

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2024-438

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Miller

**Date of Introduction:** May 28, 2024

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, R, F

**Date of Analysis:** May 30, 2024

**Type of Action:** Appropriation; CIP amendment; designation of oversight agency; Ordinance Code amendment

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates a total of \$6,217,826 from various tree-related funds as follows:

- \$1,000,000 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Charter) and \$1,717,826 from the City - JTA Transportation Project Pay-Go Tree Mitigation Project to the County-Wide Tree Program – Right of Way activity (the “Remove and Replace” Program).
- \$1,500,000 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Charter) to fund the continuation and expansion of the City’s Level 2 Tree Planting Program (the “Level 2 Program”).
- \$2,000,000 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Ordinance) to fund the continuation and expansion of the City’s Level 3 Tree Planting Program (the “Level 3 Program”).

The Public Works Department is designated as the oversight agency for the expenditures. The 2024-28 Capital Improvement Plan is amended to reflect these appropriations to the appropriate accounts. The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 94 – Tree Commission – to create a new Section 94.107. – Exceptional Planting Projects Referral to City Council. The section requires that Level 2 and Level 3 planting projects with costs exceeding \$300,000 receive City Council approval before commencement of planting.

**Background Information:** The purpose of the appropriation is to provide funding for the City’s Remove and Replace Program wherein the Department of Public Works removes and replaces trees within the City’s public rights-of-way and parks that are damaged, dead, in impending decline, or a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare. In addition, this appropriation provides funds for the continuation and expansion of the City’s Level 2 Program which allows for tree plantings on public property by the Department of Public Works. Finally, this appropriation will also provide funds for the continuation and expansion of the City’s Level 3 Program which allows third-party applicants to seek funding for tree plantings in Duval County which are overseen by the Department of Public Works.

**Policy Impact Area:** Tree canopy

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill appropriates a total of \$6,217,826 from the two Tree Protection Trust Funds (Charter and Ordinance) and from the City - JTA Transportation Project Pay-Go Tree Mitigation Project.

**Analyst:** Clements