

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, an “invasive species” is defined as a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112); and

WHEREAS, invasive and/or undesirable aquatic, riparian and terrestrial species influence the productivity, value, and management of a broad range of land and water resources in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, these undesirable species have significant negative economic, social and ecological impacts which can include, but are not limited to:

- a. Reduction of native biodiversity resulting in reduced ecosystem stability, resilience, and carrying capacity;
- b. Interference with ecosystem functions by changing processes like fire, nutrient flow, and flooding;
- c. Degradation of aquatic systems including obstruction of water flow.
- d. Reduction of the value of streams, lakes and reservoirs, for recreation, wildlife habitat and public water supply;
- e. Alteration of the regional distinction of flora and fauna;
- f. Interference with the aesthetics and recreational value of natural areas, parks, and other areas;
- g. Adverse impacts on human health;

- h. Decreased real estate property value and increased costs of property development; and
- i. Loss of native seed bank needed for regeneration.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin currently spends tax dollars and the citizens of Austin contribute hundreds of volunteer hours on removal of invasive plant species; and

WHEREAS, the problems associated with invasive plant species are expected to be exacerbated by global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is prohibited by state law from regulating the distribution or sale of invasive species other than those listed on state or federal lists of noxious or invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the economic and environmental damage from invasive species will continue to rise in Austin without a well-organized and adequately funded effort to implement preventive programs; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council directs the City Manager to:

1. Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan for the control and/or eradication of undesirable aquatic and terrestrial species.
2. Estimate the annual costs to the City of Austin of invasive species removal/control which should include volunteer efforts on public lands.
3. Consider education and public awareness as a major component of the plan including Citizen Science programs that will

document, map and monitor invasive species and native flora and fauna.

4. Consider creating an Interdepartmental Invasive Species Management Working Group to facilitate plan development and to incorporate into the plan assessment and inventory of invasives; prevention, early detection and rapid response; and control, management, and restoration techniques.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report to Council on or before June 5, 2010 with an estimate of staff time and related costs to complete an Invasive Species Management Plan, and with an estimated feasible date to complete work on a draft plan for submission to Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council strongly encourages city departments, universities, community groups, and the private sector to collaborate and form partnerships to prevent new introductions of invasive species; for the enhancement, development and implementation of Integrated Pest Management programs; and to work together to develop sustainable funding and find creative new approaches for protecting and restoring the city's natural resources.

ADOPTED: _____, 2010 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk