

## FRUITFUL LIBRARIES RESOLUTION

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A VISION AND TRANSITION PLAN OF FRUITFUL LIBRARIES BY 2023.**

**WHEREAS**, a Fruitful Library is defined as a library that has had its landscape converted over to a **Productive Urban Landscape** as well as the proper maintenance strategy in place to ensure longevity.

**WHEREAS**, a **Productive Urban Landscape** is defined as a landscape that integrates some elements of traditional landscaping (like organized planting patterns and areas to sit, eat, and play), and creatively incorporates elements of the natural world (like biodiversity, pollinator habitats, etc.) and plants that provide us with food (like vegetables, berries, and fruit trees).

**WHEREAS**, the three key design principles for **Productive Urban Landscapes** are water conservation, soil health, and biodiversity with a value added emphasis on exciting, edible plant species to encourage community activation.

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson has championed **Productive Urban Landscapes** and converted all library landscapes in District 5 to include this landscaping paradigm. District 5 has been declared the first "*Fruitful Libraries District*" in DeKalb County.

**WHEREAS**, installation of **Productive Urban Landscapes** is an innovative opportunity to invest and create community land assets in areas of DeKalb County that have been historically underinvested in.

**WHEREAS**, **Productive Urban Landscape** maintenance strategies cut down on the use of gasoline-powered equipment, pesticides, and other harmful techniques that affect the health of workers, constituents, and the environment.

**WHEREAS**, training existing landscapers on maintenance strategies of **Productive Urban Landscapes** can provide continual green job education and "best practice" opportunities that lead the landscaping industry into the 21st century.

**WHEREAS**, decreasing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels is a goal of DeKalb County and proactive measure to ensure action against climate change. To support this, the adoption of **Productive Urban Landscapes** decreases the use of

gasoline-powered landscape equipment while also creating carbon sinks through strategic plant palettes.

**WHEREAS, Productive Urban Landscapes** are designed to build and retain soil. Furthermore, maintenance strategies of such landscapes ensure the health and protection of soil.

**WHEREAS,** installation of **Productive Urban Landscapes** has begun at six libraries in DeKalb County. This Fruitful Libraries Resolution ensures equity throughout the entire county to ensure all DeKalb residents have access to these benefits.

**WHEREAS,** the incorporation of biodiversity in **Productive Urban Landscapes** creates environmentally-resilient landscapes that can adapt to future natural disasters.

**WHEREAS,** the installment of **Productive Urban Landscapes** is a storm water management strategy. Proper design can ensure the mitigation of storm water complications.

**WHEREAS, Productive Urban Landscapes** provide opportunities for library staff to expand and enhance their educational programs with the ability to maximize these landscapes as outdoor classrooms.

**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for outdoor spaces as a productive way to continue educational opportunities and cultivate community safely.

**WHEREAS,** 25% of DeKalb County residents do not have access to parks or green space. **Productive Urban Landscapes** bring mini parks and enhanced green spaces to DeKalb County residents who are not in proximity of these assets.

**WHEREAS,** the Fruitful Libraries Resolution is an investment in DeKalb County Libraries by transforming them to the “libraries of the 21st century” through the use of enhanced and improved outdoor space.

**WHEREAS,** these landscapes reinforce and innovatively give new meaning to DeKalb County Library System’s motto as “a place to grow.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY  
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

DeKalb County will incorporate a Fruitful Libraries Transition Plan by 2023. This transition plan will include:

1. A roadmap on how to overhaul all of the library landscapes to Productive Urban Landscapes.
2. The onboarding of DeKalb County Facilities Management and their vendors who are contracted to maintain the landscapes to ensure longevity and sustainability.
3. The coordination of library staff on strategies to incorporate the landscapes in their programming as a way of enhancing.
4. Public engagement and education to ensure constituents understand the resources and assets available to them.
5. Strategies to allocate existing landscaping budgets to be appropriated to this new landscaping paradigm.
6. The creation of RFPs specific to **Productive Urban Landscapes**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a **Productive Urban Landscape** policy will be established to guide the installation and overhaul of existing library landscapes as well as ensure proper guidelines for installations at future libraries in DeKalb County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, DeKalb County will allocate up to \$250,000 to create a Fruitful Libraries Transition Plan.