



*PLANNING & REDEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2005*

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ITEM V-B: SPECIAL PRESENTATION – GREENPRINT INITIATIVE – SACRAMENTO TREE FOUNDATION

REQUEST

The Greenprint Program Director, Connie Gallipi, would like to make a presentation to the Planning Commission on the Greenprint Initiative. The Greenprint is a regional urban forest effort whose goal is to increase the community's awareness of the value of trees and a healthy urban forest. To achieve this goal a program has been developed to help local agencies increase the overall tree canopy in their communities and thereby the region. At the end of the presentation and discussion, the Sacramento Tree Foundation requests that the Planning Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council for adoption of a resolution of support for the Greenprint Initiative.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Redevelopment Department recommends that the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- A. Recommend that the City Council adopt a Resolution of support for the Greenprint Initiative.

BACKGROUND

The Greenprint Initiative is a regional collaboration that is modeled after the Blueprint project. Where the Blueprint focused on smart growth strategies for the region, the Greenprint focuses on the value and benefits to the region of a large and healthy urban forest. The Greenprint Initiative then provides a step by step approach to assist communities in developing, enhancing and maintaining their urban forest.

The Greenprint establishes a number of goals and key elements for developing a successful urban forest program. These are outlined in the attached booklet (Attachment 1) and will be described by Ms. Gallipi (Attachment 2).

Staff has been meeting with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to take a look at how Roseville's efforts to expand and maintain our urban forest align with the goals and key elements of the Greenprint.

The three key elements of a successful urban forest program involve:

Management of Public Trees,
Policies and Ordinances, and
Community Partnerships.

A brief summary of Roseville's efforts in relation to each of these elements is provided below.

EVALUATION

Roseville has a long history of recognizing and promoting the benefits that trees and a healthy urban forest provide. In reviewing the existing mechanisms in place for enhancing and maintaining a healthy urban forest it is evident that Roseville's efforts are consistent with the goals of the Greenprint Initiative.

Management of Public Trees

Roseville has an extensive network of public trees contained in our open spaces, parks and landscape corridors. The trees in these areas receive regularly scheduled and emergency maintenance either directly by City staff in the Parks Maintenance Division, or by private landscape maintenance companies working under City staff's direction. These maintenance efforts are funded by the General Fund, Landscape and Lighting Districts or Community Services Districts, so mechanisms to ensure continuous long term maintenance of the City's public tree resources and the expanding urban forest are in place.

Policies and Ordinances

Roseville has adopted numerous policies and ordinances that specifically address the preservation of existing native oak woodlands and the planting of new trees. The General Plan contains policies in several different elements, Land Use, Open Space and Conservation, Parks and Recreation, that are intended to ensure that existing oak woodlands are preserved and that new trees are planted in developing areas. These policies are implemented through the Zoning Ordinance which contains the City's Tree Ordinance, through the Specific Plans which designate landscape corridors and street tree species, and through the Community Design Guidelines which recommend the planting of trees to achieve a number of objectives including shading, screening, aesthetics and quality design. All of these policies and ordinances demonstrate Roseville's awareness of the value and benefits of trees and a commitment to preserving, expanding and maintaining a healthy urban forest.

Community Partnerships

Roseville has partnered with the Roseville Urban Forest Foundation (RUFF) to assist in the expansion of the urban forest through the Shade Tree Program. The Shade Tree Program provides up to three free trees, and the education needed to properly plant and maintain a new tree, to homeowners and property owners within Roseville. In addition to the Shade Tree Program, RUFF provides many other services and expertise all with the purpose of developing and maintaining a healthy urban forest in Roseville. Other community partnerships that promote a healthy urban forest include the local schools, Tree City USA, and our newest partner, the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the Greenprint Initiative.

As the brief summary above shows, Roseville has mechanisms in place that support the goals and the three key elements of the Greenprint Initiative and the development, enhancement and maintenance of a healthy urban forest.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Redevelopment Department recommends that the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- A. Recommend that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution of support for the Greenprint Initiative.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Greenprint Booklet – Sacramento Tree Foundation – June 2005
2. PowerPoint Presentation slides

EXHIBIT

- A. Draft Resolution