

ORDINANCE NO. 2163

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110 (VEGETATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS TO ADD ARTICLE IV (TREE PRESERVATION)

WHEREAS, the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois (the "Village") is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, over the past 12 years, the Mayor and Board of Trustees have adopted several new elements to the Village's Comprehensive Plan, that stress the importance of tree preservation, including the Growing Green: Park Forest Sustainability Plan (2012), and the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (2019); and

WHEREAS, the Morton Arboretum has granted the Village funds to prepare a tree inventory and Urban Forest Management Plan to outline strategies for tree planting, selection, care, and preservation for the Village's urban forest under recognized national standards; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this proposed section of the Code of Ordinances is to recognize the services and function that trees provide as a collective asset to the entire community and to state the goals of the Village of Park Forest with respect to the protection, preservation, care, and planting of trees on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes that trees are an integral part of the infrastructure of the Village as they absorb pollution from the air; absorb and sequester carbon dioxide; absorb and filter pollution from storm water run-off; produce oxygen; reduce flooding; stabilize soils and reduce erosion; cool the surrounding area helping to reduce impacts due to heat islands; reduce energy consumption by shielding structures from harsh winds and sun; provide a buffer and screen against noise, light, and pollution; improve property values; improve commercial district buyer traffic and purchasing; provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife; protect and enhance quality of life; areas with trees have lower crime rates; and areas with trees have higher levels of community interaction; and

WHEREAS, the Village further recognizes that larger trees provide larger benefits, and when a large tree is removed and replaced with a smaller tree the benefits and services are reduced; and

WHEREAS, the Village finally recognizes that some trees may have a condition that constitutes an unacceptable risk, danger or nuisance to the public or property within the Village or may be dangerous to the health of other trees and vegetation in the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees find it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Village to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Village to create provisions for the protection of public trees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, in the exercise of the Village's home rule powers, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals Incorporated. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. Authorization. The Mayor is authorized and directed to execute the Ordinance, and the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest to the Ordinance, in substantially the form presented as determined by the Mayor.

Section 3. Code of Ordinances – Chapter 110 (Vegetation), Article IV (Tree Preservation). Chapter 110 (Vegetation) is hereby amended by adding Article IV (Tree Preservation) included in the attached Exhibit A.

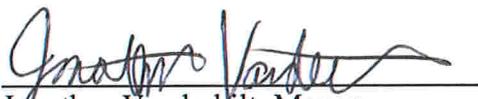
Section 4. Severability and Repeal of Inconsistent Ordinances. If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of any provision of this Ordinance, is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such occurrence shall not affect other provisions of this Ordinance, or their application, that can be given effect without the unconstitutional or invalid provision or its application. Each unconstitutional or invalid provision, or application of such provision, is severable, unless otherwise provided by this Ordinance. All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval, as provided by law due to the urgent nature of this matter

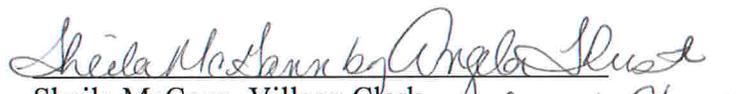
Adopted this 16th day of August, 2021.

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: 1

APPROVED:


Jonathan Vanderbilt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheila McGann, Village Clerk

Deputy Clerk