

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LIZ BREADON, BRIAN WORRELL, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF BOSTON’S COMMITMENT TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- WHEREAS,* Green infrastructure is a highly-effective climate adaptation strategy involving the design of infrastructural systems that utilize natural materials to reduce flood risk, mitigate extreme heat, improve air, soil, and water quality, and strengthen overall neighborhood resilience; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Due to the global impacts of climate change, Boston faces a climate crisis; extreme heat, heavy rainfall, and coastal flooding are among the effects of climate change in Boston, all of which disproportionately impact the City’s marginalized communities; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* In response to this crisis, the Wu Administration created the Office of Green Infrastructure (‘OGI’) within the City’s Streets Cabinet in 2022; this Office was created to lead the implementation of interdepartmental green infrastructure and stormwater projects throughout City; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Released in April 2026, the City’s 2030 Climate Action Plan identifies green infrastructure projects as a key strategy to address stormwater and inland flooding events; the Office of Green Infrastructure is specifically identified as the City Department that will lead recommended actions to accelerate green infrastructure deployment in public spaces and establish a Citywide green infrastructure standard; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* As has been reported, City leadership eliminated the Office of Green Infrastructure on May 26, 2026; this decision was made with no public input and has prompted questions about the City’s commitment to its climate goals and capacity to deliver essential green infrastructure projects; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Though the City faces a challenging fiscal year, the recommended FY27 Operating Budget proposes a modest increase to the Streets Cabinet’s budget; *and,*

WHEREAS, The Office of Green Infrastructure had multiple projects and programs in process at the time of its elimination; the City has not indicated a succession plan for these former OGI initiatives, nor has it indicated how green infrastructure projects will be implemented by the City moving forward; *and,*

WHEREAS, Green infrastructure projects require stable staffing, long-term capital investment, and clear interdepartmental and interagency coordination, particularly between the Environment Department, Public Works, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and the Parks Department; *and,*

WHEREAS, Boston residents have repeatedly called for increased transparency from the City's Streets Cabinet as to its overall goals, status of projects, use of external grant funding, and future transportation and streets-related planning efforts; *and,*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council has a responsibility to ensure that the City takes bold action to meet its stated climate goals in a manner that is transparent, equitable, and accountable to the public and to ensure that the City Departments implementing this work are adequately staffed and resourced; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council affirms its strong support for green infrastructure implementation across the City of Boston, and urges the Administration and Streets Cabinet to restore and strengthen staffing capacity, provide clear implementation timelines, and ensure transparent reporting on all green infrastructure and stormwater resilience projects.

Filed on: May 29, 2026