

November 18, 2022

Dear Shade Tree Commission,

Thank you for your commitment to our city's tree canopy.

Regarding street trees, would you please consider adding plantings along London Rd. between Sandusky St. and Curtis St.? On my last drive that way, I noticed the tree lawn was mostly (if not entirely) empty. This is also an area of town that has a lower tree equity score (see Image 1, below). Around the nation and world, the presence of trees have been linked to better health and wellbeing, making this a critical component of environmental justice. If the tree lawn is too narrow or the trees would be within the clear zone for the right-of-way, could you consult with residents and businesses in that area to find other alternative locations for plantings, given that their tree lawn is empty? Generally, what can be done to increase the tree canopy in the parts of the city where it lags behind?

Also, it appears that no trees have been planted in parks this year. Why is this the case? (See Image 2: Nov 2022 Arborist Report.) Is that something you can coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to accomplish? It seems like Smith Park and Stratford Woods Park could both benefit from more trees.

Finally, what is the total amount of tree fees collected by the city under Chapter 1168 so far this year? How much comes from each ward? How can this committee help disburse those funds via tree plantings back to those wards and areas most impacted by tree loss due to development? This would most help our city's tree canopy and parity post-development, especially as all wards fall far below the City's stated tree canopy goal already.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
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Image 1: tree equity in south-central part of the city (from American Forests and [treeequityscore.org](https://treeequityscore.org)):

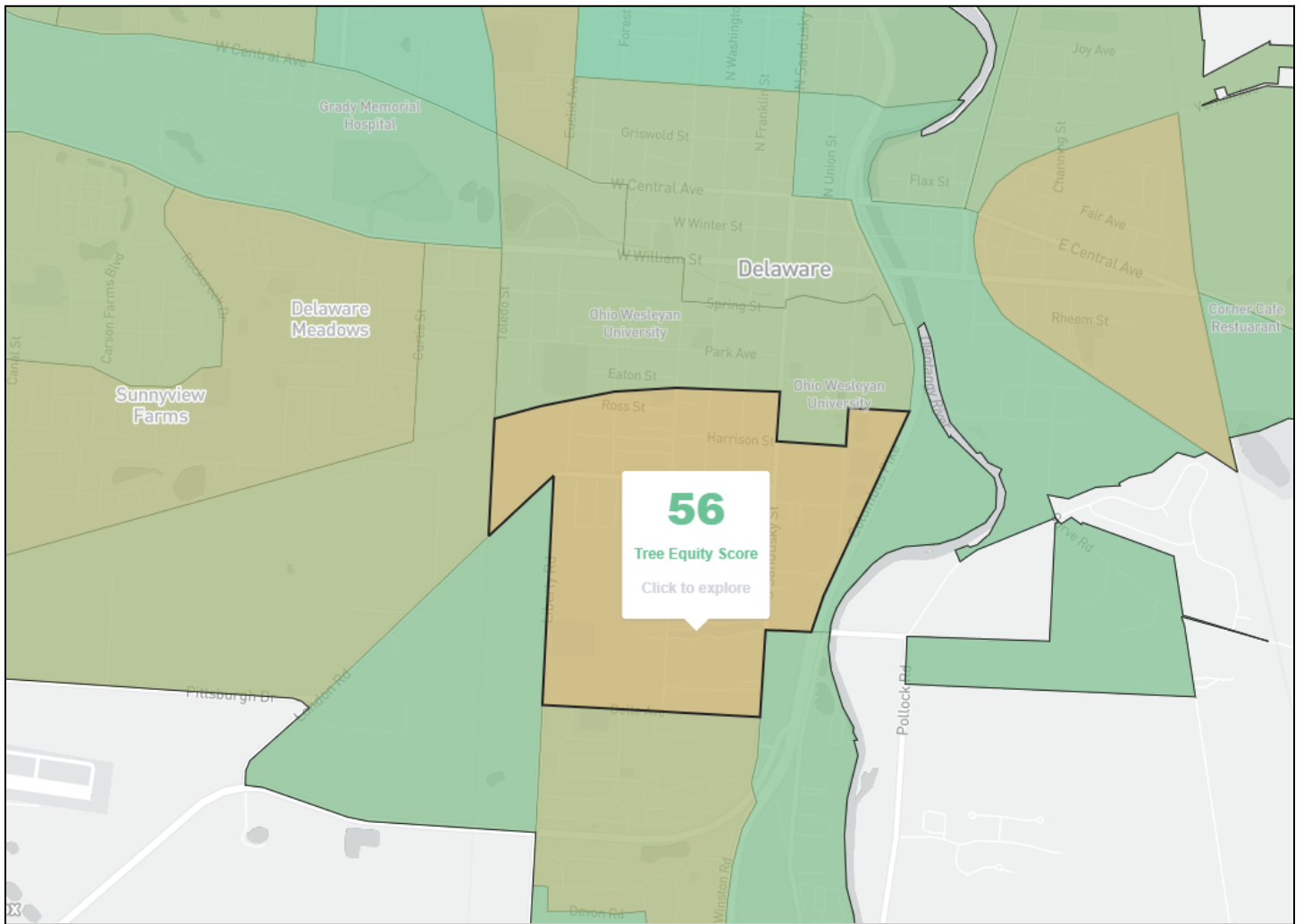


Image 2: City Arborist Report from November 2022 Shade Tree Commission agenda packet (last visited 16 Nov 2022):

## ARBORIST REPORT

### November 2022

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Street Trees			
	City Staff	Contractor	YTD
Planting	1	131	132
Pruning	32	0	2569
Tree Removal	4	0	92
Stump Removal	27	0	31
Service Requests	14	0	226
Other	0	0	0
Park Trees			
Planting	0	0	0
Pruning	0	0	319
Tree Removal	0	0	18
Stump Removal	0	0	0
Service Requests	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0

Plan Review (STC approval required)		
Project	Tree Survey	Landscape Plan

Informational Review (No STC approval required)				
Project	Tree Survey	Landscape Plan	Trees Removed	Trees Added

Discussion Topics

- Update approved street tree lists.
- Update on Urban Forestry Master Plan process.
- Public educational outreach projects.

Issues/Concerns