

8/6/2024 | 7:30 AM

Thompson Park South Shelter House  
2020 McCoy Rd.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call - Vice Chair Kim Landsbergen / Veronica Trommer**
  - a. Oaths of Office - swearing in of new and reappointed members - Abbie Emison, Deputy City Clerk
  - b. Welcome new members - Laura Oldham and Blythe Price
2. **Approval of Minutes - Vice Chair Kim Landsbergen**
  - a. Approve Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2024
3. **Public Attendance - Vice Chair Kim Landsbergen**
4. **Election of Officers**
  - a. Motion to elect the Chair of the Tree Commission
    - Second
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - b. Motion to elect the Vice Chair of the Tree Commission
    - Second
    - Discussion
    - Vote
5. **Discussion/Packet Items - Chair and Sam Simmons**
  - a. Boards & Commissions update
  - b. Education & Outreach
    - Program/class proposals for activity guide winter (MID AUGUST) and spring (JANUARY)
    - Social Media - plan/schedule for the upcoming year
  - c. Packet - Article: FAQ - neighboring trees
6. **Updates from Staff - Sam Simmons**

- a. General/Operational Forestry updates
  - b. Contracts
  - c. Park updates
  - d. CIP
  - e. Development
7. **Friends of UA Parks Update - Karla Gengler - Nowak**
  8. **Horticulture Update - Libby Roach**
  9. **Future Meetings - Topics and Location**
  10. **Adjournment - Chair**
  11. **Next Meeting – October 1, 2024. 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.**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:30 A.M.**  
**Burbank Park**  
**4780 Stonehaven Dr**

The City Tree Commission met at Burbank Shelter House and was called to order at 7:35 AM by Vice-Chair Kim Landsbergen.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Hala Zahreddine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Kim Landsbergen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Duke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.P. Ratajczak
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Zanon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Thompson	

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Director Debbie McLaughlin, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Associate Members Karla Gengler-Nowak and Libby Roach

Motion to excuse Chair Hala Zahreddine

**Motioned: Kim**

**First: Scott**

**Second: Craig**

**Motion passed**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Motioned: Kim**

**First: Scott**

**Second: JP**

**Motion passed**

**3. Public participation**

No public participation

**4. Discussion items**

- Education Outreach/Review –
  - Arbor Day was at Windermere. It was a beautiful day and a nice ceremony. Two Hackberry trees were planted in front of the school. The kids at Windermere are very involved with trees. They walk from the school to Thompson Park several times during the school year looking at the trees to see the changes occurring each season.
  - We will be applying for a grant this year for Tree Trek signage in the parks.
  - Next year Tree Commissioners would like to have an adult Arbor Day possibly the Saturday after Arbor Day. Sam suggested putting it in the Recreation Activity Guide, but that needs to be done by January.
  - The city had a Tree ID course this spring. It was advertised in the Activity Guide and well attended. Parks & Forestry does a tree related spring and fall program each year.
  - Sustainability Fair was a success. The book donation was well received. The coloring books were also popular. Next year ideas – using real leaves for the trivia game and using items that are biodegradable for prizes or gifts.
- Boards and Commissions Updates
  - Hala did not reapply for her commission seat, and this would have been her last meeting. Two members, J.P. and Craig, with expiring terms reapplied.
  - There were 13 applications for Tree Commission and Council will appoint at least one new commissioner in the June meeting.
  - Because we will be losing the current Commission Chair, we will need to hold elections at the next meeting & moving forward the meeting immediately following appointments will hold annual elections (typically, August).



5. Updates from staff-Sam Simmons

- General/Operational Forestry updates
  - City Arborists Corey and Josh are at Municipal Specialist training for certification. They both already have TRAQ certification to assess risk.
  - Tree City Award Ceremony – Upper Arlington accepted their 34<sup>th</sup> Tree City Award.
  - QR codes - Both Worthington and Bexley have Arboretums with QR codes. Upper Arlington would like to go this route as well.
- Forestry
  - Winter pruning contract – because Davey backed out of their contract earlier this year, we put that section back out to bid. Russell’s Tree Service won the bid and are to complete the work by July 4<sup>th</sup>. We have taken sensitive species off the contract and will do the work in house or rebid those trees in the next winter contract.
  - The tree planting contractor DLL that planted 200 trees at Northwest Kiwanis Park last year, planted street trees this spring.
- Horticulture -Lisa Metcalf left the Horticulture Supervisor position to take a job as a manager of The Ohio State University Arboretum.
  - The first round of interviews to replace her position are beginning next week.
  - The contractors are working on doing a better job of weeding the landscapes.
  - Six Hackberry trees are being planted today at the History Walk for more shade. We are also installing a drip irrigation system there for plants.
  - We are still working to eradicate Lesser Celandine in several of the city parks. Debris needs to be removed on the forest floor so that spraying the invasive will be more effective.

- Park Updates
  - Thompson playground is finished, and we will be planting several tough species around the playground for instant and future shade.
- CIP
  - The masterplan process for Fancyburg Park is underway/ community engagement will begin in late summer or early fall.
  - The Community Center construction is now in full swing.
  - Northam Park – The service building and pickleball courts should be done by fall. The west fields are establishing, and the east fields are scheduled to be worked on in 2026.
  - The tennis courts are schedule to be replaced next year.
- Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak
  - The next FOUAP volunteer day will be June 15<sup>th</sup> at Fancyburg Park.

**6. Future meetings** – topics and location

- Fancyburg or Thompson South for the next meeting.
- Fall events to plan for in August?
- Elections will be held in August

**7. Adjournment**

**Motioned: Kim**

**First: Laura**

**Second: Kathy**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:46 a.m.**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Veronica Trommer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chair Kim Landsbergen

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*The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.*

## Can you cut branches off your neighbor's tree? Here's what to know in Ohio

**Mariyam Muhammad** Columbus Dispatch

Published 12:06 p.m. ET July 18, 2024

Leaves, fruit, bark, twigs—you name it—are a hassle to clean up and remove when they fall from a tree. The last thing you want is for those to fall into your yard or onto your house from a tree that doesn't belong to you.

Do branches from your neighbor's tree hang over onto your property? Do you want to know if you can cut them without causing a feud with your neighbor or breaking the law?

Here's what to know about trimming branches from your neighbors' trees in Ohio.

**This side of the fence:** Can I paint on my neighbor's fence? Here's what to do in Ohio

### Can I cut branches off my neighbor's tree?

If the tree is not on the boundary line, is on your neighbor's side of the property line, and you don't have an interest in owning the tree, you have the legal right to cut down branches hanging on your side of the boundary line, per Ohio State University's Farm Office.

However, it comes with a rule. You must cut it off with "reasonable care" and make sure not to cause any harm, disease, or death to the tree.

### What if the tree is on the boundary line?

If a tree stands on both sides of the property line between you and your neighbor, you both have ownership of the tree.

However, if only the roots or branches of your neighbor's tree extend onto your property, that would *not* give you any ownership rights, according to the OSU Farm Office.

### Can I remove a tree if it's on the boundary line?

You cannot remove a tree on the boundary line without your neighbor's approval. You both have equal ownership over the tree.

If you remove a tree without your neighbor's permission and your neighbor does not agree to this decision, you could be liable to them.

### What if your neighbor's tree damages your property?

Does your neighbor have to pay if their tree falls into your house or a branch falls off and damages your roof?

Possibly.

If your neighbor knew their tree was weak, diseased or clearly dangerous, then they could be liable for any damages caused, per the OSU Farm Office. Your insurance provider might help establish your neighbor's liability for any damage caused by their tree, but it's unlikely the law would find your neighbor liable if the tree was strong and healthy.

## **What does Ohio law say about harming a tree?**

Injury to vines, bushes, trees, or crops on the land of another, is referred to as the “reckless destruction of vegetation law”, according to Ohio Law. The word “recklessly” refers to the complete disregard for the rights of the landowner who owns the plant or tree.