

1 Introduced by Council Member Arias:  
2  
3

4 **ORDINANCE 2026-180**

5 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$4,500,000 FROM THE  
6 TREE PROTECTION AND RELATED EXPENSES TRUST FUND  
7 (ORDINANCE) TO THE LEVEL 2 TREE PLANTING PROGRAM  
8 TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR TREE PLANTINGS ADMINISTERED  
9 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ON PUBLIC  
10 PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR CONTINUED OVERSIGHT BY  
11 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; PROVIDING AN  
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Tree Commission was established by Ordinance  
15 2017-635-E, as described in Chapter 94, *Ordinance Code*, which outlines  
16 the various duties and responsibilities of the Tree Commission to  
17 develop and maintain a healthy tree canopy in the City; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City currently maintains two Tree Protection and  
19 Related Expenses Trust Funds, the first was created pursuant to  
20 Section 25.04 of the *Jacksonville City Charter* and the second by  
21 ordinance which is codified in Section 111.760, *Ordinance Code*; and

22 **WHEREAS**, while these Funds are subject to differing guidelines  
23 and requirements, they both serve the fundamental mission of planting  
24 and maintaining trees along the public rights-of-way and on public  
25 lands within the City, so as to mitigate for the loss or destruction  
26 of protected trees and to replace the tree canopy in the City that  
27 has been lost through the process of land development; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Tree Commission established the Level 2 Program,  
29 by Ordinance 2019-89-E, to provide individual citizens,  
30 organizations, City departments, and/or Council Members with the  
31 opportunity to suggest locations for tree planting projects on public

1 property within Duval County that proposes to use funds from the City  
2 of Jacksonville Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during its meeting on February 18, 2026, the Tree  
4 Commission voted unanimously to recommend appropriating Tree  
5 Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Ordinance) monies for the  
6 continuation and expansion of the Level 2 Tree Planting Program; now  
7 therefore

8 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

9 **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2025-2026 fiscal year,  
10 within the City's budget, there are hereby appropriated the sum(s)  
11 from the account(s) listed in subsections (a) to the account(s) listed  
12 in subsection (b):

13 (The account information is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and  
14 incorporated herein by this reference)

15 (a) Appropriated from:

16 See **Exhibit 1** \$4,500,000

17 (b) Appropriated to:

18 See **Exhibit 1** \$4,500,000

19 (c) **Explanation of the appropriation:**

20 The funding above represents a total appropriation of  
21 \$4,500,000 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenses  
22 Trust Fund (Ordinance) to fund the continuation and  
23 expansion of the City's Level 2 Tree Planting Program (the  
24 "Level 2 Program").

25 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in  
26 Section 1 is to provide funds for the continuation and expansion of  
27 the City's Level 2 Program which allows for tree plantings on public  
28 rights-of-way and public property by the Department of Public Works.

29 **Section 3. Oversight Department.** The Public Works  
30 Department shall continue to oversee and administer the Level 2  
31 Program described herein. The trees that are planted, and any that

1 are removed as part of the planting, shall be recorded electronically  
2 on Plan-it Geo, or its equivalent, and shall note the species and  
3 size of each, as well as the date of planting or removal.

4 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become  
5 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
6 without the Mayor's signature.

7  
8 Form Approved:

9  
10 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Shannon MacGillis

13 GC-#1734479-v5-2026\_Level2\_Tree\_Funds\_Appropriation.docx