



**CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Centennial Commons 7210 Olive Blvd.
Wednesday, January 10th, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

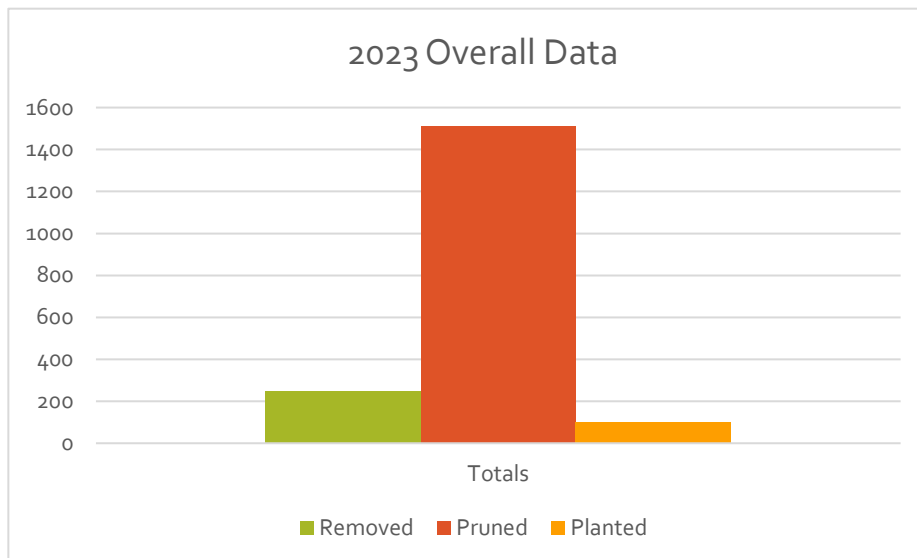
AGENDA

On March 20, 2020, City Manager Gregory Rose declared a State of Emergency for the City of University City due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, those who are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear face coverings.

- a) MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- b) ROLL CALL**
- c) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 8th, 2023**
- e) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
- f) DEPARTMENT REPORT**
 - a. 2023 Forestry numbers Pruning, Planting, and Removals
 - b. 2024 Annual Community Forestry Plan
- g) COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**
- h) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- i) NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Brainstorm Sustainability Metrics
- j) COMMISSION COMMENTS**
- k) NEXT MEETING DATE**
- l) ADJOURNMENT**

2023 Forestry Data

Month	Removed	Pruned	Planted
Janurary	69	1	45
February	10	81	0
March	4	231	0
April	23	243	11
May	12	308	28
June	35	194	12
July	*	*	*
August	*	*	*
September	22	177	0
October	29	153	1
November	25	94	1
December	19	32	0
Totals	248	1514	98



2024

ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN

UNIVERSITY CITY, MISSOURI

INTRODUCTION:

The community forest is an important resource that contributes to the quality of life for the residents of University City. This community forest resource works to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values and beautify the city. University City is home to approximately 9,000 street trees and around 2,600 park trees. Our current forest resources were planted by previous city staff and residents and must be maintained and improved by current staff and residents for the future.

Vision: To sustain a healthy, safe and appealing Public Street and park tree population in the City of University City, MO.

Goal: To efficiently oversee the urban and community forest of University City in an effective manner through sound management, utilizing in-house and contracted services and building a team of effective proponents for the trees in the community.

OVERVIEW:

The forestry division is a part of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. The division is made up of three personnel: the Forestry Supervisor (who acts as the City Forester as directed), a crew leader/ tree trimmer and one tree trimmer. The Forestry Supervisor reports directly to the Deputy Director of Parks Maintenance. In November of 2006 the municipal code was amended to establish new regulations on trees and shrubs. Assisting the Forestry Supervisor in the enforcement of this tree ordinance is a seven person Urban Forestry Commission.

In April 2009 the City developed a forestry operations review and strategic plan which was accepted by the Urban Forestry Commission and implemented and used as a guide by the Forestry Division called the Best Management Practices.

Started in 2020 and completed in 2021 a digital inventory of the city's street and park trees was conducted by Davey Resource Group. This was funded partially using a cost share grant from Missouri Department of Conservation. This inventory comes with a subscription based software to manage the data collected. This software and data paints a clear picture of the current status and needs of the urban forest. This inventory will be used to establish an annual pruning cycle as well as keep detailed records of work and calls for each individual tree. This tool will also be used to aid in writing contracts for tree pruning and removal that will be needed to maintain the urban forest.

In 2023 the Forestry Supervisor completed an Urban Forest Management Plan that goes into detail explain the current resource that is the Urban Forest and the management of that resource. In 2024 the plan will go to council to hopefully be adopted as an official plan to be used as a guide when making decisions on the management of this University City's Urban Forest.

THE TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS FOR 2023:

REVIEW:

Pruning and removals based on request and level 1 inspections done by the Forestry Supervisor were done in house and block pruning and larger removals identified by inspections and data from the tree inventory were completed by a contractor. On July 1st, 2023, the area experienced a large storm that created widespread tree damage ranging from total tree failure to broken limbs not only to city owned trees but also privately owned trees. Based on the current storm policy, the city not only cleaned up debris from city owned trees but also any debris that residents could place at the curb near the street. City owned trees that failed and fell towards neighboring homes and properties were the responsibility of the property owner to cut up and place at the curb per the current storm policy. Due to the current staffing of the Forestry division, contract crews were hired to help clean up and remove trees blocking roadways. The final cleanup of debris was completed as a joint effort between Parks, Forestry, and the Street division.

REMOVALS: University City's community forest is a diverse population of old growth and younger trees. Consequently, some have died due to old age or construction damage; these trees must be removed for safety and liability issues. Trees are also removed before they are dead due their risk rating after risk assessment done by in house staff. A tree does not have to be dead to be a high risk to people or property. The Forestry Supervisor is qualified in tree risk assessment through the International Society of Arborist. Two-hundred and Forty-eight (248) trees were removed in total throughout the city in 2023. The City is also facing a serious threat to its Green Ash population as a result these trees are proactively being removed. During 2023, 48 Ash trees were removed; all large removals were done by contractors. These trees were replaced with replaced with eight different species including native and non-native species.

PRUNING: Pruning is an important tool in the management plan; proper pruning can greatly extend the health, safety, and life of trees. The second area in the annual pruning cycle was completed in 2023 which included 1514 trees. This number includes all trees in the scheduled area under 10 inches in diameter. The trees that need pruning in that size class in the area were pruned by in house staff throughout the year. In house staff also pruned around 200 trees outside of the scheduled pruning areas and in parks.

PLANTING: Planting is the only way to ensure the diversity of the community forest and every attempt is made to plant at least as many trees as removed. Ninety-eight (98) trees were planted in 2023 to offset the 230 removals completed. Forty-eight (48) of these were done by contractors as part of the Ash abatement program and the rest were planted by city staff.

ACTION ITEMS FOR 2024:

- A) Start the annual pruning cycle (1,136 trees) in the 3rd area which is the central part of the city.
- B) Remove approximately 250 hazardous trees.
- C) Plant approximately 300 trees.
- D) Have in-house staff concentrate smaller removals, small diameter tree corrective pruning, and resident request.
- E) Have an annual Arbor Day celebration.
- F) Update current ordinances and policies related to Urban Forestry.
- G) Adopt the drafted Urban Forestry Management Plan as an official plan.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023
(DRAFT)**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barhard, Secretary Kathy Freese, and Commission Members Jane Zeni, Roger McFarland, and Linda Freid. Also in attendance was Forestry Supervisor Jacob Kaiser. Absent was Council Person Aleta Klein and Commission Member Aaron Bitzer.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Commission Member Freese motioned, and Commission Member Freid seconded to accept the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Vice President Barhard motioned to approve the minutes from October 2023 and Commission Member McFarland seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

Ms. Trish Hayes, a resident on W. Kingsbury Blvd, was a walk in and presented her appeal of the Forester decision to not prune or remove a city owned tree across the street from her residence. Ms. Hayes handed out pictures and information about the tree in question. The commission voted unanimously, after some discussion, to uphold the decision made by the Forester, but requested that Mr. Kaiser re-inspect the tree in spring of 2024. An official letter was mailed to Ms. Hayes on behalf of the commission drafted and signed by Commission President Schroeder.

Agenda Item F: Department Report – Forestry Supervisor, Jacob Kaiser reported on the Forestry Reports.

- a) On going and upcoming contracts
- b) Work done by city staff
- c) Year to date numbers of trees removed, pruned, and planted.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report – Council Member Klein was absent from the meeting, so no report was given.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

- a) Approval of Commission By Laws
 - i. A motion was made by Commission Member McFarland and seconded by Commission Member Barhard to approve and adopt the revised By Laws.
- b. Tiny Forests Big Benefits
 - i. Commission Member Freese and Commission Member Freid volunteered to contact a Commission Member on the Green Practices Commission to see if

they would add it to their agenda as it was decided to be a better fit for that Commission.

Agenda Item I: New Business

- a) Brainstorm Sustainability Metrics
 - i. Tabled by Commission President due to time restraints.
 - ii. Brief discussion about what to expect to discuss at the next meeting.
- b) Letter of Support for University City Comprehensive Plan
 - i. No vote was taken, and no revisions were made.
 - ii. Brief discussion was held about how the Comprehensive Plan aligns with the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

- a) Vice President Barhard mentioned Federal Funding given via grants from the Federal Government. City Forester Kaiser mentioned that he had looked into possible funding, but there was none left for this Fiscal Year.
- b) Commission Member Freese mentioned the possibility for volunteer help in the Forestry Division.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission Member Barhard motioned, and Commission Member Zeni seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:52 pm.