

**LAURA MILLER
MAYOR**



CITY OF DALLAS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Contact: Frank J. Libro
(214) 670-4054**

DALLAS INSTITUTES URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dallas, TX – On December 14th, 2005, the Dallas City Council passed a resolution effectively establishing an URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE as an integral part of city government.

The committee will serve in an advisory capacity on matters of environmental stewardship, specifically concerning the care and planting of trees and the urban forest by advocating sound arboricultural and urban forest management practices. The group offers professional pro bono leadership on all matters of public policy regarding the management of trees citywide and works to educate the public regarding the numerous environmental, recreational, social, and aesthetic benefits of a healthy urban forest.

Cities across the nation such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Phoenix, Boston and Washington D.C. have acknowledged that trees are a vital and significant component of the urban infrastructure. A healthy, thriving urban forest is critical in attaining a stable ecological balance, improving the quality of life, and enhancing the environmental processes of air purification, oxygen regeneration, and ground water recharge. The urban forest also greatly contributes to the reduction of storm water runoff, the abatement of heat island effects and other positive energy conservation efforts.

“The City Council took a huge step forward for Dallas by creating the Urban Forest Advisory Committee five months ago. Trees are a tremendous asset for a city for beauty, for the environment, and for economic development. With Dallas boasting the largest urban hardwood forest of any big city – 7,000 acres in the Great Trinity Forest – the creation of this committee is also timely,” says Dallas Mayor Laura Miler.

(MORE**)**

URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Honorary Committee Members:

- Councilmember Leo V. Chaney, Jr., Chairperson for the Quality of Life Committee
- Councilmember Pauline Medrano, Vice Chairperson for the Trinity River Committee
- Councilmember Ed Oakley, Chairperson for the Trinity River Committee

City Staff Liaisons:

- Mike Sultan, Chief Arborist for Dallas, Degreed Forester, ISA Certified Arborist.
- Michael Hellmann, Senior Park Planner, Degreed Forester
- Frank Libro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor.

Advisor Members:

- Michael Hal Anderson, Chairperson for the Downtown Improvement District Maintenance Committee, General Council for Chavez Properties
- Chip Clint, Degreed Horticulturist, President of Clint Horticulture
- Matt Grubisich, Degreed Forester, Regional Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service
- Wesley K. Harder, Residential Designer and Land Planner, The Harder Organization -- Residential Design & Planning
- Steve Houser, DUFAC Committee Chairperson, ISA Certified Arborist, Consulting Arborist, President of Arboriological Services Inc., The Tree Care Experts, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist
- Kassandra G. McLaughlin, Commercial Real Estate Attorney for Hosford & Creasey
- Gary Gene Olp, AIA, LEED AP, President of GGO Architects Corp.
- Luis M. Salcedo, P.E., R.P.L.S., President of Salcedo Group, Inc.
- Bill Seaman, Degreed Horticulturist, Certified Arborist, Landscape Designer
- Norman Strang, Degreed Forester, Licensed Irrigator, Certified Grounds Manager, Director of Landscape Services for Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas
- Keith Thomas, Degreed Architectural Engineer, Project Manager for The Linback Group
- Jeff Quinters, Certified Arborist, Degreed Forester, Regional Forester for TXU Electric Delivery, Vegetation Management Division

Please contact Frank Libro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, at 214-670-4054 for more details.

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