ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:

November 5, 2025

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

7:00 PM

Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent

Reena Murphy

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the September 3rd, 2025 Minutes

Old Business

New Business

1. WWTP Solar Project
2. Deer Management Program
3. Tree List Revisions
4. Member Updates

    - City Council
    - Planning Commisison
    - Climate Action Steering Committee
    - OPTAB

5. Staff Updates

    - Memo from Environmental Services
    - Recycling Expansion
    - Class Project Presentations:
        - EC December 3rd, 7pm
        - Recreation Board December 8th, noon
    - CCEC Audit Trainings

Adjournment

MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent. A quorum was present.

Members of the public present were: David Prytherch, City Council Member; Annie Swift with Republic Services, and Aidan Cornue with Oxford Free Press.

Staff members present: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Bracken
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the August 6th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Mrs. Branstrator
2nd: Mr. Vincent
Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

1. Commercial Recycling Mandate

Staff presented potential approaches to achieving City Council's goal of a commercial recycling mandate. Slides are attached.

The commission discussed the impact of recycling on the City's carbon neutrality goals. There was a split among the commission regarding matching resources to the mitigation potential.

Some felt that because recycling does not significantly reduce our emissions, we should focus on high-impact sectors. Others acknowledged that despite the emissions impact, recycling is a sustainable action, is frequently requested by the residents, and is something people can regularly engage with.

There were concerns from the commission that if the city pursued a pilot program, mandates would not be implemented later. Some members felt the pilot should be a voluntary phase and that there would be a scheduled mandate to take effect in a few years. Others felt the pilot was necessary to see what works and if the anti-contamination tactics could be scaled.

Recommendations to Council:

Motion to recommend dumpster sharing to City Council: Mr. Vanni
2nd: Mr. Vinch
Vote: Unanimous approval

Commercial and Mixed Use
Motion to recommend Approach 1: City-Wide Recycling Mandate with New Staff Support to Ensure Waste Diversion (Waste Czar): Mr. Vinch
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: 0-6

Motion to recommend Approach 2: Blanket Mandate with No New Staff: Mr. Vinch
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: 2-4

Motion to recommend Approach 3: Pilot City Lead Shared Recycling (3 Locations) with No New Staff: Mr. Vincent
2nd: Mr. Bracken
Vote: 4-2

Multifamily Housing
Motion to recommend Approach 1: Tiered Approach with Current Staffing: Mr. Vinch
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: 5-1

There was also a motion to recommend a pilot with a phased approach, ending with a requirement to implement a commercial recycling mandate in the future. Moved by: Mr. Vinch
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: 5-1

New Business

1. Member Updates:
   City Council
   Planning Commission

OPTAB
Climate Action Steering Committee

Mr. Bracken shared that council had a work session on the city's solar projects. Mr. Ralinovski shared that OPTAB is hosting a Bike and Pedestrian Safety Engagement Session on September 17th. Ms. Branstrator shared that OCASC had a successful event with OKI and had 24 people in attendance. She also shared about a solar tour she is organizing on October 4-5th. No update from Planning Commission.

2. Staff Updates

Staff shared that there are two relevant class projects happening this semester:
1) A GIS analysis for walkability to public green spaces and OATS.
2) Revising Oxford's street tree list for trees native to North America and resilient to the projected climate.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bracken
2nd: Ms. Branstator
Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:25pm.

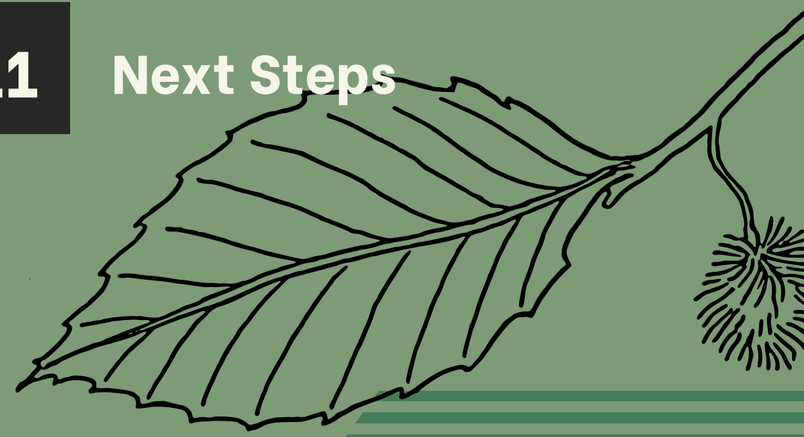
IES 474

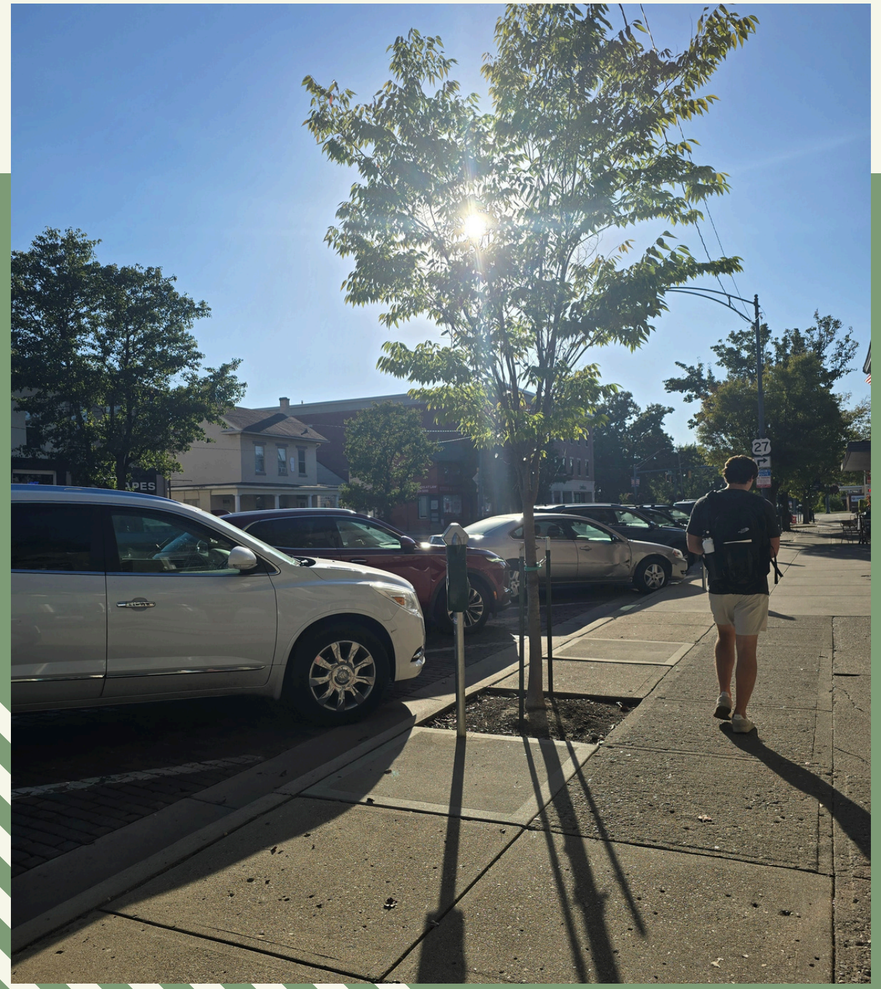
Oxford's Tree List

Sustainable Recommendations

Olive Abram, August Daugherty, Devante Harris, Kimmy Kasarcik, and Jules Swope

Report Highlights





Overview

The City of Oxford's *Climate Action Plan* requires that, by 2025, the Oxford Tree Planting List is revised to include trees that are both native to North America and tolerant of projected climate change.

The *Climate Action Plan* also encourages the prioritization of equitable tree planting in vulnerable areas of the community. Oxford's goal is to expand the urban tree canopy from 35% to 50% by supporting tree planting and urban forestry programs.

Goals & Objectives

Our main goal is to revise the approved tree list to lay the groundwork for the City of Oxford to improve the quality and quantity of the city's urban tree canopy.

Revised Tree List

Positive & Negative Factors of Current Trees

Equity-focused Recommendations for Expansion of Tree Canopy

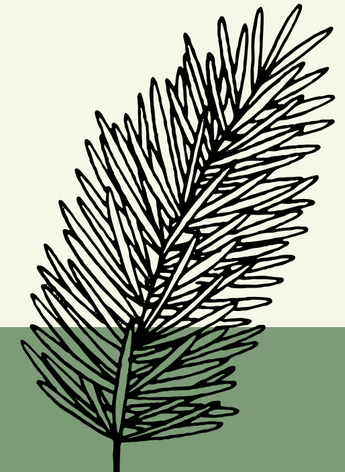
Measuring Progress

So far, we have compiled data on the trees included in the City of Oxford Tree List, as well as recommendations from previous projects. We then ranked and assessed the viability of each of the trees for the City of Oxford's mission.

1	Tree	Urban Survivability	Fruit	Deer Resistance	Climate Tolerance	Threats
4	American Smoketree	Urban, Residential, Rural	Urban, Residential, Rural	Good	Good	Disease
5	Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	Urban, Residential, Rural		Fair	Poor	Drought
6	Crabapple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Rural	Poor	Good	Disease
7	Fringetree (white)	Urban, Residential, Rural		Very P…	Very Poor	Insects
8	Harvest Gold Crabapple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Rural	Fair	Fair	Insects, Disease
9	Osage Orange	Rural	Rural	Good	Good	None
10	Pagoda Dogwood	Residential, Rural	Residential, Rural	Poor	Poor	Drought, Wind, Disease
11	Paperbark Maple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Drought, Insects, Disease
12	Saucer Magnolia	Urban, Residential, Rural	Rural	Poor	Fair	Drought
13	Shadblow (Downy) Serviceberry	Rural	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Insects, Disease
14	Star Magnolia	Residential, Rural	Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Wind, Drought, Competition
15	Sugar Tyme Crabapple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Rural	Very P…	Fair	Disease

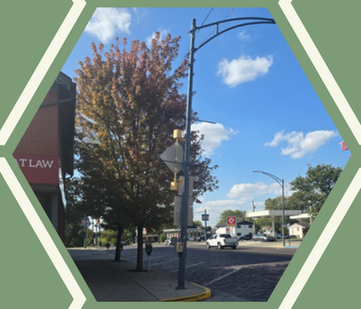
Assessment Categories

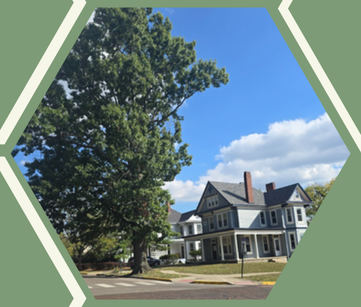
- Invasive Status
- Indigeneity
- Climate Tolerance
- Urban Survivability
- Threats
- Preferred Soil Type
- Sun/Shade Preference
- Height
- Canopy Width
- Growth Rate
- Fruit Litter
- Support of Native Species



Finalizing the List

As a group, we have decided to rank the variables by order of importance. We collectively decided urban surviability is the most important factor to consider moving forward. Closely followed by fruit produced and a new category we created, deer resistance. Next on our list is climate tolerance and threats. We then had sun/shade and canopy size ranked as less important. Height and soil were equally less important, as the soil in Oxford is great for a large number of trees. Then finally support of native species and growth rate were our least important variables as they do not pose current or future threats on our landscape.





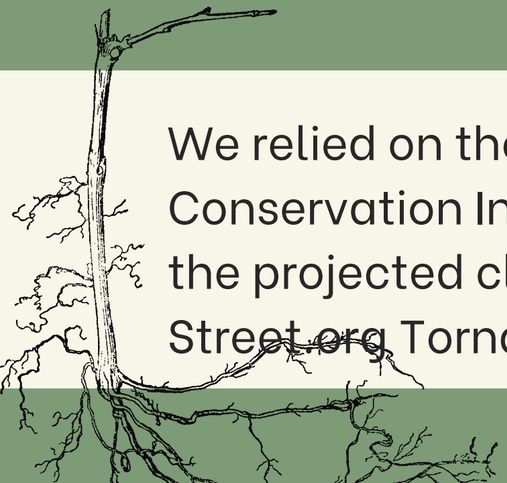
ArcGIS Attribute Table

	Tree *	Name	UrbSurv	Deer	ClimTol	Threats	SunShade	Canopy	Height
1	1	Accolade Elm	Urban, Residential, Rural	Fair	Good	Insects, Disease	Full Sun	Medium	Large
2	5	American Hop-Hornbea...	Urban, Residential, Rural	Fair	Fair	Insects	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Medium
3	7	American Linden (Bass...	Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Insects, Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Large
4	8	American Smoketree	Urban, Residential, Rural	Good	Good	Disease	Full Sun	Medium	Small
5	11	Bald Cypress	Urban, Residential, Rural	Good	Fair	Drought	Full Sun	Medium	Large
6	14	Burr Oak	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Disease	Full Sun	Large	Large
7	16	Chinkapin Oak	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Insects, Disease	Full Sun	Large	Large
8	18	Crabapple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Disease	Full Sun	Small	Small
9	19	Crimean Linden (Cauca...	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Large
10	22	Eastern Red Cedar	Urban, Residential, Rural	Fair	Very Good	Insects	Full Sun	Small	Large
11	23	English (Pedunculate) O...	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun	Medium	Large
12	24	European Larch	Residential, Rural	Fair	Good	Insects, Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Large
13	26	Ginkgo (Maidenhair tree)	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Large
14	27	Hardy Rubber Tree	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Very Good	Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Medium
15	28	Harvest Gold Crabapple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Fair	Fair	Insects, Disease	Full Sun	Small	Small
16	29	Heritage River Birch	Urban, Residential, Rural	Fair	Fair	Insects, Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Medium	Large
17	35	Katsura Tree	Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Drought, Heat	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Small	Large
18	31	Kentucky Coffetree (mal...	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	Ice, Heat, Drought, Floo...	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Small	Large
19	37	Paperbark Maple	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Good	Drought, Insects, Disease	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Pa...	Small	Small
20	38	Pioneer Elm	Urban, Residential, Rural	Poor	Fair	None	Full Sun	Large	Large

Climate Projections

Referencing projected climate data in our region along with traits that can withstand them is a core part of our selection process for tree planting. Below are the projected event types and conditions to expect in our region in the next 50 years. Data was collected from various climate related sources.

Event type	Storm conditions	Damage potential	Projected Frequency	Resistant tree traits
Flooding	High debris runoff	Moderate-Severe	Increase by 45%	Deep root systems
Tornado	Strong winds	Minor-Moderate	Increase 2-5%	Flexible trunks
Heavy rain	High runoff	Moderate-Severe	Increase by 45%	Strong water absorption
Extreme Heat	Drought conditions	Moderate-Major	17% AC increase	Waxy leaves/Thick bark
Extreme Cold	Rapid freezing	Minor-Moderate	Increase by 45%	Needle leaves/thick bark

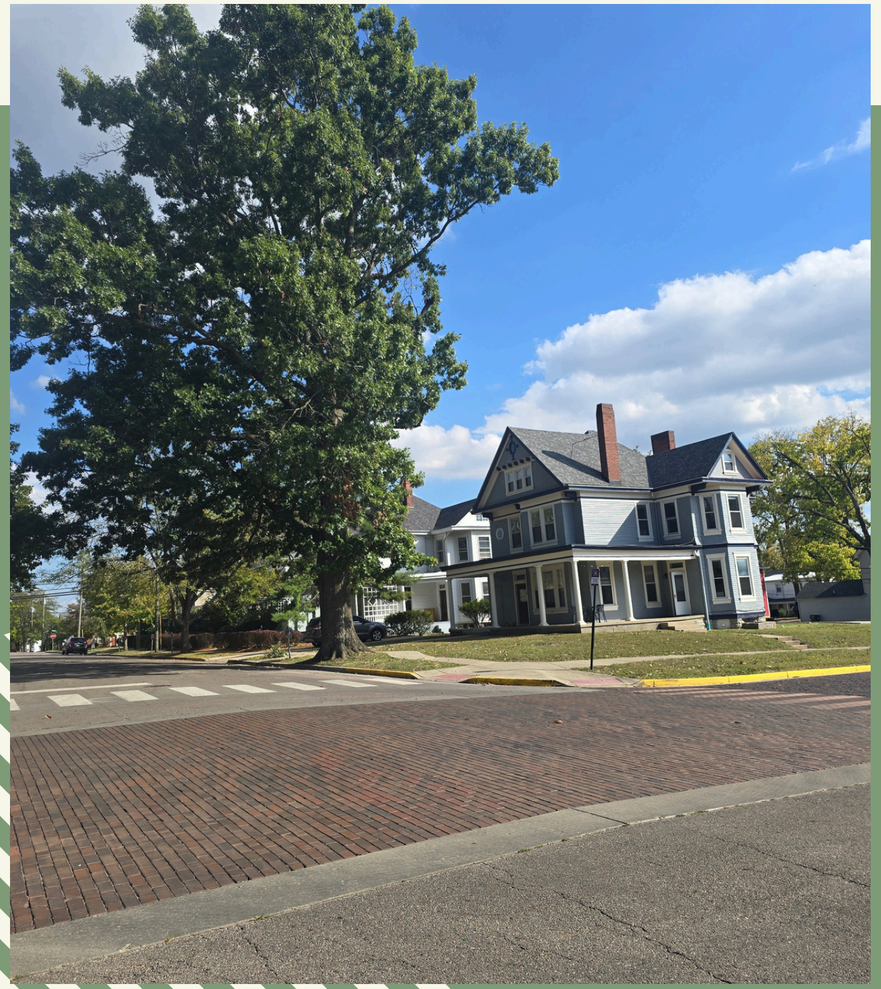


We relied on the US Forest Service's Tree Atlas and Climate Change Atlas, then the Botanic Gardens Conservation International's Climate Assessment Tool for those not included by the USFS, to determine the projected climate resilience of each of our trees. Flooding and heat data was collected from First Street.org Tornado data was collected the butler county tornado database (publicsearch.IM.doe.gov).

Climate Projections

Referencing projected climate data in our region along with traits that can withstand them is a core part of our selection process for tree planting. Below are the projected event types and conditions to expect in our region in the next 50 years. Data was collected from various climate related sources.

Trees Removed



Invasives

- Amur Maple
- Black Alder
- European Beech
- Goldenrain Tree
- Hedge Maple
- Japanese Maple
- Japanese Pagoda Tree
- Norway Maple
- Sawtooth Oak
- Tatarian Maple
- Zelkova

Trees Removed

Poor Climate Tolerance

- All Seasons Sugarberry
- Allegheny Serviceberry
- American Beech
- American Hornbeam
- Amur Maackia
- Autumn Breeze Freeman Maple
- Bigleaf Linden
- Black Tupelo
- Centurion Crabapple Tree
- Cornelian Cherry Dogwood
- Cucumbertree Magnolia
- Dawn Redwood
- Fringetree
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Littleleaf Linden
- London Plan Tree
- Pagoda Dogwood
- Sargent Cherry
- Sassafras
- Scarlet Oak
- Shingle Oak
- Silver Linden
- Tamarack
- Turkish Filbert
- Two-Winged Silverbell

Adding Trees

The removal of invasive and non-climate resilient trees has led to a very small amount of medium-sized trees remaining. To match the volume of the initial list, we are looking at recommendations from the City of Louisville to see if they meet our qualifications.

URBAN FORESTRY
Louisville Parks and Recreation

Master Tree List for Louisville, KY

Permitted Species:

Revised July 2022

KEY:
Size Type (height at maturity): A= 50ft+, B= 25+ -50ft C= 10 -25ft
*= size dependent on cultivar
Symbols:
✓= Yes
❍= simple leaf
❖= compund leaf
⅄= Needle or scale-like leaf
❁= trees must be high-branched
△= cone-like structure
◊= nut-like structure
●= fruit
✹= spiky fruit
▬= pod
❀= showy flower

Top Recommendations

After looking at climate projections for our region, the following trees are our top recommendations based on size:

Small

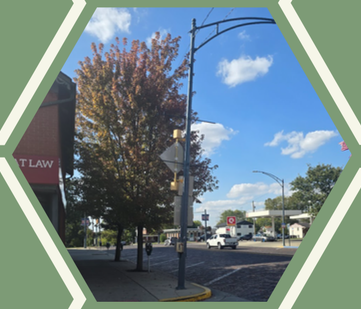
American Smoketree
Crabapple (Harvest gold,Sugar Tyme)
Osage Orange
Paperbark Maple
Saucer Magnolia
Shadblow Serviceberry
Star Magnolia
Thornless Cockspur

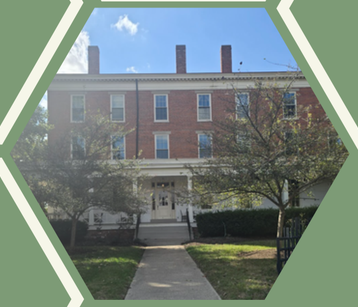
Medium

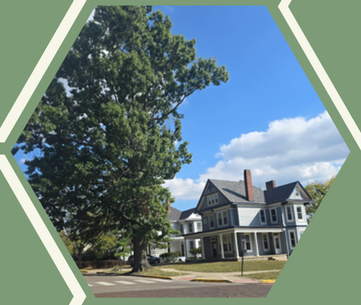
American Hop Hornbeam
Hardy Rubber Tree

Large

Accolade Elm
American Linden
Bald Cypress
Bitternut Hickory
Burr Oak
Chinkapin Oak
Red Oak
Eastern Red Cedar

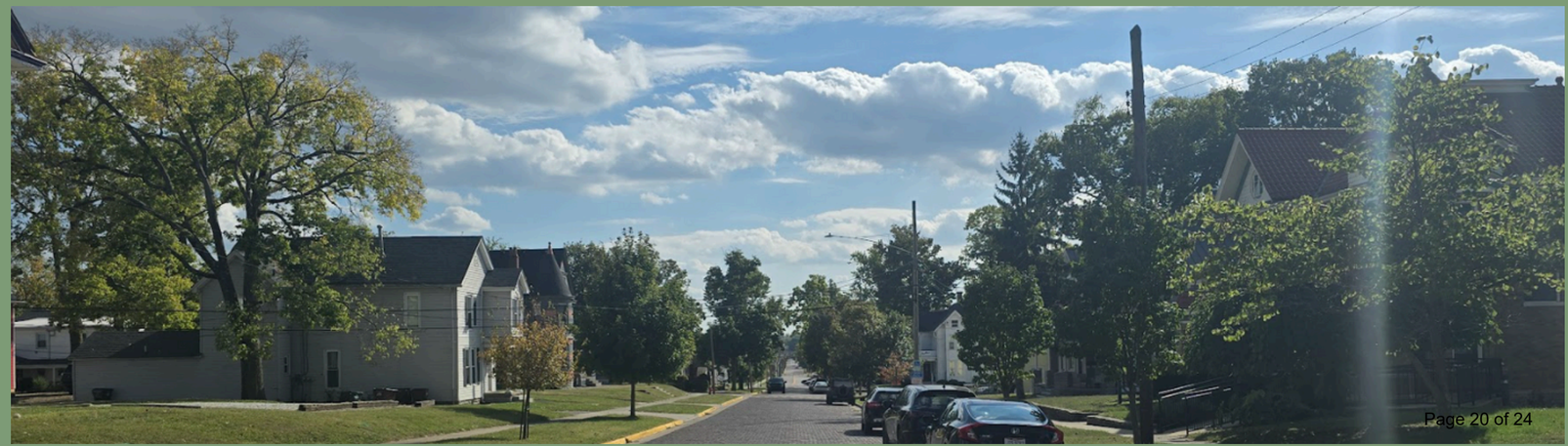






Next Steps

- Identifying more Medium-sized trees for the tree list proposal
- Finalizing the proposed tree list document
- Providing recommendations for expanding equitable tree canopy cover
- Creating our presentation for the Environmental Commission meeting in December



Tools

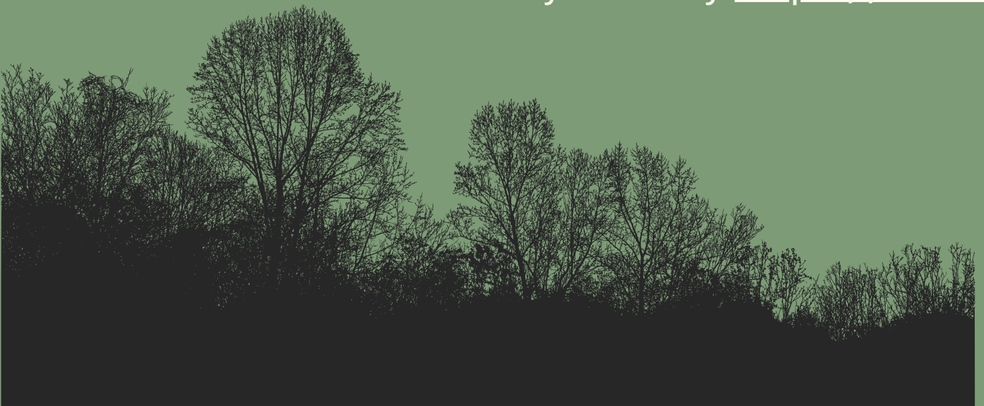
Botanic Gardens Conservation International: Climate Assessment Tool
https://cat.bgci.org/

USDA and US Forest Service Tree Atlas - Climate Change Atlas
https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/atlas/tree/

Louisville Metro Government Master Tree List
https://louisvilleky.gov/urban-forestry/document/parks-urban-forestry-master-tree-list

Sources

- Morton Arboretum https://mortonarb.org/
- US Forest Service https://www.fs.usda.gov/
- North Carolina State University https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/
- University of Minnesota Urban Forestry Outreach https://trees.umn.edu/
- Missouri Department of Conservation https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide
- Invasive.org https://www.invasive.org/
- Missouri Botanical Garden https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/plantfindersearch.aspx
- The Ohio State University https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/plants-trees/common-trees-ohio
- Iowa State University Forestry https://naturalresources.extension.iastate.edu/forestry



Questions?

Special thanks to Reena Murphy and Dr. David Gorchov

Thank you to the Oxford Environmental Commission and David Treleaven for this opportunity