

I am pleased to announce that the City Council will vote this week on the implementation of a city-wide street tree planting program that is designed to revitalize the City's tree canopy. The first phase of this program will launch above the Edward's Aquifer Recharge Zone and Contributing Zones, where 100 large trees will be planted. This program also includes plans to plant trees in each Council District in San Antonio.

This tree planting effort will strategically plant trees along major streets throughout the city where they will provide the greatest benefit for air quality. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a public/private partnership in order to create a large-scale tree planting initiative. Other major cities in the country are moving forward to address their severely diminishing tree canopies. The City of San Antonio should aggressively focus on the reforestation of our city.

The City is currently updating the tree canopy survey to be released in August, 2008. This effort is designed to address these findings and to protect the diminishing tree canopy over the very sensitive Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.

If you would like to send letters of support on this issue, please email my Council Aide Katie Nisbet at katie.nisbet@sanantonio.gov or mail letters to 100 Military Plaza San Antonio, TX 78205. I am very grateful for your support on this important city-wide initiative.

Sincerely,

Diane G. Cibrian
City Councilwoman
District 8