

RESOLUTION NO. 137

ESTABLISHING A TREE PRESERVATION POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANY COUNTY OWNED PARCELS

Introduced: 04/11/22

By Messrs. Reinhardt, Perlee, Mss. Lekakis, Plotsky, Mr. Grimm, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Cleary and Peter:

WHEREAS, Trees play an essential role in the survival of our planet by sequestering carbon in the atmosphere and at the same time also serve a variety of other beneficial functions, including – among many others – mitigating temperature fluctuation, preventing soil erosion, and providing buffer areas between developed parcels and undisturbed areas, and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Policy to require a tree inventory where there is a proposal to cut and/or remove one half acre or more of non-invasive trees greater than four inches in diameter on any parcel owned by Albany County, and to require replacement of such trees by means of either planting a tree sapling or placing replacement funds into an account created for the purpose of furthering permanent carbon sequestration within the County, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that it shall be the Policy of Albany County that:

Where there is a proposal to cut and/or remove more than one-half of an acre of non-invasive trees of four inches or greater in diameter on any Albany County owned parcel as part of a single project, cutting and/or removal of such trees is prohibited until the following conditions have been met:

(a) the County shall prepare or cause to be prepared an inventory of trees to be cut and/or removed which indicates the species and diameter of all non-invasive trees (as invasive trees are designated by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) four inches or greater in diameter; and

(b) the County Executive shall cause the planting of a non-invasive tree sapling as a replacement on a parcel owned by Albany County, or alternatively, shall place an amount equal to two times the trees' replacement value into an account created and designated for the purpose of furthering permanent carbon sequestration within the County, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this County policy as soon as possible, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives Committee – 4/11/22

Favorable Recommendation Conservation, Sustainability, and Green Initiatives Committee – 4/26/22

Adopted by unanimous vote – 5/9/22