of Missouri native plants within the Kansas City landscape by providing residents with native plants and landscape consultations; estimating and appropriating \$49,000.00 in Fund 2580; and recognizing this ordinance as having an accelerated effective date.

Discussion

Along with this ordinance, the Neighborhood Services Department has submitted an ordinance to update the City's Nuisance Code (Chapter 48) and redundant/similar chapters of the municipal code to increase the City's allowances for native plants. The shared benefits of native plants in Kansas City's environment include promoting biodiversity, managing stormwater runoff, carbon sequestration, mitigating the heat island effect, and overall maintaining healthy ecosystems. All residents of Kansas City stand to benefit from more native plants throughout the metro area. This award from the Missouri Department of Conservation will be used to educate both the general public and the Neighborhood Services' Community Engagement Officers on the updates to the code.

Through a cooperative agreement, the City of Kansas City, Missouri Office of Environmental Quality has been awarded \$49,000.00 from the Missouri Department of Conservation to offer education and training sessions to both City Community Engagement Officers and the general public on the updated code. Additionally, for the general public that attend these trainings, they will be offered both landscape consultation services and starter native plants to begin their native plant journey. These efforts are in alignment with the City's Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan.

Fiscal Impact

1. Is this legislation included in the adopted budget? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. What is the funding source?
The funds are coming from the Missouri Department of Conservation.
3. How does the legislation affect the current fiscal year?
This legislation appropriates a grant awarded within the current fiscal year. This is additional funding.
4. Does the legislation have a fiscal impact in future fiscal years? Please notate the difference between one-time and recurring costs.
The amount of \$49,000.00 will be distributed once. The Agreement shall be in effect from 7/01/2025 to 6/30/2026, and therefore will roll into next fiscal year.
5. Does the legislation generate revenue, leverage outside funding, or deliver a return on investment?
Yes, since these funds are being received through a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation, it is leveraging outside funding. Additionally, planting natives will increase the scenic value of Kansas City's environment, support local pollinators and wildlife, require less irrigation and maintenance, remain adaptive to extreme weather, and provide carbon sequestration, offering a significant return on investment by conserving water, offsetting carbon emissions, and reducing annual expenses, as suggested in the City's Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan.

Office of Management and Budget Review

(OMB Staff will complete this section.)

1. This legislation is supported by the general fund. ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. This fund has a structural imbalance. ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Account string has been verified/confirmed. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Discussion (if needed)

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Citywide Business Plan (CWBP) Impact

1. View the [Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan](#)

2. Which CWBP goal is most impacted by this legislation?
Infrastructure and Accessibility (Press tab after selecting.)
3. Which objectives are impacted by this legislation (select all that apply):
- ☐ Engage in thoughtful planning and redesign of existing road networks to ensure safety, access, and mobility of users of all ages and abilities.
 - ☐ Enhance the City's connectivity, resiliency, and equity through a better-connected multi-modal transportation system for all users.
 - ☐ Build on existing strengths while developing a comprehensive transportation plan for the future.
 - ☒ Develop environmentally sustainable infrastructure strategies that improve quality of life and foster economic growth.
 - ☒ Ensure adequate resources are provided for continued maintenance of existing infrastructure.
 - ☐ Focus on delivery of safe connections to schools.

Prior Legislation

N/A

Service Level Impacts

The partnership will allow the OEQ to contract with a local organization with expertise in native plants to provide 2 updated code trainings to Neighborhood Services Department Community Engagement Officers, 4 updated code trainings to the public, provide landscape consultations to approximately 300 residents, and partner with a local nurseries to purchase approximately 1,500 plants to give away to those seeking landscape consultations. In addition to participating residents who will be offered native plants and landscape consultations free of charge, local native plant landscaping and nursery contractors also serve to benefit from increased visibility of their business, mission, and services to the citizens of Kansas City, Missouri. The City's Neighborhood Services Department Preservation Employees will be served through this partnership via attendance of 2 staff plant ID trainings, and an increased awareness of Missouri's native plants in compliance with the City's Nuisance Code.

Finally, this partnership will provide numerous services and benefits to our environment, including beautification, carbon sequestration, climate adaptability, erosion control, and water conservation. These environmental benefits also provide a service to all citizens, offering a connection with nature, healthier air and water, and opportunities to learn about the environment.

Other Impacts

1. What will be the potential health impacts to any affected groups?
Native plants provide health benefits to the general public by promoting stable and resilient ecosystems. Native plant species contribute to combatting air pollution by removing pollutants from the air and requiring minimal fertilizer and pesticides, reducing the release of harmful airborne chemicals. Improved air quality can reduce respiratory issues, asthma, and cardiovascular stress. Traditional lawn fertilizers and pesticides are linked with cancer, birth defects, reproductive effects, liver and kidney damage, neurotoxicity, and endocrine disruption. Native installations eliminate the risk of negative health impacts from fertilizers and pesticides. Second, the deep root systems of native plant species improve water quality by reducing runoff, improving infiltration, and filtering pollutants, reducing the need for chemical treatments that can contaminate water sources and ensuring safer drinking water for all citizens. Finally, research has shown the benefits of access to green space to physical and mental health. Spending time in natural landscapes improves cardiovascular health, boosts immune system function, and improves sleep quality, mood, concentration, and stress.
2. How have those groups been engaged and involved in the development of this ordinance?
Residents were not directly engaged during the grant solicitation. However, the proposal was built off the strategies listed in the City's CPRP, which was heavily influenced by public outreach and feedback during its development in 2022.
3. How does this legislation contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?
This legislation takes direct action to help Kansas City increase native plants across its landscape and addresses goals from the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, specifically Short-Term Action N-1.3: Promote and incentivize the use of native plants, grasses, shrubs, groundcover, and trees. Native plants contribute to a sustainable Kansas City because of their numerous ecological benefits, which help build resiliency through adaptiveness to extreme weather and flooding, soil erosion control, water conservation, carbon sequestration, and support to local wildlife. Because of these benefits, this legislation also contributes to additional goals the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan:
Goal N-1.1: Enhance residential greens space by increasing the number of planted native species and converting standard turf grass lawns into native terrain.
Goal N-1.2: Make landscapes resilient to flooding, by planting native species with deep roots that reduce risk of flooding through the capture and storage of stormwater, simultaneously reducing soil erosion and increasing rainwater infiltration.

Goal N-1.4: Mitigate the heat island effect by offering shade, sequestering carbon, and releasing moisture into the atmosphere.

Goal N-2: Sustain biodiversity by providing essential wildlife habitat, promoting healthy soils through native species who create deep root systems and diverse microbial communities, requiring no use of fertilizer and minimal pesticide use, and offering landscape-scale sequestration projects.

Goal N-3.1: Require less irrigation, promoting water conservation. Sustainability in Kansas City also requires community engagement, which is directly addressed in this Ordinance by providing one on one landscaping consultations and plant giveaways, increasing community awareness of native plants and their benefits.

4. Does this legislation create or preserve new housing units?
No (Press tab after selecting)

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5. Department staff certifies the submission of any application Affirmative Action Plans or Certificates of Compliance, Contractor Utilization Plans (CUPs), and Letters of Intent to Subcontract (LOIs) to CREO prior to, or simultaneously with, the legislation entry request in Legistar.

No - CREO's review is not applicable (Press tab after selecting)

Please provide reasoning why not:

Accepting and appropriating grant funds.

6. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from an Invitation for Bid?

No(Press tab after selecting)

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7. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q)?
No(Press tab after selecting)