

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2026-0180

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Arias

Date of Introduction: March 10, 2026

Committee(s) of Reference: F, NCSPHS

Date of Analysis: March 9, 2026

Type of Action: Appropriation; provide for oversight

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates \$4,500,000 from the Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Ordinance) to the Level 2 Tree Planting Program to provide funds for tree plantings administered by the Department of Public Works on public property. The bill provides for oversight by the Department of Public Works.

Background Information: The Tree Commission was established by Ordinance 2017-635-E. The City currently maintains two Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Funds: the first, created pursuant to Section 25.04 of the Jacksonville City Charter; and the second, by ordinance and codified in Section 111.760, *Ordinance Code*. While these funds are subject to differing guidelines and requirements, they both serve the mission of planting and maintaining trees along the public rights-of-way and on public lands within the City, to mitigate for the loss or destruction of protected trees and to replace the tree canopy in the City that has been lost through the process of land development.

The Tree Commission created the Level 2 Program, by Ordinance 2019-89-E, to provide individual citizens, organizations, City departments, and/or Council Members with the opportunity to suggest locations for tree planting projects on public property within Duval County that proposes to use funds from the City of Jacksonville Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund. During the Tree Commission's meeting on February 18, 2026, the body voted unanimously to recommend appropriating Tree Protection and Related Expenses Trust Fund (Ordinance) monies for the continuation and expansion of the Level 2 Tree Planting Program.

Policy Impact Area: Level 2 Tree Planting Program, Tree Commission

Fiscal Impact: This bill appropriates \$4,500,000 to the Level 2 Tree Planting Program.

Analyst: Russell