



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 21 November 2022**

**PRESENT:** Stephanie Freeman-Day (PhD Student, SPEA); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); Jeff Palmer (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); Haskell Smith (COB Urban Forester); Mary Welz (Sycamore Land Trust Education Director, MC-IRIS Board Member); Dedaimia Whitney (Bloomington Environmental Commission, Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

**ABSENT:** Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art)

**GUEST:** Tim Street (operation manager, Parks and Rec)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved October minutes.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. Monday, 19 December 2022. Mary suggests the TC review changes to the Tree Care Manual at this meeting and approve the final version of the revised tree lists (Stephanie will prepare).

**REPORTS**

**Urban Forester's Report (see attached)**

The street department has removed 164 trees so far. The city received 51 applicants for the urban forestry open staff position; now that it's closed, Haskell will go through the applications and invite candidates for interviews. He said there were some 'high quality' candidates.

A little over 70 trees have been planted this fall; the planting season is just about over. Haskell brought handouts on leaf change and Callery pears, and postcards pointing to urban forestry in Bloomington. Callery pear removal on the B-line should be completed by the end of the year.

He also brought a draft plan of the 'urban greenways' green waste area, which is approximately 2400 square feet used for dumping green waste accumulated by several city departments. This space, often called the 'nursery', is near the dog park. Haskell wants to track which department puts what where to allow him to informally assess what portion of the grinding costs each department should pay.

**Indiana University (Mia).** On 4 November, IU sponsored a volunteer tree planting of 47 trees near the Hilltop plot near the bypass. Mia said Tristan Johnson did a great job of explaining to students why we plant trees the way we do, and that the result is that they all stayed until all trees had been planted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Memorial tree for Tom Coleman.** George Hegeman presented a proposal to put a plaque by a small burr oak tree in Olcott Park to commemorate Tom's service to the tree commission and the community. He also suggested a service in May, one year from Tom's death. The TC unanimously approved the proposal. Haskell will get information on the plaque.

**Interior tree list.** Any tree on the street tree list is automatically on the interior tree list. Jeff commented that a warning should be included about possible invasiveness of the Devil's walking

stick. Mary mentioned that blue spruce suffer from mite infections. Jeff said Norway spruce is developing a reputation for invasiveness. The TC agreed that crabapple, medlar, kousa dogwood, cottonwood, and Japanese lilac trees should probably not be included in the list. Tim suggested that when the TC prepares the revisions to the three tables for the city council that we start with the existing list and illustrate changes with red lining. Stephanie will condense and reformat our lists for next month's meeting. The revised lists are scheduled to be approved at the next TC meeting in December.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Email from Linda Thompson.** Dedaimia asked for clarification of a comment in Linda's email that said the TC 'had no jurisdiction over the UDO.' Like the Environmental Commission, the Tree Commission had submitted documents to the UDO planning committee, and like the BEC, some of the suggestions were adopted and some not.

The TC has consistently recommended that all the tree lists be housed officially in the Tree Care Manual and be referenced by the UDO. Tim said that this year is the first year that the annual revision process is taking place, and he hopes that it will continue smoothly into the future. Mary wanted to know whether the list of undesirable species could be split into undesirable trees and undesirable plants.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dedaimia Whitney**

## Urban Forester Report

November 2022

### Last month accomplishments:

Removals: On pause for planting, Street department chugging along with various hazard removals along our streets.

Pruning: On pause till Planting completes

Planting: 70 total so far, Winslow sports, Miller-Showers, Ferguson dog park, WHB (3<sup>rd</sup> st park)

Fulltime Laborer position closed on 11/16

### Ongoing:

B-line Callery pear removal set to happen anytime

E Winston pruning set to happen over winter

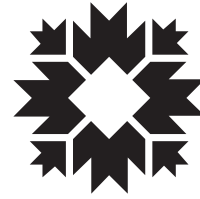
Bicentennial tree planting is more or less completed.

Planting season is winding down, Due to various issues (delays on trees from brehob, stock that was no longer acceptable (zelkova, Japanese tree lilac, European pyramidal hornbeam ect) and some that were just poor form and were already presenting un-correctable defects, the planting number will most likely stay under 100 for our in-house planting this season.

UDO buffer update talks have begun, and are ongoing.

Downtown Bicentennial planting sites are almost wrapped up, I still need to fine tune the RFQ but am hopeful to get it out there before the end of the year

Working with Canopy Bloom towards a spring volunteer planting aimed at priority neighborhoods with strong neighborhood associations.



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Parks and Recreation

*Urban Forestry*

Bloomington Tree Care Manual  
Tree Work Permit  
Memorial Tree Program  
Public Tree Inventory  
and Canopy Assessment

***Now available online!***

**[bloomington.in.gov/treecare](http://bloomington.in.gov/treecare)**

Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry  
401 N. Morton St., Bloomington, Ind. | 812-349-3716

CITY/STATE	EST. POPULATION	BUFFER DISTANCE	EST. CITY SIZE	EST. NUMBER OF TREES	EST. CANOPY %
BLOOMINGTON, IN	80,000	10 Feet	23 SQ. MI	20k Inventoried +10k more estimated	38%
LAFAYETTE, IN	70,000	“If the location of shallow utilities would prohibit the digging of street tree planting holes.”	29 SQ. MI	11k	15-30%*
KALAMAZOO, MI	73,000	No Standard, 0 feet	25 SQ. MI	+22K	30-40%*
IOWA CITY, IA	75,000	No Standard, 0 feet	29 SQ. MI	30k	18-25%*
ALAMEDA, CA	76,000	No Standard, 0 feet	23 SQ. MI	19k	21%
CHAMPAIGN, IL	90,000	No Standard, 0 feet	23 SQ. MI	+20k	25-30%*
BLOOMINGTON, MN	90,000	No Standard, 0 feet	38 SQ. MI	No Inventory	22-31%
ANN ARBOR, MI	121,000	6 feet min. from service lines to houses, No standard on mains.	29 SQ. MI	~50k	33%
COLUMBIA CITY, MO	126,000	4 feet	67 SQ. MI	~15k	35%
LINCOLN CITY, NE	292,000	10 feet: hydrants 5 feet: manholes, sewer inlets, resident service lines. 4 feet: water shut off 3 feet: gas shut off	100 SQ. MI	130k	15-20%*
DENVER, CO	711,000	10 feet, but Office of urban forester can approve closer plantings	154 SQ. MI	300k (?)	15-24%

\*Estimation based off state wide canopy assessments, could not locate a better number otherwise.