



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal
Office Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Agenda Report

File Number: 2024-164

Agenda Item# I.3.

Agenda Date: 3/5/2024. **Department:** Executive/City Manager

Meeting Type: Council Meeting **Category:** General Business Agenda

Title: 2024 – 164 Resolution Establishing a Policy to Promote the Use of Native Plants and the Elimination of Invasive Plants at City-Owned and Maintained Sites and Facilities

Council Priority: Place an ‘x’ in the box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safest City | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Skilled Workforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easiest Place to Do Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Connected City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Sports Capital | <input type="checkbox"/> Hub of Recreation and Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abundance of Attainable Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other/Admin <u>Sustainability & Resiliency</u> |

Council District: Click here to enter text

Public Hearing: No

Advertising Date/By: N/A

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Contact 2 and Phone: Matthew Hicks, Ext.4335

PURPOSE:

The Office of Sustainability and Resilience is adamant about creating sustainable change in Greensboro. A resolution from City Council supporting the establishment of a native plant policy on City properties will yield surmountable environmental, ecological, and social benefits for a more enhanced ecosystem full of biodiversity and resiliency. Furthermore, it will serve as a great example for others who look to Greensboro as a leader that embraces our communities' desire to become a more environmentally-friendly City.

BACKGROUND:

The City's Office of Sustainability and Resilience has worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department since January of 2023, consulting with other city departments and stakeholders regarding a native plants policy that prioritizes the use of native plants and discourages the use of invasive and non-native species.

Many governmental agencies are establishing and/or updating policies to address the constant climatic changes we are experiencing. A new policy was recently established by the [NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#) requiring the use of native plants at departmental locations and at local government sites receiving grants from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust

Vision Statement: "A Community with Endless Economic Opportunities and Exceptional Quality of Life."

Fund. The policy became effective July 1, 2023. Another example is the recent signing of [Executive 305](#), by Governor Cooper, which is an order that sets goals for the State to preserve one million acres of land, restore an additional million acres, and plant one million urban trees by 2040. This emphasizes the new conservation efforts with native plants being a top priority.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None known

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff and associated Departments have reviewed the proposal and recommends City Council approve and adopt this policy based on the following top factors: 1) The utilization of native plant species can help our local government save money, reduce pollution and protect waterways and wildlife habitats; 2) To plant with a purpose can aid in the transformation of not only the City's urban landscape, but the surrounding areas as well; and 3) The call for more policies encircling sustainable development, practices, and overall economic expansion is crucial for shaping the sustainability agenda.