

November 22, 2021

Sustainable Delaware Ohio
Public Comment for the record
RE: Tree Preservation Practices, City of Delaware



To members of the City of Delaware Shade Tree Commission,

As representatives of Sustainable Delaware Ohio, we wish to express our support of the petition to improve tree preservation practices in the City of Delaware, Ohio.

We are concerned for our community, given the push for development. For Coughlin's Crossing, hundreds of viable trees were cut down, and the proposed Addison development does not bode well for mature tree preservation. Although we are not against development, it should be done with the health of our community in mind. Trees are important to our community for many reasons, such as:

1. **Social and Community:** Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. We gather under the cool shade they provide during outdoor activities with family and friends. Many neighborhoods are also the home of very old trees that serve as historic landmarks and a great source of town pride.
2. **Ecological and Health:** Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." Trees and other vegetation also filter air by removing dust and absorbing other pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Trees control climate by moderating the effects of the sun, rain and wind. Trees have shown to reduce the heat island effect caused by pavement, buildings and other impervious surfaces.
3. **Property and Economic Value:** A mature tree can have an appraised value between \$1000 and \$10,000.– *Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers*. Neighborhoods with trees tend to have higher property values and are widely regarded as more desirable places to live. In addition, cooling costs are reduced in a tree-shaded home, and heating costs lowered when a tree serves as a windbreak.

As Delaware continues to grow, we must continue to protect our tree canopy. This can be accomplished by upholding Chapter 1168 of the Delaware City Code in all development zones, including those with Planned Mixed Use overlays. Also additional metrics, as described in the petition, should be considered to allow for a more comprehensive accounting of development-imposed risks to our tree canopy and generally for more protection of our natural resources.

The trees in Delaware give us so much and ask for so little. As a "Tree City USA" we must continue to do the important work of protecting our tree canopy. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

SIGNED

The Board and members of Sustainable Delaware Ohio



Ohio Environmental Council



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

November 23, 2021

City of Delaware
Shade Tree Commission

RE: Petition to Improve Tree Preservation Practices in the City of Delaware

Dear City of Delaware Shade Tree Commission,

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and the OEC Action Fund (OEC AF) write **in support** of the October 19, 2021 Petition to Improve Tree Preservation Practices in the City of Delaware. The OEC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC AF is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization whose mission is to protect and enhance the environment and the health of all Ohio Communities by advancing critical priorities, holding policymakers accountable, and electing environmental champions.

Preserving a city's urban tree canopy provides numerous benefits, including reducing summer peak temperatures and air pollution, enhancing property values, providing aesthetic benefits, and improving public health and wellness outcomes.

Planned mixed use developments (PMUs) should comply with the City of Delaware's Tree Preservation Regulations, which are found at Title 11, Chapter 1168.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nathan Johnson
Public Lands Director
Ohio Environmental Council & OEC AF
1145 Chesapeake Ave., Suite I
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 487-5841
NJohnson@theOEC.org

November 28, 2021

EMcCloskey@delawareohio.net
City of Delaware, Ohio

Dear Ms. McCloskey

RE: Tree Petition

As a representative of the Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), I wish to express our support of the petition to improve tree preservation practices in the City of Delaware, Ohio, especially in Planned Unit Developments.

The Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the important issue of zoning and how it relates to tree preservation and tree mitigation during development. FLOW has observed that stormwater runoff from high density impervious sites end up causing flashy flows downstream that scour the stream bed and banks, oversupplying the streams with sediment and nutrients and making the stream beds poor habitat for mussels and macroinvertebrates.

FLOW is advocating that you preserve mature canopy trees (and provide replacement trees for those removed) as well as provide native canopy trees for your streets, sidewalks and parking lots, to ensure that the Delaware portion of our watershed does not become a future Urban Heat Island like in the City of Columbus (which is the most quickly growing Urban Heat Island in the USA)!

Native ecosystems contain complex tapestries of plants consisting of the canopy, shrub, and herbaceous layers. Each individual layer, and the ecosystem as a whole, provide numerous ecosystem services, including water and air quality, aquatic sediment filtration, temperature reduction, stormwater retention, energy savings, erosion control, and others. The economic value of ecosystem services provided by Ohio's natural resources is estimated at over 5.8 billion dollars per year (Gioglio et. al 2019). Thus, the preservation of all existing habitat elements is essential.

Native herbaceous plants provide nectar for pollinators, and, due to extensive and complex co-evolutionary processes, can provide food for insects and caterpillars who consume their leaves. Because exotic species like turfgrass were not present in Ohio before settlement, they did not experience millennia of evolution with native insects and thus most insects are unable to recognize exotics as food. The gradual elimination of these insects then reduces the primary food sources of numerous species up the trophic chain, including birds, land mammals, amphibians, as well as others. In addition to providing pollen and leaf nutrients, native shrubs and trees produce fruits available for numerous species to consume. The shallow natural root depth of turfgrass (made even shallower by mowing) limits its erosion control, and sediment, pollutant, and nutrient absorption capabilities. Turfgrass roots reach depths of only 4-6 inches, in contrast to native herbaceous vegetation, whose roots can reach up to 16+ feet when the above-ground stems are untrimmed. Maintaining existing trees and shrubs provides even greater quantities of these

ecosystem services, including increased food sources (fruits), erosion control and stormwater filtration (larger, sturdier roots), and higher pollution absorption and carbon sequestration (more biomass)

Delaware is home to incredibly diverse and expansive native ecosystems and has made great strides in preservation and education. FLOW hopes that all future developments within the City of Delaware will adopt the recommendations above so that the high quality Exceptional Warmwater Habitat designation given the Olentangy River in Delaware County by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will be maintained.

As identified in the Lower Olentangy Greenspace Plan, Delaware only has a 20% average tree canopy. As Delaware continues to develop, we must continue to protect our existing tree canopy as well as plant new canopy trees. American Forests recommends a 40% tree canopy for a healthy human population.. This can be accomplished by making Chapter 1168 of the Delaware City Code both environmentally responsible and legally defensible, and applying it *in all development zones*, including those with Planned Mixed Use overlays. Also additional metrics, as described in the petition, should be considered to allow for a more comprehensive accounting of development-imposed risks to our tree canopy and generally for more protection of our natural resources.

Delaware has had the designation as a "Tree City USA" for over 40 years, and must continue to do the important work of protecting our tree canopy and watershed. Thank you for your time and attention to this.

As an additional recommendation, FLOW suggests that you follow the USDA Forest Service Model for Central Ohio (Columbus and Delaware as shown in the attached map) and plant the tree species that have been designated as having the best long term success of surviving climate change.

Sincerely

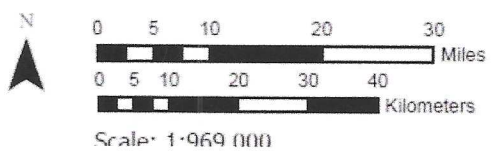
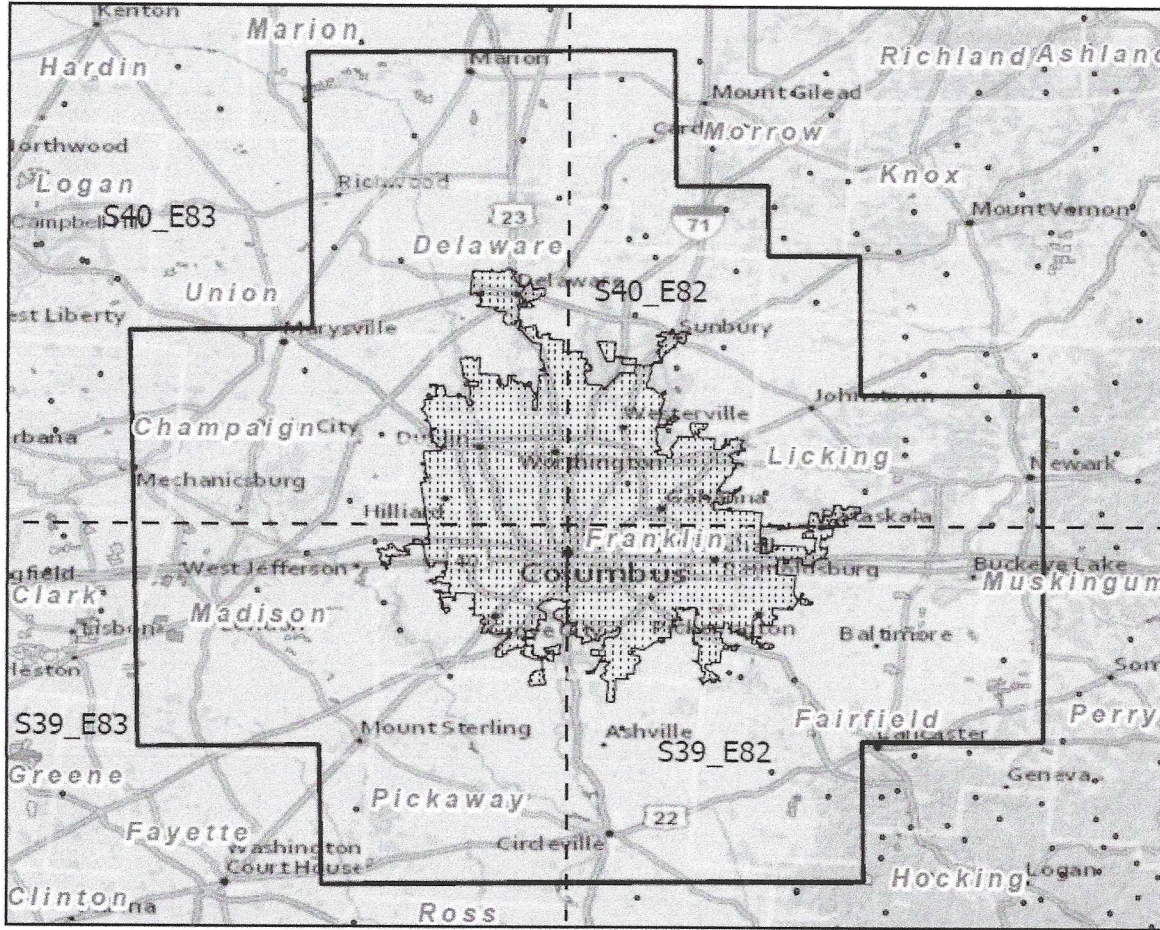


Kelly Thiel
Chairwoman
chair@olentangywatershed.org

Columbus, OH

Landscape Change Research Group
Iverson, Prasad, Peters, Matthews
Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science
USFS Northern Research Station
Delaware, Ohio

Urban Buffers with Protected Areas and Forest Inventory Plots



Center: 82°58'33"W 40°4'36"N
States: Ohio

Legend
[Symbol]

Common Name	Scientific Name
pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>
slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>
sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Ohio buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
yellow-poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
white ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Osage-orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>
sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>

From: [Sue Chaney](#)
To: [Flaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: For the public record to Shade Tree Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 4:18:55 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Commissioners and Council Members,

Thank you for your attention to the details when making decisions about development in Delaware. It is an awesome responsibility--the future of Delaware truly is in your hands.

I would like to see more tree canopy preserved in the city. The long-term benefits of preserving the tree canopy far outweighs the short-term benefit of allowing more hardscaping and gray infrastructure.

It is clear that trees benefit us all in a variety of ways. One of those ways is through managing water which is going to be a huge issue if the trees owned by Jason Friedman of Addison Properties are cleared. Addison Property, Delaware OH, is part of the Olentangy Watershed and the trees and vegetation are a necessary component to allow that precipitation to percolate in the ground before gently draining into the Olentangy. Do you remember what happened when the trees in the Shelbourne Forest, Pinecrest Drive area were cleared? There was a huge flood on US 23 and the road was closed.

What do you think is going to happen when Addison clears their trees? Remember this spring when the downtown businesses flooded? That problem is only going to become exacerbated by the runoff that will happen north of the Delaware Run--impeding its flow into the Olentangy River. Clearing acres of trees in the watershed=flooding.

The Greeks said, "all things in moderation." Addison Properties can be developed responsibly and acres of trees can remain to fulfill the city's code requiring green space. It can easily be a win/win for all.

Below is an excerpt from one of many studies done supporting the necessity of preserving and planning more green infrastructure. I hope you get the opportunity to read it in its entirety.

"Trees are considered "decentralized green infrastructure" and can be important tools for managing water, especially in an urban ecosystem (Berland et al., [2017](#)). Water runoff is a serious issue in the city environment, as runoff can increase the exposure to pollution and cause property damage (Braden & Johnston, [2004](#)). Trees can help reduce and intercept stormwater and improve the quality of runoff water (Berland et al., [2017](#); Bolund & Hunhammar, [1999](#); Brack, [2002](#); Livesley, McPherson, & Calfapietra, [2016](#); Scharenbroch, Morgenroth, & Maule, [2016](#)). With less contact on impervious surfaces, stormwater is cooler and has fewer pollutants when it enters local waterways and water-related ecosystems (Schwab, [2009](#)). Trees can also be

valuable in phytoremediation, where they can remove heavy metals and other contaminants from the environment (French, Dickinson, & Putwain, 2006)."

Sincerely,
Sue Chaney
883 Executive Blvd.
Delaware OH 43015

From: [Gwen Valore](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Tree Preservation
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 9:03:28 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Sir:

As forest fires burn through the western states, it seems very obvious why we need to keep our trees alive, growing and healthy. Not only do trees enhance the beauty of neighborhoods and provide nesting places for birds, but they also improve the lives of all of us by providing us with oxygen. We have an obligation to our community to save our trees. Too many people attempt to make money in the backs of those of us who live in an area. They have no stake, in the well-being of our community.

We have an opportunity to be the place where people show by doing that they value the natural beauty of the area. We could be leaders in ways to have an area that has kept and protected our gold mine of nature. We can be proud that we have learned to appreciate our environment instead of raping the land for the profits of a company and a few tax dollars. We want to teach our children to value the earth that sustains us and be able to show them we care about their future as well.

I also urge you to not give special breaks to developers. If we are truly a land of equal rights as we tell our children, then they also need to see that we also hold everyone equally responsible for following the rules that others must follow. Let us not be hypocritical here. We can be the city that treats all the same and stand proud in that.

Thank you for listening to my appeal.
Sincerely,
Gwen Valore

Public comment for the record re: Delaware's Tree Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern

As representatives of the Department of Environment & Sustainability at Ohio Wesleyan University, we wish to express our support for the petition to improve tree preservation practices in the City of Delaware, Ohio.

Extensive research has shown that urban trees have many benefits. These include reducing the urban heat island effect, lowering summertime building energy consumption by providing shade, and supporting urban biodiversity including vital pollinators and songbirds. Trees also stabilize soil, participate in the local water cycle and are a critical component of local aesthetics.

As Delaware continues to grow, we can make responsible development choices that protect our tree canopy. We support the petition that requests making Chapter 1168 of the Delaware City Code both environmentally responsible and legally defensible, and applying it *in all development zones*, including those with Planned Mixed-Use overlays. We also encourage the consideration of additional metrics described in the petition to allow for a more comprehensive accounting of development-imposed risks to our tree canopy and generally for more protection of our natural resources.

Delaware has had the designation as a "Tree City USA" for over 40 years and must continue to do the important work of protecting our tree canopy and watershed. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurel Anderson (Delaware Resident)

Dr. John Krygier

Dr. Nathan Rowley

From: [brookelyn rambadt](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Public comment for shade tree commission
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:42:21 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

November 30, 2021

To whom it may concern:

As a founding member of our local Free Forest School group (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes outdoor, unstructured play for small children), I wish to express my support of the petition to improve tree preservation practices in the City of Delaware, Ohio.

Chapter 1168 of the Delaware City Code lists benefits of tree preservation and replacement. These include:

- Energy conservation
- Improved air quality
- Reduced noise pollution and light glare
- Enhanced habitat for birds and other desirable wildlife
- Improved control of soil erosion and moderation of water runoff
- Enhanced visual and aesthetic qualities
- Increased property value

Besides the many benefits listed above, trees can be an invaluable connection to nature for a child who may otherwise lack regular access. Trees can be used for climbing and as a shady spot to read a book or have a picnic. From the flowers blooming and green leaves returning in spring to the fruits and nuts of late summer to the colorful changes in fall to, finally, winter's bare branches, trees are the perfect teacher of phenology. Children can also observe the many living things that rely on trees for food and shelter and learn about the important concept of sustainability when we as adults are leading by example when it

comes to this valuable resource.

As Delaware continues to expand, we must continue to protect our tree canopy. This can be accomplished by making Chapter 1168 of the Delaware City Code both environmentally responsible and legally defensible, and applying it *in all development zones*, including those with Planned Mixed Use overlays. Also additional metrics, as described in the petition, should be considered to allow for a more comprehensive accounting of development-imposed risks to our tree canopy and generally for more protection of our natural resources.

Delaware has had the designation as a "Tree City USA" for over 40 years, and must continue to do the important work of protecting our tree canopy and watershed. It's our responsibility as adults to protect existing trees for future generations, replacing any that do need to be removed. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Brookelyn Rambadt

Sent from my iPad

From: [Stacy B. Chaney](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: overview of tree preservation concerns (public comment - Shade Tree Commission - 11/30/2021)
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 9:58:55 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Shade Tree Commissioners,

Thank you for your dedication to our city's trees and our urban tree canopy.

In preparation for our discussion tonight, I wanted to provide a summary of the concerns presented in the petition and discussed at your October meeting, as well as comment briefly on recent developments.

The full text of the petition is on page 15 of your [agenda packet](#) for tonight's meeting. In summary, though, the petition asks you to consider four different approaches to strengthening our tree preservation practices in Delaware:

1. Require Planned Mixed Use zones to have the same tree preservation requirements as all other development zones, not reduced accountability (explained in more detail below);
2. Require developers to provide data on tree removal impacts, such as by leveraging tree canopy assessment tools;
3. Find a more comprehensive way to assess tree removal so that trees smaller than 6" diameter are also included; and
4. Incorporate natural resource goals from the City's comprehensive plan into the development process as soon as possible, and make implementation of the natural resource overlays a high priority item.

As we discussed last month, developers can have a Planned Mixed Use overlay (PMU) applied to existing zones and then write new development text that applies to that PMU. The idea behind Planned Mixed Use zones is to allow a mix of land uses, including commercial with residential. PMUs work well in city centers where abandoned industrial lands can be converted to apartments and shops. Because a PMU doesn't fall into one type of zoning, the city and the applicant work together to craft all new zoning text that is used in place of a city's zoning code. This PMU development text will create new standards for things like lot sizes, lighting requirements, building materials, and etc. Anything not covered in the PMU development text would be subject to regular zoning rules.

However, we know of at least four PMU development texts that have reduced accountability for tree preservation from what's required by the Delaware City Code, specifically in [Chapter 1168](#). With a PMU, our city has established the practice of only accounting for the *net difference* between trees removed and trees saved. A simplified example of this would be: if a proposed 20 acre development has 10 acres of trees, the developer can remove 5 acres of trees without any penalty because he saves 5 acres of trees, so the *net* loss is 0 acres of trees. If the PMU tool was not used to change the tree preservation requirements, the developer would have to account for all 5 acres of trees removed in this example. But with the PMU in place, he instead does not have to replace or pay for any of the trees removed. (Nor is he incentivized to save more than half the trees.)

Why would a Planned Mixed Use development need new code to address *tree preservation*? What does removing trees have to do with allowing different types of land uses? If the PMU allows for more flexibility in land use design, shouldn't it require more preservation of natural resources, not less? If a developer has to agree to the PMU text, why not hold them to a high standard of tree preservation as part of the process?

The community sees a disconnect between what the City has been doing and what our Code says we should do, and we are concerned about the impact this will have on our tree canopy. As you well know, and has been expressed by the multiple letters of support you have received from organizations such as Sustainable Delaware Ohio, Friends of the Olentangy Watershed, and the Ohio Environmental Council, protecting our trees provides many environmental advantages from which we all benefit: cleaner air and water, erosion control, shade, beautification, improved community health, carbon sequestration, and the list goes on. Additionally, we recognize that tree preservation supports our City's stated goal of increasing our tree canopy to 30-40%, and is part of Delaware's identity as a Tree City USA. The tree removal policies in recent PMU development texts (and the plans for those subdivisions) clearly differ from our community's tree preservation goals.

I understand that a recent court decision complicates the matter of having a tree ordinance with a tree fee. The sixth circuit court case, F. P. Development LLC vs. Charter Twshp of Canton, Michigan, deemed tree-removal fees unconstitutional because the township failed to establish "rough proportionality." Delaware's current tree ordinance includes a tree fee (although perhaps it's prescribed slightly differently than the one in the Michigan court case). Despite that court decision, our city government still must concern itself with what guarantees the current and future residents of Delaware have in regards to tree preservation. Of course we need tree preservation requirements that are legally defensible, but they must also be environmentally responsible.

As the Commission given purview over our City's tree canopy, and included as a review board for variances from our tree preservation code in Chapter 1168 [section 11](#)), the community turns to you for your help and guidance as we ask our City to improve our tree

preservation practices in our growing city.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,
Stacy Chaney-Blankenship,
943 Executive Blvd, Delaware, Ohio

From: [Anne Sokolsky](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: support for preserving trees in Delaware
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 10:17:58 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Delaware City Council and Planning Commission,
I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight but I want to add my voice of support for Delaware City citizens who are asking that the city prioritize preservation of trees and greenspace over more development.

- 1) PMU zones should have the same tree preservation requirements as all other development zones. Developers must be held accountable for the destruction they do to our current greenspace in the process of creating new developments.
- 2) Developers should provide substantial data on how they will preserve our greenspace at their expense NOT ours.
- 3) The city needs to find more comprehensive ways to assess tree removal so that trees smaller than 6 inches in diameter are also included
- 4) The City needs to incorporate natural resource goals from the City's comprehensive plan into development practice now and make implementation of the natural resource overlays a high priority item.

In summary, we have enough developments here in Delaware City. Duck ponds in subdivisions are not natural greenery. Little tot parks are not natural greenery. What makes Delaware as a city a liveable place are the preservation parks. What would be nice is to have safe bike paths so that we can bike to the parks rather than drive to them. What we do not need are more cookie cutter developments. At the very least the Developers should be paying for the damage they cause this city when they "develop" a new development and take away our trees that take decades to mature. My property would be worth more if I truly had a forest behind my house in the Shelbourne Forest subdivision.

Sincerely,
Anne Sokolsky
800 Executive Boulevard
Delaware, OH 43015

From: [Juliana Riggs](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Shade tree commission meeting for November 30
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 11:37:40 AM

Dear Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission,

I am a long time resident of the Shelbourne Forest neighborhood in Delaware. My children grew up playing in the woods behind our home. Many family photos have been taken in these woods over the years.

We purchased our home knowing that development would come someday. However, we trusted that the codes and laws of the city would protect our property value and the integrity of our existing community. Why have programs to protect the tree canopy, codes that ensure like property built next to like property, or zoning regulations if there is a loop hole for developers to totally disregard them. This is my concern with the PMU that is planned for Addison Properties. What will be the effect on the tree canopy, wetlands and streams on this property? Will the single family homes in my neighborhood back up to businesses, apartments and busy streets causing dual frontage property? If there are no laws and ordinances from the city to protect the integrity of this property, I fear we are gambling with the future of the city. The developer will not look out for my concerns and the future of our city we call home. Will you? There is a responsible way to develop this beautiful land without ruining it's natural resources and potential.

Thanks for supporting us!

Juliana Riggs

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matt Kuchers](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Cc: [Matt Kuchers](#)
Subject: In Support of Strong Tree Policy
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 12:55:27 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

My Wife (Elizabeth) & I, would like to state our support of a stronger tree policy for the city of Delaware for many good and worthy reasons a few of which are listed below...

- Cleaner Air & Water
- Erosion Control
- Animal Habitat & Wildlife
- Shade Canopy
- Beauty and Aesthetics

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Matt & Elizabeth Kuchers
(215 Kensington Dr)



Matt "**Kuch**" Kuchers

Cru / AIA / LeaderImpact
(740) 972-5824

Matt.Kuchers@cru.org

From: [Debora Fuchs](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Trees
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:31:25 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Shade Tree Commission Members,

I am writing in support of trees. I want our city officials, policies, and zoning to have strong, enforceable environmental codes in place. I want these to be upheld every time by every developer. We have let the developers rip Delaware off too many times in many ways but especially with their lack of tree/natural habitat preservation and this needs to stop. With the ever increasing devastation brought by the climate crisis it is so important, now more than ever, to keep our existing, established, mature trees. The benefits of established, mature trees are many: filter pollution from air and water, curb storm water runoff, shade, habitat, etc. Trees provide a unique ecological infrastructure which we must keep as well as increase in our city limits and surrounding area. Please step up and do all that can be done to make saving trees and providing more trees a priority in all development planning.

Thank you,

Deb Fuchs
788 Executive Blvd
Delaware

From: [Diane Mungovan](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Shade Tree Commission In Support of Strong Tree Policy - For Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:31:48 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

"The wild places are where we began.
When they end, so do we." - David Brower

Trees make the world a more beautiful place. Mature trees provide shade, shelter, and serenity. Their benefits are endless, yet below is a listing of some of the key benefits of trees.

These reasons are why Delaware needs to preserve trees, especially mature tree canopies, when threatened by development. Trees in areas with vernal pools and/or wetlands and along stream corridors are especially vital to preserve and protect.

Please make rules to preserve Delaware's natural resources and please hold all developers working within all zoning areas accountable for removal or destruction of trees - including Addison. Natural areas are necessary for a healthy community.

Provide Oxygen

A single mature tree provides one day's worth of oxygen for a family of four. In one year an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

Combat Emissions

A mature tree can absorb 1 ton of carbon over its lifespan - this is like erasing 11,000 miles of car emissions.

In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO2 produced when you drive your car 26,000 miles.

Clean the Air

One acre of trees has the ability to remove up to 5 tons of carbon dioxide and up to 13 tons of other particles and gases annually. A single tree might absorb up to 1 ton of carbon over a 40-year life span. Everyone benefits from cleaner air.

When trees are cut - much of the carbon stored within them is released into the air and all their benefits are lost.

Trees also absorb dust and wind and reduce glare.

Save Money and Energy

Properly placed tree cover in urban areas can save cities millions of dollars annually in stormwater management, air purification, and energy conservation costs.

Carefully positioned trees can save 25 to 30 percent of energy consumption. Deciduous trees are the most beneficial for energy savings since they provide shade in the warmer months and let the sunlight shine through in the colder months.

Near homes trees can reduce energy costs by up to 20%.

Trees can help cool cities by 10 degrees. They provide shade and break up “heat islands” created by roads, parking lots and buildings.

Natural Coolant

One mature tree has the same cooling power as 15 room-size air conditioners. Trees lower surface and air temperatures and through their leaves release water vapor into the air.

Filter Stormwater

One hundred mature trees can capture up to 100,000 gallons of rainfall per year. Mature trees filter water, reduce runoff (that pollutes and erodes soil) and naturally control flooding.

Forested watershed - like the area in question - in addition to absorbing rain and runoff, and filtering pollutants, also replenishes underground aquifers.

Increase property value

Homes with and bordering mature trees sell more quickly and for a high price.

Reduce Stress

According to [Morton Arboretum](#), the sight of trees reduces blood pressure, exposure to trees makes children less stressed, and drivers who can see trees are less frustrated.

Aid Good Health

Trees reduce illnesses - studies show access to trees speeds up healing times. Other studies conclude being near and seeing trees slows heartbeats, lowers blood pressure, and relaxes brain wave patterns.

A well-placed tree can also block noise by up to 40 percent according to [North Carolina State University](#). They help to muffle sounds from streets and roadways and provide privacy.

Lower Crime

Trees in the environment also reduce crime. University studies have shown a reduction in minor crimes as well as domestic aggression and violence in neighborhoods with more trees.

Benefit Wildlife

Trees provide vital habitat for a wide variety of birds, wildlife, insects, and other flora and fauna necessary for a healthy world.

Let's give trees the credit they deserve. Taking good care of Delaware's trees now will ensure that residents can enjoy their many benefits for years to come.

Sincerely,

Diane Mungovan
937 Executive Blvd.
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Information gathered from -
brightview.com , and arborday.org and treepeople.org

More info also on canopy.org

From: [Brett Latta](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Cc: [R Thomas Homan](#); [Ted Miller](#); [Drew Farrell](#)
Subject: Shade Tree Commission tonight - Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:45:20 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hi Elaine:

Not sure if I can make it to city hall, so I am emailing my public comments:

"Upon my request a few weeks ago, Ted Miller recently had the city replace a dead ash on the south side of East Heffner, directly across from Dairy Depot. As I looked further down the street along East Heffner, it dawned on me that the rest of the tree lawn between East Heffner and the sidewalk (on the south side of East Heffner between North Sandusky and the alley between North Sandusky and North Union) has never had any tree plantings. I'm wondering if the city has enough tree stock to continue to add to the tree canopy at this location."

Thanks!

Brett Latta - 376 N Sandusky St

From: [MaryEllen Kelly](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: shade tree commission - Addison development
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 3:03:12 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

I'm writing in support of the importance of tree preservation in all of Delaware and notably in the Addison development, that will in all probability happen soon, just south of my Oakhurst neighborhood . Those trees remove impurities giving us cleaner water flowing down to the Olentangy where we get our drinking water. They also filter pollution from the air and efficiently capture carbon. The esthetics in beauty and peaceful ambience is priceless. This is a short list.

Mary Ellen 

From: [Debora Fuchs](#)
To: [Elaine McCloskey](#)
Subject: Addison Farms
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 2:22:25 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I live in Shelbourne Forest and have several concerns with the Addison Farms PMU requests. I have signed the petitions and attended City meetings. While I'm not opposed to development I feel the continued giving of PMUs to developers is unsustainable for our city.

The Addison Farms request is extremely unsettling. Destroying so much well established tree canopy, existing wetlands and habitat is not acceptable. The current placement of Merrick Parkway and opening up of and connecting roads is concerning and totally unwanted in some places. I'm not happy about increased, unchecked traffic, safety issues, decreased property values and increased flooding issues.

There is a stream that crosses Executive Blvd near the nature trail. This stream does not appear on the maps that have been provided thus far(at least not that I can see). We have had flooding issues in the past. While I'm one house away from this my neighbors have dealt with high water levels, fast currents, and tons of garbage coming from the north. What will happen here down stream with all the development and topographical changes the Addison plan makes? Especially since it's not even on the maps? Does the owner even know it exists? It can barely handle the storm water runoff now and has flooded in the past. What guarantees are there that this won't be exacerbated?

I believe the Addison Farms development can be done with Delaware's current zoning of the property, not a PMU. The developers will still make tons of money. Merrick Parkway can be reasonably moved to a more acceptable position that still satisfies the traffic need but doesn't compromise current residents property, (it's value, it's safety, it's wonderful mature tree canopy and wetlands, etc).

I encourage you and all involved City departments to please take the time to truly make this a development that Delaware can be proud of, not just another money maker for the developers at the expense of current and future residents. We have zoning codes, tree preservation codes, etc in place for a reason. Please do not throw them all away with more PMUs.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for your commitment to the City of Delaware.

Deb Fuchs
788 Executive Blvd