

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

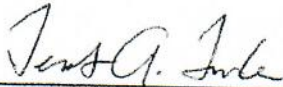
FOR: Council Meeting of November 16, 2021

FROM: Council Member Teresa Turk

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT MAYOR JORDAN DIRECT THE CITY STAFF OR CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO DRAFT A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, ECOSYSTEMS, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHAPTER IN AN EXISTING OR FUTURE CITY PLAN THAT WILL INFORM FUTURE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIONS THAT IMPACT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOSYSTEM ISSUES, TO ASSESS AND EXPAND THE FOOTPRINT OF LANDS OF HIGH ECOLOGICAL VALUE, TO PROVIDE FUNDING IF NEEDED TO DRAFT THE PLAN, AND TO CREATE A PERMANENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF LANDS WITH HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL OR ECOLOGICAL VALUE.

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



Council Member Teresa Turk

10/28/21

Date



City Attorney Kit Williams

Approved as to form

10/29/21

Date



CITY COUNCIL

October 29, 2021

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council Members

FROM: Teresa Turk, City Council Member, Ward 4 Position 1

RE: Natural Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Resiliency Resolution

Dear Mayor Jordan and City Council Members:

The City Council adopted the Energy Action Plan (EAP) in 2018 focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The EAP was a significant step forward in setting goals to reduce waste, increase recycling, reduce housing and transportation costs, increase clean energy, and reduce vehicle miles traveled among other goals. While the EAP is a monumental leap in becoming a greener and healthier city, other aspects such as identifying the city's green assets (e.g., parks, enduring green network, streams, other green spaces), tracking and setting goals for residential, commercial and government water usage, and other ecosystem services that create increase climate resiliency were absent. These ecosystem services greatly contribute to our city's reduction of GHG by sequestering carbon and improving water quality.

A neighborhood with greater tree canopy coverage and green infrastructure is better suited to adapt to hotter temperatures and intense rainstorms. Reducing vulnerabilities by minimizing exposure, decreasing sensitivity, and increasing adaptive capacity will contribute to a more resilient and thriving Fayetteville. Ultimately, resilient cities are prepared for extreme weather events; resiliency reduces impacts to the community and requires less recovery time from shocks and stressors.

As a city, we need to continue to plan for a hotter, increased intensity of weather patterns, and a more unpredictable landscape that affords our residents a more climate resilient community. This resolution seeks to either add to the EAP or create a separate chapter/plan that evaluates the city's current parks, streams/creeks and other green assets, creates tracking tools for key parameters that create a healthy resilient city, and creates goals for the city to aspire to achieving.

The city of Kirkland, WA, a suburb of Seattle, has developed a comprehensive Sustainability Master Plan that includes the natural resources, ecosystem and climate resiliency framework as well as chapters that are similar to the city's EAP. [City of Kirkland Sustainability Master Plan - Dec 2020 \(kirklandwa.gov\)](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10000/City-of-Kirkland-Sustainability-Master-Plan-2020). Kirkland's master plan could be used as a template for a future integrated Sustainability Master Plan for Fayetteville.

The resolution would:

-Provide direction and funding up to \$100,000 if needed to augment city staff's efforts to draft a natural environment, ecosystem and climate resiliency chapter/plan that may compliment the EAP or stand independent.

-Provide minimum annual funding of \$100,000 in a new capital improvement fund to purchase high ecologically valued land, fund conservation easements, or any other asset that contributes to climate resiliency. This fund would also allow the city to set aside monies to purchase or contribute to purchasing lands when unexpectedly available, instead of finding funds in a short period of time from the current city budget or reserves. Citizens or organizations could also make donations to the fund to assist the city in future acquisitions or the protection of important woodlands or waterways.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT MAYOR JORDAN DIRECT THE CITY STAFF OR CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO DRAFT A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, ECOSYSTEMS, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHAPTER IN AN EXISTING OR FUTURE CITY PLAN THAT WILL INFORM FUTURE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIONS THAT IMPACT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOSYSTEM ISSUES, TO ASSESS AND EXPAND THE FOOTPRINT OF LANDS OF HIGH ECOLOGICAL VALUE, TO PROVIDE FUNDING IF NEEDED TO DRAFT THE PLAN, AND TO CREATE A PERMANENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF LANDS WITH HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL OR ECOLOGICAL VALUE

WHEREAS, climate change is rapidly accelerating and altering historically predictable rainfall and temperatures in our environment; and

WHEREAS, cities, counties and countries must begin the process of planning and responding to climate change by implementing new policies and tracking key environmental parameters; and

WHEREAS, a network of preserved green spaces will help provide climate resilience by buffering climate change impacts such as flooding from more intense rainfall events and heat stress and associated heat island impacts from severe heat waves and droughts; and

WHEREAS, a network of these future and preserved properties would help to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, protect sensitive areas prone to flooding, improve water quality, mitigate stream bank erosion and restore and expand natural habitats; and

WHEREAS, Fayetteville's City Plan 2040 endorses the creation and preservation of an Enduring Green Network and natural resources or green spaces for our city, to identify and preserve high-value open spaces and create a network of greenspaces and greenways throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, for many years, the City of Fayetteville with a variety of partners has continued to make significant progress in protecting important preserved woodlands and waterways (e.g.: (1) Mount Sequoyah Woods; (2) Brooks-Hummel Nature Preserve; (3) Kessler Mountain Regional Park; (4) Centennial Park on Millsap Mountain; (5) Fay Jones Woodland; and (6) a portion of Markham Hill; (7) Underwood Park; (8) Clabber Creek; (9) West Fork of the White River; and prairie, wetlands and other natural areas (e.g. : (1) Wilson Springs, (2) Woolsey Wet Prairie, (3) World Peace Prairie, (4) Westside Prairie and (5) the Wetlands at Deadhorse Mountain; and

WHEREAS, more study is needed in order to update the inventory of assets in areas of the city with identifiable ecological, environmental, and agricultural values that would provide human and biological greenway linkages between major open space anchors including; significant forests, riparian corridors, parks, trails, and land identified as having high ecological value; and

WHEREAS, the city of Fayetteville is a member of the NWA Regional Planning Commission and has developed an NWA Open Space Plan for the region that can be used to inform Fayetteville's plan development process; and

WHEREAS, a natural environment, ecosystems, and climate resilience chapter in an existing or future plan can help coordinate future efforts to protect other urban forests and preserve undeveloped areas which could serve as wildlife corridors and pedestrian paths between preserved woodlands, prairies, streams, historical and cultural resources, wetlands, sensitive habitats, and other natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the city of Kirkland, WA and numerous peer cities have created similar plans that can serve as models for developing a chapter with quantifiable goals, implementation actions, and assessment and tracking tools; and

WHEREAS, a sustainability decision making matrix could be used to better guide the city of Fayetteville in development, growth, and conservation in natural resource areas and greenspaces and can be used to identify criteria to assess existing public lands and associated ecosystems and determine appropriate land preservation policies and best management practices; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests that Mayor Jordan direct appropriate staff or contract for services to draft a natural environment, ecosystems, and climate resilience chapter for an existing or future integrated sustainability plan that will inform future policies, programs and actions that impact environmental issues, to assess and expand the footprint of lands of high ecological value that will create the conditions for a resilient, equitable, and thriving economy that also provides environmental benefits, such as flood mitigation, habitat conservation, and carbon sequestration.

Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests that Mayor Jordan allocate \$100,000 to help fund and augment, if needed, the drafting of a natural environment, ecosystem and climate resilience chapter for an existing or future integrated sustainability plan.

Section 3: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests that Mayor Jordan request that a permanent capital improvement project budget line be created and a minimum annual amount of \$100,000 be allocated to purchase land, fund conservation easements or for other expenditures that would be used to fulfill the mission of the city of Fayetteville's natural environment, ecosystems, and climate resilience chapter in an existing or new plan.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 16th day of November, 2021.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: _____
LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor

By: _____
KARA PAXTON, City Clerk/Treasurer