

**From:** [Logan Heley](#)  
**To:** [Public Testimony](#); [cc 1](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Ordinance No. 220961 (Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 5:10:05 PM

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*Testimony from Logan Heley, Executive Director of Heartland Conservation Alliance:*

Members of the City of Kansas City Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee,

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) encourages you to support the Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance as proposed by city staff. **The proposed ordinance is a reasonable compromise for the time being and HCA encourages the City to strengthen the ordinance in the years to come.**

Urban forests play an essential role in improving our air and water quality, reducing carbon emissions, and improving public health.

Trees cool our city, clean our air, reduce stormwater, sequester carbon dioxide and create a vibrant and healthy community for all! **Please vote to support the protection of our mature trees in Kansas City.**

HCA's mission is to proactively conserve, protect, and restore natural lands and open space within the Kansas City region, with a particular focus on the Blue River in Kansas City and Overland Park.

Every other year we publish the [Blue River Report Card](#). Unfortunately, "Riparian Cover," which refers to the quantity and quality of natural forest vegetation in the river corridor, currently has an "F" grade, particularly in the Kansas City sections of the river.

Native habitat and riparian cover received a "D" or "F" in almost every section of the river. HCA recommends that parks departments, neighborhoods, and city planners come together to evaluate our natural resources and adopt the [Blue River Action Plan](#) — a watershed-wide management plan — to identify projects and resources to improve the health of the watershed, and sequester carbon.

This ordinance is designed to work in concert with our existing stream buffer and landscaping requirements and is inspired by best practices from other cities throughout our region and country.

**The Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance, as proposed by city staff, aligns with the goals of the Blue River Action Plan and HCA encourages your support for Ordinance No. 220961.**

Wishing you safety and health,

Logan Heley

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(he/him/his)

**Executive Director**

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*Together protecting our region's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of all.*