



STAFF REPORT
The City of Oklahoma City
Planning Commission Study Session
August 22, 2024

Item No. III. [!{{{item.number}}}!].

Presentation and discussion regarding Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign and Associated Reports, Data, and Deliverables with connections to the development codes considerations. All Wards.

I. BACKGROUND

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the interagency National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS), selected Oklahoma City as one of eighteen (18) communities in fourteen (14) states across the country, and one international city, to participate in the 2023 NIHHIS-CAPA Urban Heat Island (UHI) mapping campaigns program.

The Office of Sustainability formed a steering committee of community-based organizations and defined a 350-square-mile study area – the same area of the city included in the 2019 Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Tree Canopy Assessment. On August 12, 2023, volunteer “community scientists” drove pre-determined routes in the morning, afternoon, and evening with heat sensors and air quality sensors attached to their personal vehicles and collected nearly 250,000 individual data points.

The data collected illustrates the distribution of heat across Oklahoma City and informed reports that provide analysis and recommendations that can be used in municipal sustainability plans, policy considerations, public health practices, and urban forestry management. These reports, data, and other deliverables can be found at okc.gov/extremeheat.

Funding Sources:

- A. \$19,500: NOAA Grant Award
- B. \$29,450 – Oklahoma City Community Foundation
- C. \$16,250 – Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
- D. \$10,000 – Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division
- E. \$7,500 – Office of Sustainability General Fund

II. NEXT STEPS

In addition to the resources noted above that can help residents, businesses, and government mitigate and adapt to the effects of extreme heat, the recommendations can be used to inform future changes to development codes. These changes could include, but are not limited to policies that require or provide for:

- Preserving trees;
- Enhancing landscaping and vegetation requirements;
- Allowing non-vegetated shade structures;
- Incentivizing or requiring a percentage of shade for playgrounds; and
- Reducing or removing minimum parking standards.

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III. RECOMMENDATION

Discussion item.