

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT INTO RECORD THE DEKALB COUNTY URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT AND TO ADOPT THE STUDY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, In 2025, DeKalb County engaged the services of Eocene Environmental Group to conduct an assessment of the tree canopy in the unincorporated areas only of DeKalb County, covering approximately 59% of the county, and examining changes over the period from 2010 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb's Urban Tree Canopy Assessment documents the current state of DeKalb County's urban forest and how it has changed over time, providing valuable information that the County can use to better assess the environmental impacts of land use decisions and plan more effectively for the future; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes that trees are critical assets to DeKalb County, and that trees play a vital role in our environment by filtering air pollutants, absorbing stormwater to reduce flooding, improving overall air and water quality, helping to cool our communities through shade and evaporation, providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife, enhancing our well-being by reducing stress and creating inviting spaces for recreation; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognized and celebrated Arbor Day 2025 through community education and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia adopt the 2025 DeKalb County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and the recommendations therein to ensure DeKalb County's continued stewardship of its urban forest, for the benefit and enjoyment by current and future generations.

Specifically, the assessment outlines the following key recommendations for the DeKalb Board of Commissioners to consider:

- Continued Assessment & Data Collection
 - Maintain an updated canopy assessment
 - Use canopy assessment to identify potential planting areas
 - Consider incorporating LiDAR technology
 - Undertake a ground-based plot sampling study
- Policy & Planning Actions
 - Set planting and canopy coverage goals
 - Evaluate ordinances and land use regulations
 - Develop a tree management program
 - Protect existing trees
 - Prioritize strategic tree planting
 - Pursue Tree City USA designation;
 - Align budget with goals
 - Invest in staff training and certification
- Land Acquisition & Conservation
 - Continue strategic land acquisitions
- Community Engagement
 - Involve the public with education and outreach initiatives

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 20__ by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners.

Michelle Long Spears

Presiding Officer

Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ___ day of _____, 20__

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Barbara Sanders

County Clerk

Board of Commissioners and

Georgia Chief Executive Officer

William J. Linkous III

County Attorney

DeKalb County,