

CITY OF QUINCY

# Community Compact: Tree Planting

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Summary of Use of Funds for Tree Planting

**By: Eric Mason**

Presented to Sean R. Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services

Dear Mr. Cronin,

Since the introduction of the funding for tree planting, through the Community Compact program, the City of Quincy have instituted a holistic approach to tree management. This includes conducting a flyover and GIS mapping of trees throughout the City, establishing the position of Tree Warden in the City's ordinances, the procurement of tree monitoring software, and the planting of trees.

Through the funds received through the Community Compact, the City has increased canopy coverage throughout the City; with particular attention to street that have been affected by recent developments. By addressing streets that recently had utility work performed on them, the City is leveraging the State's funding to help both remediate housing development stress on neighborhoods and increase the canopy coverage over a larger number of residents. This canopy coverage has had an impact of the reduction of heat islands through Quincy.

The City is also looking forward in addressing tree needs and health. The City is looking to expand its annual appropriation towards tree plantings by leveraging hotel-motel tax revenue. Currently, the City appropriates \$100,000 in its annual budget for tree plantings. Though, as mentioned before, the City is addressing the issue of tree maintenance on a holistic approach. For example, the City appropriated \$244,000 in December of 2018 for hazardous tree removal. The City's goal is to create a better environment for trees, which means addressing dangerous and diseased tree before they can pose a threat to residents and healthy trees.

The City also benefited from the Quincy Housing Authority receiving a \$2 million grant which allowed for the planting of 600 trees in a low-income area of the City. These State funds dramatically accelerated tree planting efforts in the City.

Furthermore, the endeavors brought through by the funds received through the Community Compact, have synced up with the City's approach to encouraging green infrastructure development as a way to address climate change. The City, through a grant received from the State's Coastal Zone Management team, has allowed updating of our hazard mitigation plan. In conjunction with our hazard mitigation plan, that City funded \$2.4 million into developing and improving the health of a roughly 81 acre tidal marsh area. The City hopes to impellent a major overhaul of the area through the recommendations made through this phase 1 activity.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you and your department for the ongoing support and assistance in improving the well-being of Quincy and its residents. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please to do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best Regards,



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