• ROLL CALL 09-1681

• ADOPTED TREE PRESERVATION PRINCIPLES FOR CITY PROPERTY, PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UTILITIES

• MITIGATION FORMULA DETERMINES HOW MANY REPLACEMENTS FOR TREES LOST TO CONSTRUCTION

• CIP FUNDS INTO CTRF = new trees
A great relationship for 30 years
Growing Futures
Youth Employment
and Tree Care

A City of Des Moines and Trees Forever Collaboration

Shannon Ramsay, CEO and Founding President
Leslie Berckes, Program Development and Innovation Director
Trees Forever History in Des Moines

• Over 6,500 volunteers contributing over 36,000 hours
• Planted over 9,500 trees
• Nearly $2.3 million in volunteer services, hours, trees, and staff support over 30 years
Significant Long-Term Collaborations and Major Initiatives

- **Community and Urban Forestry**
  Alliant Energy and Black Hills Energy

- **Iowa Living Roadways**
  Iowa Dept. of Transportation and Iowa State University

- **Working Watersheds**
  Syngenta

- **Statewide Forestry Initiatives**
  Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, USFS, Bird Friendly Iowa, etc.
Trees Forever’s Community Support

- **TreeKeepers**
  Volunteer education and empowerment. Nearly 200 volunteers trained

- **Volunteer Support**
  Provide technical assistance, neighborhood association support, volunteer recruitment, and more

- **Tree planting funds**
  Made available to community groups, neighborhoods, schools, and more
Benefits of Collaboration

- Public/Private collaborators
- Non-profit flexibility
- Eligible for grant funding
- Ability to bring in additional collaborators
- Leverage city dollars with private support
- Provide a broader social benefit to the community
- Support area planning processes and community goals
Supporting Community Plans and Goals

- **Guide DSM** – Sustainable, livable communities
- **STAR Communities** – Climate, Jobs, Equity, Natural Systems
- **Tomorrow Plan** - Strategy 2A – Enhance the regional treescape; Plant and maintain trees and landscaping
- **Capitol Crossroads** – Natural Capital
Growing Futures

**Giving to the community**

- Grow more beautiful, greener communities and neighborhoods
- Grow more trees in underserved communities
- Grow leaders by employing and training youth
Growing Futures

Giving back to youth employees of Growing Futures

- Develop leadership skills
- Engage with youth of diverse backgrounds
- Experience nature and provide care for the trees of their future
- Gain job readiness skills
- Exercise daily
Growing Futures – How it Works

- Teams of 7-10 with 2 adult leaders per team
  - Spring and Fall: 8 hrs/week for 5-6 weeks
  - Summer: 20 hrs/week for 10 weeks
  - 1-2 teams in the first year. Grow to more teams in future
- Payment of $10/hr or $15/hr
- Enrichment activities provided
- Lunch provided each day
- Youth transported to work sites with water trailer and necessary equipment
Growing Futures – Timeline

April – Early June

• Spring crew works to plant and water trees

Mid-June – Early August

• Summer crews work Monday -Wednesday to water, mulch, prune trees

Mid-September – Early November

• Fall crew works Saturdays to plant and water trees
3,300/week

Monday 1,100

Tuesday 1,100

Wednesday 1,100

Team 1 550

Team 2 550

Team 1 550

Team 2 550

Team 1 550

Team 2 550

Target 55-80 trees/person @ 1.5 minutes/tree
Community Collaborators

- **Urban Dreams** – soft job skills training
- **Evelyn K. Davis** – financial literacy
- **Project Iowa** – resume building, VIP training, vehicle safety
- **YESS** – youth employees and volunteers
- **Science Center of Iowa** – education and enrichment activity
- **Community Youth Concepts** – meeting location
- **Des Moines Public Schools** – student recruitment
Funding this Collaborative

- **Microsoft Community Empowerment Funding**
  - $100,000 secured to match City of Des Moines funding

- Other potential funders
  - Greater Des Moines Community Foundation Leadership Grant
  - Wells Fargo and other corporate entities
  - Private donations

*Planting a better tomorrow™*
Thank You!
FISCAL COMPARISON

CITY CONTRACTOR PLANTING
• $275/tree installed
• $100/tree watered 20X’s
• 533 trees/year for $200K

GROWING FUTURES PROGRAM
• $275/tree installed
• $100/tree watered 20X’s
• 533 trees/year for $200K

PLUS
✓ Fundraising capacity
✓ Networking capacity (volunteers)
✓ Public Relations benefits of a Youth Workforce
Questions?