

Resolution
Buchanan Tree Friends
Buchanan, Michigan

**Resolution urging the City of Buchanan to develop a Tree Plan that will ensure the
stewardship of the city's tree canopy**

WHEREAS the City of Buchanan is regularly recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA" requiring it to annually meet certain standards, one of which is "maintaining a tree board or department"; and

WHEREAS, to meet that one standard, the Buchanan Tree Friends committee, a fully volunteer body, was formed in 2017 to be the City's tree board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to advocating for the benefit of trees, facilitating a Tribute Tree program, conducting annual tree plantings, and promoting ongoing maintenance of trees, the Buchanan Tree Friends solicits and receives funds for tree related projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Tree Friends, in their fundraising role, solicited and received a matching grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to undertake an inventory of the City's trees; and

WHEREAS the city matched that grant with a \$4,195 investment of tax dollars; and

WHEREAS the inventory was conducted in the Spring of 2022 revealing the need for extensive and sustained work to improve the City's tree canopy; and

WHEREAS that work includes aggressive and diversified tree planting, comprehensive maintenance of existing trees, and removal of trees, 43 of which pose "High Risk" and 188 which pose "Moderate Risk"; and

WHEREAS the effort necessary to address the recommendations of the inventory will far exceed the ability of the Buchanan Tree Friends to adequately address on its own; and

WHEREAS the City Department of Public Works performs maintenance and tree removal as necessary but not guided by a plan that is informed by the inventory and is integrated with its other responsibilities; and

WHEREAS there is an opportunity for the City to respond systematically to the needs addressed by the inventory; and

WHEREAS the benefit of the City's investment will not be realized if the inventory is not maintained and expanded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Buchanan Tree Friends urges the Buchanan City Commission to request the City Manager to oversee, without delay, the development of a multi-year tree plan that reflects the actual ability of the City to address the needs of the City's tree canopy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buchanan Tree Friends urges the Buchanan City Commission to commit to resourcing that plan through the City's budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buchanan Tree Friends urges the City Manager to call a meeting of Department of Public Works, the Plan Commission, and the Buchanan Tree Friends to begin the effort of creating this plan and budget to implement the plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of the Tree Friends of the City of Buchanan, State of Michigan at its regularly scheduled meeting held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Martin", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Martin, Chair
Buchanan Tree Friends