

R42-2011
September 14, 2011

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002-4239

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO CONDUCT AN URBAN FOREST CANOPY ANALYSIS WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION.

WHEREAS, State and local governments and private citizens have a vested interest and investment in the sound management and protection of forests, urban forests and other green infrastructure such as community parks, recreation areas, riparian buffers; and

WHEREAS, the term "green infrastructure" refers to an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches, and forests of conservation value; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia recognize COG's previous work in both Anacostia forestry management and protection and regional forest cover mapping, and that this funding will complement COG's efforts to enhance knowledge of forested lands within the metropolitan region in order to gain a better understanding of how forest cover is affecting regional water quality, air quality and its importance for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that regional forests and urban forest canopy cover are an integral part of a greater national and international effort to systematically plan for and manage park, recreation, forest, agricultural and other green infrastructure lands; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia have recognized that all of the region's forests and tree canopy play a vital role in the ecological health of the region, and have a vested interest in maintaining a healthy urban environment; and

WHEREAS, the Council, the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia have demonstrated a commitment to work in a collaborative partnership on forestry and urban forestry issues through a holistic green infrastructure approach in the Metropolitan Washington Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT;

The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia to conduct a two-year study of urban tree canopy in the District of Columbia, Anacostia Watershed in Maryland, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. This cooperative agreement provides COG with \$165,000 of U.S. Forest Service Funds for a two-year tree canopy analysis project. A \$15,000 local match required. The COG match will be provided through FY 12 and FY13 Urban Nonpoint Source program funds. The project duration is two years.