

RESOLUTION

By Gordon, Cano, and Reich

Establishing Green Zones in the City of Minneapolis.

Whereas, low-income communities, First Nations people, and people of color in Minneapolis experience significant economic and health disparities as well as face disproportionate impacts of pollution, urban blight, and the adverse effects of climate change; and

Whereas, on June 28, 2013, the City Council adopted the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, which identified developing a Green Zones initiative as a cross-cutting strategy under the Buildings and Energy chapter; and

Whereas, cities across the U.S. are developing Green Zones efforts that prioritize policies, resources, and tailor regulatory tools to specific areas experiencing high levels of cumulative pollution and negative health impacts to advance environmental justice and community revitalization, and that are each unique and crafted based on community-identified concerns and solutions; and

Whereas, on Feb. 12, 2016, the City Council adopted Resolution 2016R-040 entitled “Promoting racial equity and sustainable community revitalization through the development of a Green Zones Policy and creating the Green Zones Policy Task Force;” and

Whereas, following adoption of the resolution, the City established a Green Zones Workgroup that met from April 2016 through March 2017 to develop the criteria and eligibility requirements for Green Zone designation; with goals, progress metrics, and environmentally conscious strategies that promote health and economic development in a Green Zone;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council is designating Green Zones in the City of Minneapolis to achieve racial equity, prevent gentrification, support economic development, and strengthen the health of communities that face the cumulative impacts of environmental pollution as well as social, political, and economic vulnerability.

Be It Further Resolved that the work of Greens Zones shall focus on the needs of those community members who are over-burdened and live in low-wealth areas, as well as people of color, Indigenous people, youth, people with disabilities, low-income residents, and elders.

Be It Further Resolved that Green Zone efforts will include community-led planning, prioritization of homegrown development, and community ownership of the Green Zone initiatives that are innovative, creative, courageous, flexible, and adaptive.

Be It Further Resolved that the goals of the Green Zones are to:

1. Clean up soil and water contamination and redevelop brownfields.

2. Improve air quality, livability, and pollinator habitat through vegetation, clean energy, and energy efficiency.
3. Improve air and environmental quality in business and transport.
4. Increase “green” jobs and career opportunities.
5. Increase the availability of affordable and environmentally high quality housing.
6. Increase access to healthy affordable food by supporting local systems of growing, production, and distribution.
7. Advance environmental awareness and education in the community and schools.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis designates two Green Zones: a Southern Green Zone bounded by 15th Ave S/I-35 (north boundary) to 4th St S/Riverside Ave/Franklin Ave/Hiawatha Ave (east boundary) to Lake St (south boundary) to I-35W (west boundary), and a Northern Green Zone bounded by Girard Ave (west boundary) to Dowling Ave (north boundary) to Grand Ave NE (east boundary) to Plymouth/I-94/Hwy 55 (south boundary), including the “Green Connectors” identified in the RiverFirst Plan.

Be It Further Resolved that the Council designates, within those zones, two pilot areas: one a Southern Pilot that includes Ventura Village, Little Earth, and East Phillips. The other a Northern Pilot that includes McKinley, Hawthorne, and a portion of Northeast Minneapolis from the Mississippi River to Grand Ave (east boundary) between Plymouth Ave (south boundary) and Dowling Ave (north boundary).

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council directs the City Coordinator’s Offices of Sustainability and Equity and Inclusion to establish a Southern Green Zone pilot-specific Task Force to be selected in accordance with the City’s Open Appointments process to work with staff and area stakeholders to develop a Southern Green Zone Work Plan. The Work Plan shall be presented to Council for approval within six months of establishing the Task Force and shall include a community outreach plan, identification of targeted strategies, expected outcomes, evaluation of programs that fit within the Southern Green Zone’s geography, and identification of resources needed for implementation.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council directs the City Coordinator’s Office, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, and the Health Department to convene a Northern Green Zone pilot-specific work group to develop a Northern Green Zone Work Plan for the selected area. The Northern Green Zone shall use as a guiding framework the RiverFirst Plan that includes the “Green Connectors” the plan identifies as connecting North and Northeast Minneapolis and most particularly the RiverFirst Plan’s designated “Environmental Education Corridor”and coordinate existing activities related to environmental improvements in the selected area.

The Work Plan shall be presented to Council for approval within six months of establishing the work group and shall include a community outreach plan, identification of targeted strategies and expected outcomes, evaluation of programs that fit within the designated Northern Green Zone’s geography, and identification of resources needed for implementation.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Coordinator will work with the Health, Community Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Neighborhood and Community Relations, and Regulatory Services departments, and others as needed, to evaluate departmental programs that can help and support the designated Green Zone goals, as well as identify and recommend new or modified initiatives that can advance Green Zone goals.

Be It Further Resolved that all departments are directed to incorporate the goals and strategies of the designated Greens Zones into their business plans and results measures.