



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember M. Carrasco

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 25, 2021

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: **Building an Urban Canopy of 10,000 Trees**

Amount of City Funding Required: \$ 210,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): #56

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The number one reason for school absenteeism is childhood asthma. One of the fastest cancers is melanoma, which kills more rapidly than any other skin cancer due to sun exposure. The East Side of San José is woefully lacking in an urban canopy that shelters its residents from harmful ultraviolet rays and offering shelter in walkable communities. District 5 is among the most public transit-dependent and sees heavy pedestrian traffic, yet it experiences little refuge from the environment.

Improving a city’s urban tree canopy can have numerous benefits, including reducing summer peak temperatures by 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit and reduce concentrations of air pollution, enhancing property values, providing wildlife habitat, providing aesthetic benefits, and improving social ties among neighbors. In this pandemic we saw people’s mental health deteriorate and tree canopy delivers significant benefits for mental health as it decreases levels of stress and increases mental

focus. A study done in California by U.S Forest Service and University of California Davis found that for every \$1 spent on tree planting and maintenance, urban trees deliver \$5.82 in benefits.

East Side has significantly fewer trees than other Council Districts. In planting trees, we begin to create equity through social, educational, and environmental benefits.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund): General Funds

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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Department or Organization: Director, DOT

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