

6/3/2025 | 7:30 AM

**Bob Crane Community Center
Board Room
3200 Tremont Road**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call- Chair Kim Landsbergen/ Staff Veronica Trommer**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2025- Chair Kim Landsbergen**
 - a. City Tree Commission Minutes for April 1, 2025
- 3. Public Attendance - Chair Kim Landsbergen**
- 4. Discussion/Packet items– Chair Kim Landsbergen and Staff Sam Simmons**
 - a. Arbor Day 2025
 - b. Fancyburg Master Plan
 - c. Urban Canopy Assessment
- 5. Updates from staff - Sam Simmons**
 - 5.1 General/Operational Forestry Updates
 - 5.2 Contracts
 - 5.3 Park Updates
 - 5.4 CIP
 - 5.5 Development
 - a. General/Operational Forestry Updates
 - b. Contracts
 - c. Park Updates
 - d. CIP
 - e. Development
- 6. Friends of UA Parks Update – Karla Gengler-Nowak**
- 7. Horticulture Update – Libby Roach**
- 8. Future meetings – Topics and location**
- 9. Adjournment – Chair Kim Landsbergen**

April 1, 2025, 7:30 A.M.
THE BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER
3200 TREMONT RD

The City Tree Commission met at the Bob Crane Community Center and was called to order at 7:30 AM by Chair Kim Landsbergen.

1. **Welcome: Call to order** and roll call - Chair/Veronica Trommer

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<u> X </u> Chair Kim Landsbergen	<u> X </u> Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak
<u> X </u> Kathy Duke	<u> X </u> Laura Oldham
<u> X </u> Scott Zanon	<u> </u> Laura Fay
<u> X </u> Blythe Price	

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate members Libby Roach and Karla Gengler-Nowak, Director Debbie McLaughlin, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Fay

Laura Fay's excused absence

Motioned: Scott

First: Kim

Second: J.P.

Motion passed

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for October 1st, 2024

Motioned: Kim

First: J.P.

Second: Laura Oldham

Motion passed

3. Public participation

No public participation

4. Discussion items

- Education Outreach/Review –
 - Sam is working with Jacki Prati, the Principal at Tremont Elementary School, to do the Arbor Day Celebration. The date is to be determined, but won't be on the official Arbor Day.
 - J.P. discussed the Spring/Summer Activity Guide. There is an Arbor Day Walk at Fancyburg Park on April 25th that J.P. will be leading.
 - Sam discussed benefits of non-native trees. Native trees are the best choice, but for Municipal Forestry this is difficult.
 1. The scale of planting is much larger. UA plants over 600 trees a year.
 2. Urban planting sites are much more stressful due to things like the heat island effect, limited space, and salt/pollution.
 3. Dependency on nurseries for availability
-single stem trees are also an important factor for street trees.
 4. Many of our small and some medium sized native species didn't do well in full sun, while non-natives can.
 5. Pests & disease can be devastating in mono cultures.
 6. Cultivars (i.e.) upright, disease resistant, etc.
 7. Changing climates- the weather in 2050 in Ohio will be more like Arkansas.
 8. Ongoing & future efforts
 - a. Expanding the city's network of nurseries & planting techniques
 - b. Storage of nursery trees (for growth and keeping bare root trees alive before planting.)
 - c. Designing sites for trees, not the other way around. (i.e. structural soils, wider curb strips)
 - Tree Canopy Assessment for UA will take place in 2025
 - The City's Urban Forestry Master Plan will take place in 2026-2027

5. Updates from staff-Sam Simmons

Sam was recently appointed to The City of Columbus's Tree Commission and Matt Stewart was appointed to the Ohio Chapter ISA Board of Directors.

The Ohio EPA Education Grant for the Tree Treks was not awarded to UA. Applications were very competitive. Staff is currently exploring other options for upgrading Tree Treks.

- Forestry
 - The removal contract has been completed and the staff is getting things ready for Spring planting season.
 - The City of Columbus's Forester is coming to UA in April or May to look firsthand at our city sidewalk program.
- Park Updates
 - Continuing to brush hog and seeding in areas where needed.
 - Northam pickleball courts at 4 p.m. on May 1st there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Northam Park building.
- Development
 - Matt Stewart is now completing permits for all new builds and developments where trees are, or need to be in the plans.
- Horticulture
 - Three beds in the medians along Tremont Rd will be planted this spring.
 - We are also planting at the newly opened Bob Crane Community Center. We are planting pansies on the 5th floor along with flowers at the front entrance.
 - Staff is busy with spring cleanup, cleaning out all of the beds from over winter.
 - Oakland will be the contractor for planting at the Mallway and the hanging baskets along Tremont Rd.
- Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak
 - Volunteers from UA High School will be helping to clear invasive plants at Miller Park.
 - FOUAP will be going back in May to work on the other side of the bridge area.
 - FOUAP will also be planting 400 understory saplings at Northwest Kiwanis Park from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on May 12th.
 - There is a sustainability fair this Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the main library. Karla and Kim with both be attending.

6. Future meetings – Topics and location

Locations will be The Bob Crane Community Center and a few different parks during the Summer months.

Topics: old and new tree canopy assessments and incentives for residents to remove invasives and replace with natives.

7. Adjournment

Motioned: Kim

First: Scott

Second: J.P.

Meeting adjourned: 8:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Chair Kim Landsbergen

* * *

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 5th at 7:30 a.m.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

02/12/2025



Non-Native Trees



Native Trees & Non- Native Trees



- Benefits
 - Why don't we use all native trees?
- Challenges specific to City Forestry:
 - Large scale operations
 - Street Trees
 - Difficult urban sites that require medium or small species trees



Challenges

- Availability from Nurseries/Suppliers
 - Species Availability (even cultivars)
 - "Tree Form" Availability



Challenges

- Urban sites
 - Soil
 - Exposure
 - Infrastructure



Challenges

- Pest and Disease pressures



A Toledo street before and after EAB



Challenges

- Habit –
 - Especially small species



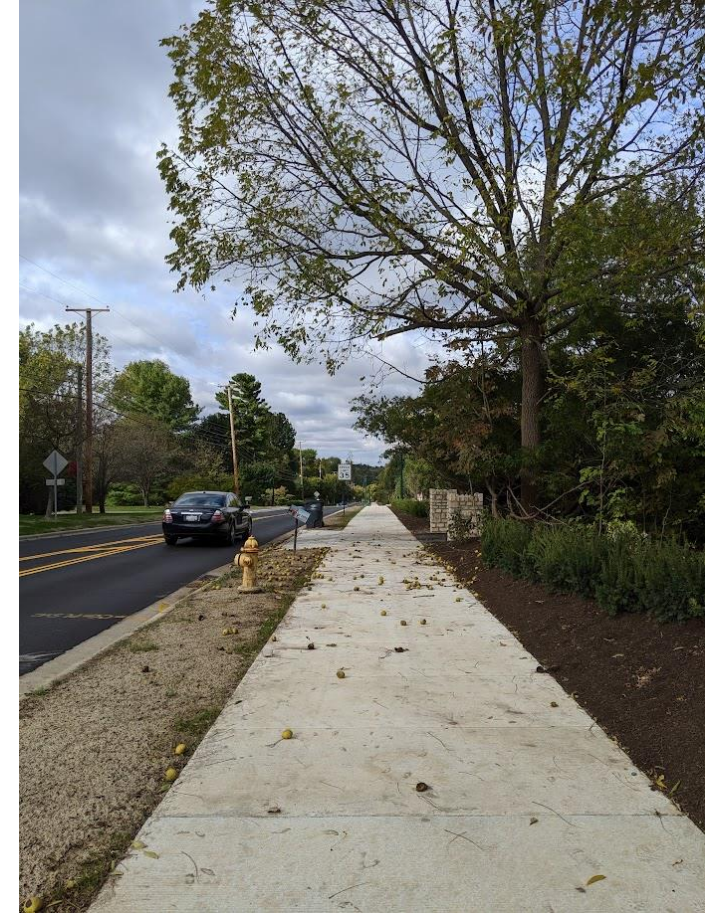
Challenges

- Habit
 - Narrow trees are usually Non Native or Cultivars



Challenges

- Messy
- Public Opposition or Preference



Challenges

- Changing climate and variable weather conditions



Ongoing and Future Efforts

- It's complicated...
- Continuing education
- Expanding our network of nurseries
- Experimenting with new planting techniques
- Exploring the possibility of growing our own natives
- Designing planting sites for trees – not “designing” trees for planting sites
 - Tree lawns
 - Soil composition
 - Structural soil, Suspended Pavement
- Tree Canopy Assessment (2025) and Urban Forestry Master Plan (2026-27)
 - Explore potential efforts and initiatives

