

## **A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE DEKALB COUNTY LIBRARY LANDSCAPE TRANSITION PLAN AND REQUESTING THE DEKALB COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE THE PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, landscaping is a form of earth stewardship and has the opportunity to be a strategy towards climate resiliency through proper landscape installation and maintenance strategies that build soil, mitigate flooding, increase biodiversity, reduce heat island effect, sequester carbon, encourage clean air, and provide beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, several library landscapes in DeKalb County have been used as pilot sites since 2021 for the climate resilient landscape model, allowing DeKalb County to learn best practices and gather constituent thoughts and preferences towards the concept; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, the Board of Commissioners approved “an item of the DeKalb County Governing Authority to Adopt a Vision and Transition Plan for all library landscapes in DeKalb County by 2023”; and

**WHEREAS**, viewing landscaping as an opportunity for earth stewardship and investing in our outdoor spaces to be active community benefits can provide the opportunity for outdoor classrooms, environmental education, and additional greenspaces and parklets. This is especially beneficial in areas of DeKalb County that may currently not have an accessible park; and

**WHEREAS**, this landscape paradigm requires less fossil fuel maintenance equipment and less chemical usage. By implementing these landscapes DeKalb County is creating green jobs for landscapers and assisting in building a “green economy”; and

**WHEREAS**, to expand this model to all 23 libraries in DeKalb County, correct maintenance strategies need to be in place to ensure longevity of the installation and ultimate growth and health of the landscape.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia adopt the Library Landscape Transition Plan and requests the Administration to execute the Plan.

Specifically, the Plan outlines the following key recommendations for the Governing Authority to consider:

1. Environmental Education
  - a. Youth education programs
  - b. Vendor training
  - c. Sustainability research and testing
2. Sustainable Landscaping Methods
  - a. Modified RFP language
  - b. Proper care of new and existing foliage
  - c. Electric tool usage
3. Landscape Modifications
  - a. Native plant installations
  - b. Mulch
  - c. Irrigation systems