

RESOLUTION NUMBER 85
Biophilic Cities Network

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen wishes to declare its support of the Biophilic Cities Network and commits to promoting, learning about, and sharing biophilic programs and projects with other participating municipalities, to supporting urban biodiversity, and to creating opportunities for all City residents to connect with nature;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

this Resolution may be cited as the “Biophilic Resolution of 2016” and that the Board of Aldermen finds that:

1. Evidence demonstrating that people are happiest, emotionally and physically healthiest, and most productive, when working and living in close proximity to nature; and
2. Research shows that exposure to nature can reduce stress, aid recovery from illness, enhance cognitive skills, improve academic performance, and aid in moderating the effects of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, autism, and other child illnesses;
3. The City of St. Louis has a rich and unique natural heritage, including a diversity of ecosystems that provide benefits to City residents and the animal species we share it with;
4. Greening neighborhoods has been shown to reduce crime, strengthen community collections, and increase walkability;
5. In an increasingly urbanized world, cities provide vital natural habitat to animal species that may otherwise perish;
6. In an increasingly urbanized world, cities provide vital natural habitat to animal species that may otherwise perish;

7. Leading universities, urban thinkers, citizens, corporations, and innovative governments around the world are developing nature-based approaches to design, urban planning, and governance that support human and environmental health;
8. The Biophilic Cities Network includes a loose configuration of cities from all over the world whose leaders strive to recognize the important connection between humans and the natural world. Participating municipalities include Birmingham, Brisbane, Milwaukee, New York City, Perth, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Oslo, San Francisco, Singapore, Vitoria-Gasteiz, and Wellington;
9. A biophilic city is a city of abundant nature, where residents, young and old, have rich daily contact with the natural environment no matter where they reside; where larger natural areas and deeper natural experiences are an easy walk, bike, or transit ride away; and where the urban environment allows for and fosters connections with diverse flora and fauna. In biophilic cities, residents recognize, respect, are curious about, and actively care for the nature around them, and they spend extensive time outside learning about, enjoying, and participating in the natural world;
10. In biophilic cities, leaders and elected officials give nature and natural capital a central place in their decision making, and evaluate their planning and development decisions by the extent to which nature is restored and protected, and connections with the natural environment enhanced. Leaders and residents of biophilic cities recognize that proximity to nature makes for more desirable communities and provides numerous benefits to all;
11. A biophilic city recognizes the important role cities play in protecting and increasing biodiversity in a world where biodiversity is greatly threatened;

12. A commitment to becoming a biophilic city with abundant and accessible nature will support the City’s goals for a sustainable City of St. Louis, environmental literacy plans, and an enhanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum in schools; and
13. By joining the Biophilic Cities Network, the City will demonstrate international leadership on the environment and local commitment to the well-being and health of its residents.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK, DESIRES AND DIRECTS THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS TO JOIN THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK, AND COMMITS TO:

Work to protect and restore nature; to create opportunities for new connections to the natural world wherever possible;

Share information and insights about biophilic tools, techniques, programs and projects successfully applied in the City; and

Assist other cities in becoming more biophilic through technical expertise and political and professional support for efforts to protect and expand urban nature.

Introduced on the 8th day of July, 2016, by:

Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Adopted the _____ day of _____, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O’Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen