



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND PARKWAYS

LATOYA CANTRELL
MAYOR

MICHAEL E. KARAM
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This document represents a Memorandum of Understanding between **Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)** and the **City of New Orleans (“City”)** for the **preparation and acceptance of an Urban Tree Canopy Resource Assessment/Inventory of the City of New Orleans (“Assessment”), and for a comprehensive reforestation plan for the re-establishment of New Orleans’ tree canopy (“Reforestation Plan”)**.

The City of New Orleans and Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (“SOUL”), a New Orleans-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to restoring the urban canopy of New Orleans, agree on the critical importance of urban tree coverage for the sake of resilience, equity, and neighborhood character and livability. They are jointly committed to a goal of achieving a 50% tree canopy coverage for New Orleans by 2030 (“50 by 30”).

SOUL is prepared to fund and conduct the Assessment with Quantum Spatial as called for in The City of New Orleans’ Master Plan for a 21st Century, as well as the Reforestation Plan. The goal of the Reforestation Plan is to collaborate with the relevant municipal departments, organizations and communities to create a shared roadmap to 50% tree canopy coverage.

To facilitate the collaborative goals above:

- SOUL shall commit to funding up to \$10,500 of the total cost for the Urban Tree Canopy Resource Assessment/Inventory (Resource Assessment) prepared by and paid directly to Quantum Spatial, and up to \$140,000 for the preparation of a Reforestation Plan for the re-establishment of New Orleans’ forest canopy. The City will incur no cost for these services.
- SOUL may request assistance from the City’s Department of GIS, Department of Parks and Parkways, and City Planning Department to manage the progress of the Assessment, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- SOUL and the City’s department of GIS will share ownership of any Assessment data and deliverables. Said data and deliverables shall be delivered to the City’s Department of GIS and SOUL by Quantum Spatial.
- The City’s GIS department and the Department of City Planning have reviewed the parameters and data structure of the Assessment and have confirmed its utility for informing the City’s decision-making process regarding the preparation of a Reforestation Plan.
- The City will review the recommendations of the Reforestation Plan after completion and will review how the recommendations may be used in its overall City reforestation strategy.

- Any additions or modifications to the commitments described in this MOU herein shall be mutually agreed upon, in writing, by both the City and SOUL.
- The City shall use best efforts to participate in community meetings and planning sessions subject to the availability of City staff and the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Susannah Burley, Executive Director **Date**
Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)

LaToya Cantrell, Mayor **Date**
City of New Orleans