



TUESDAY APRIL 7, 2026 7:30 A.M.
BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER - BOARD ROOM
3200 TREMONT RD.

- 1) Welcome: call to order and roll call –Chair J.P. Ratajczak / Staff Veronica Trommer
- 2) Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2025 – Chair J.P. Ratajczak
- 3) Public Attendance - Chair J.P. Ratajczak
- 4) Discussion items – Chair J.P. Ratajczak and Staff Sam Simmons
 - a) Education/outreach
 - i) Sustainability Fair
 - b) Arbor Day 2026
 - c) Tree Trek Signage
- 5) Updates from staff: - Staff Sam Simmons
 - a) General/Operational Forestry Updates
 - b) Contracts
 - c) Park Updates
 - d) CIP/Development
- 6) Friends of UA Parks Update
- 7) Horticulture Update – Libby Roach
- 8) Future meetings – Topics and locations
- 9) Adjournment – Chair J.P. Ratajczak

Next Meeting June 2, 2026

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND ALL COMMISSION MEETINGS.

Upon request to the City Clerk’s office, special accommodations for people with disabilities (i.e., interpreting services, audio recording, etc.) will be arranged for any City meetings open to the public. Requests for special accommodations should be submitted at least 72 hours in advance.

FEBRUARY 10, 2026 7:30 A.M.
THE BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER
3200 TREMONT RD

The City Tree Commission met at the boardroom of the Bob Crane Community Center and was called to order at 7:33 AM by Chair Kim Landsbergen

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate members Karla Gengler-Nowak and Libby Roach, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, Forestry Supervisor Matt Stewart, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Zanon

Motion to excuse Scott

Motioned: Kim
First: Laura
Second: Blythe
Motion passed

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for November 25, 2025

Motioned: Kim
First: J.P.
Second: Kathy
Motion passed



3. Public participation

No public participation

4. Election of Officers

Move to elect chair: Laura motioned to elect J.P.

Second: Kim

J.P. accepts as Chair

Move to elect Vice Chair: J.P. motioned to elect Laura

Second: Kathy

Laura accepts as Vice Chair

5. Discussion items

a.) Tree Canopy Assessment-

- Final Canopy Assessment Report completed and presented to City Council (full report and 2-page fact sheet).
- Fact sheets will be shared via the city website and social media.

b.) Arbor Day-

- America 250th Anniversary – Tree Planting: Sam received a request to plant 250 trees for America’s 250th anniversary. Her proposed alternative: a grove of 17 native trees (Ohio as the 17th state) as a symbolic planting at Sunny 95 Park, near walking path and soccer fields with the emphasis on naturalized clustering rather than symmetrical spacing.
- Likely species include native trees such as Swamp white oak, Sycamore, Bald cypress, Ohio buckeye, and Red maple.
- Ideas discussed include yard signage or tree trail signage instead of individual plaques and a potential symbolic “250th tree.”
- Collaboration with schools, Historical Society, and community groups.
- Possible sapling giveaways and educational programming were discussed.

c.) Education Outreach/Review –

- Continued discussion about the Westover Oak and identifying historic “witness trees” using GIS/shapefiles from the Historical Society.
- Opportunities to educate public on tree lifespan, preservation, and legacy plantings.
- Interest in student engagement (writing contests, school programs) and educational materials.

5. Updates from staff

a.) General/Operational Forestry Updates-

- 2025 work summary (via Treekeeper software) included 636 trees planted, 516 inspections, more than 2,400 work orders completed in-house, 247 stumps ground (now largely handled in-house).
- Contract pruning and in-house pruning are both ongoing; pruning standards have been updated following new guidelines from pruning qualification training arborists are undergoing.

b.) Contracts –

- The fall contractor planted fewer trees than planned; staff planted remaining trees and overwintered some trees.
- Spring planting includes 50/50 split between balled-and-burlap and bare-root trees.
- City tree crew will plant bare-root trees due to timing and handling requirements.
- All new trees now receive deer guards around the trunks for protection.

c.) Park Updates/CIP-

- Forestry, Parks, and Horticulture are heavily involved in snow response. They also helped Public Works with clearing snow near schools and intersections.

6. Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak

- FOUAP will be meeting at Reed Rd. Park on February 21st and at Northwest Kiwanis Park on March 28th.

7. Future meetings – Topics and location

- April 7th Tree Commission meeting will be at Bob Crane Community Center.

8. Adjournment

Motioned: J.P.
First: Kim
Second: Kathy
Meeting adjourned: 9:06 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Chair J.P. Ratajczak

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

TREE TREK

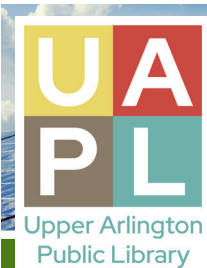
NUMBER 2



SUGAR MAPLE

Scientific Name: Acer saccharum





SUSTAINABILITY FAIR 2026

Join UAPL, Sustainable UA and the City of UA as we celebrate the sustainable initiatives happening in our community. Visit with local organizations, try hands-on activities, and learn about sustainable backyard practices.

For more information visit ualibrary.org.

Saturday, April 11
from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



UAPL TREMONT BRANCH
2800 TREMONT ROAD

ALL AGES

See all our programs at ualibrary.org.

Sustainability Fair 2026

Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Upper Arlington Public Library

Tremont Road Branch

2800 Tremont Road, Upper Arlington

Join UAPL, Sustainable UA and the City of UA as we celebrate the sustainable initiatives happening in our community.

Visit with local organizations, try hands-on activities, and learn about sustainable backyard practices with Franklin Soil & Water.



Atrium Exhibitors

- Sustainable Upper Arlington
- Upper Arlington Public Library
- Ask Dr. TreeBiology
- City of Upper Arlington
- Columbus Fashion Academy
- Columbus Green Spot
- Drive Electric Columbus
- Franklin County Pollinator Pathway Project
- Franklin Soil and Water
- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)
- Friends of UA Parks
- Healthy Home Habitats OSU research study
- OSU Department of Design REBELab
- Solar United Neighbors (SUN)
- Scioto Watershed Action Group (SWAG)
- Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)
- SWACO
- Teen Corps and the Less Waste Cookbook
- UA High School Environmental Club
- UA Tree Commission
- Upper Arlington Community Health Action Team (CHAT)/Franklin County Public Health
- Xerces Society

Outdoor Activities

Electric Vehicle Showcase

Sponsored by Drive Electric Columbus

See electric vehicles and chat with EV owners and advocates.

Compost Sale and Preorder Pickup

Sponsored by GoZERO

Place orders at <https://gozero.org/marketplace>. Use code SPR26 for 20% discount.

Bike Repair and Advice

Bike Donations

Sponsored by Franklinton Cycle Works and Westerville Bike Shop

Stop by with your bicycle for free advice, repair and maintenance by our volunteers. Donate a bike to FCW's community program.

Drop-Off Recycling

Sponsored by Goodwill Columbus and Columbus Micro Systems

- Household goods
- Electronics like computers, printers, office equipment, mobile devices, cords, chargers, and all types of batteries. **We cannot accept items with refrigerant.**
- Empty prescription pill bottles and styrofoam (no packing peanuts or food containers)

Bake Sale

Sponsored by UA High School Marine Biology Club

Grab a treat and support the club's initiatives.

Friends Theater

11 a.m.: Community Backyards

Rebate Workshop with Franklin Soil and Water. Learn how you can use rain barrels, rain gardens, and more to help protect our waterways and environment. One voucher per home is available for a native plant, rain barrel or compost bin. Once registered through our calendar at ualibrary.org, we'll put you in touch with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to make arrangements to get your voucher at the event.

Youth Department

10-11:30 a.m.: **Satur-PLAY** Bringing young kids with you? Stop by the Youth Department for a sustainability-themed activity from our librarians.

