

March 26, 2026

Council President Crow-Iverson and Members of Council
Office of the City Council
107 N Nevada Ave. #300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Madame President,

The North End Woodlands, Inc. (NEW) would like to express our enthusiastic support for the City Forestry Division's proposal for necessary updates to city code that:

- clarify duties and responsibilities of property owners and City Forestry,
- add clarity about enforcement capabilities for staff foresters,
- align the City Forestry Division's standards with those of other municipal departments for the first time since 1968,
- do not impact or shift maintenance responsibility for existing trees planted before 2020.

We celebrate and recognize the amazing job City Forestry does in the face of so many challenges. They accomplish so much given their huge responsibility of caring for such a large and diverse city-owned urban forest of over 150,000 trees spanning so much geography. Amazingly, the 17 forestry team members care for 10,000 trees per maintenance employee. That staffing ratio is well below industry averages and actual staffing in comparable Front-Range cities. We also celebrate the amazing foresters who have helped our neighborhood replace hundreds of historic trees in the Old North End medians that represented William J Palmer's original vision for the city.

Updating the forestry code is necessary for them to assure the safety and well-being of our community while assuring our trees thrive. Supporting Forestry with these code updates has extraordinary value for our city. We are proud of the beauty and livability of Colorado Springs—and trees are of value to most people. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, 95% of people see value in trees and 73% of people want more trees in their neighborhoods. Trees contribute to the cooling of our urban areas, to the health and well-being of people, and add to the durability of our roadways. Our foresters represent the continuation of William J. Palmer's vision of Colorado Springs as being a "garden city."

The City Forestry Division has our deep admiration and support for these actions they are requesting from the City Council.

The Board of the North End Woodlands, Inc.

Melody Griffin, President
Michael Anderson, Treasurer
Kathy Anderson, Secretary

