

# Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

## STAFF REPORT: OCTOBER 8, 2019

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### PROJECT UPDATES

#### 1. Vet’s Park potential Soldier Row

Staff are now planning on a spring planting. This will allow us to make sure we can get the species we want. Hillary is in process of getting approval for her final plans. Her last update indicated she was going to incorporate oaks, but was going to predominantly be one species. Once I have final approved plans from her, I will send out for quotes and report back to the Committee.

The Director of the Parks Department would like to include a sign identifying this as an E. Dean Fund Committee Project and have it on display in this project area. Once they have design options, I will present them to the Committee to review and select the top option of the group.

**Project timeline:**

Spring 2019	Project design (Hillary Hanzel) – COMPLETE (out for final review)
Summer 2019	EDFC Project Review & Approval - COMPLETE
Fall 2019	Send out for project quotes
Spring 2020	Plant trees – Hire a contractor

### POTENTIAL PROJECTS

#### 1. Leslie Science and Nature Center Apple Orchard

Parks Maintenance Staff were notified by Adopt-a-Park volunteers that the apple trees at the LSNC were declining. Staff had Guardian Tree Experts come out and evaluate all 15 trees on site. Their report found that fire blight was prevalent and came up with a treatment plan for these trees. A long-term maintenance plan was put together by Guardian Tree Experts. The total costs associated with this project are \$3,130.00. Parks maintenance staff will do the recommended tree removals of 3 of the most affected trees not likely to survive in house, which would lower the project cost to \$2,230.00.

The trees have been removed. The LSNC Board is not focusing their energies in this direction at this time as they have much on their plate at the moment. Scott Spooner states that staff would like to keep some apple trees, or plant new ones to maintain apple trees on this site.

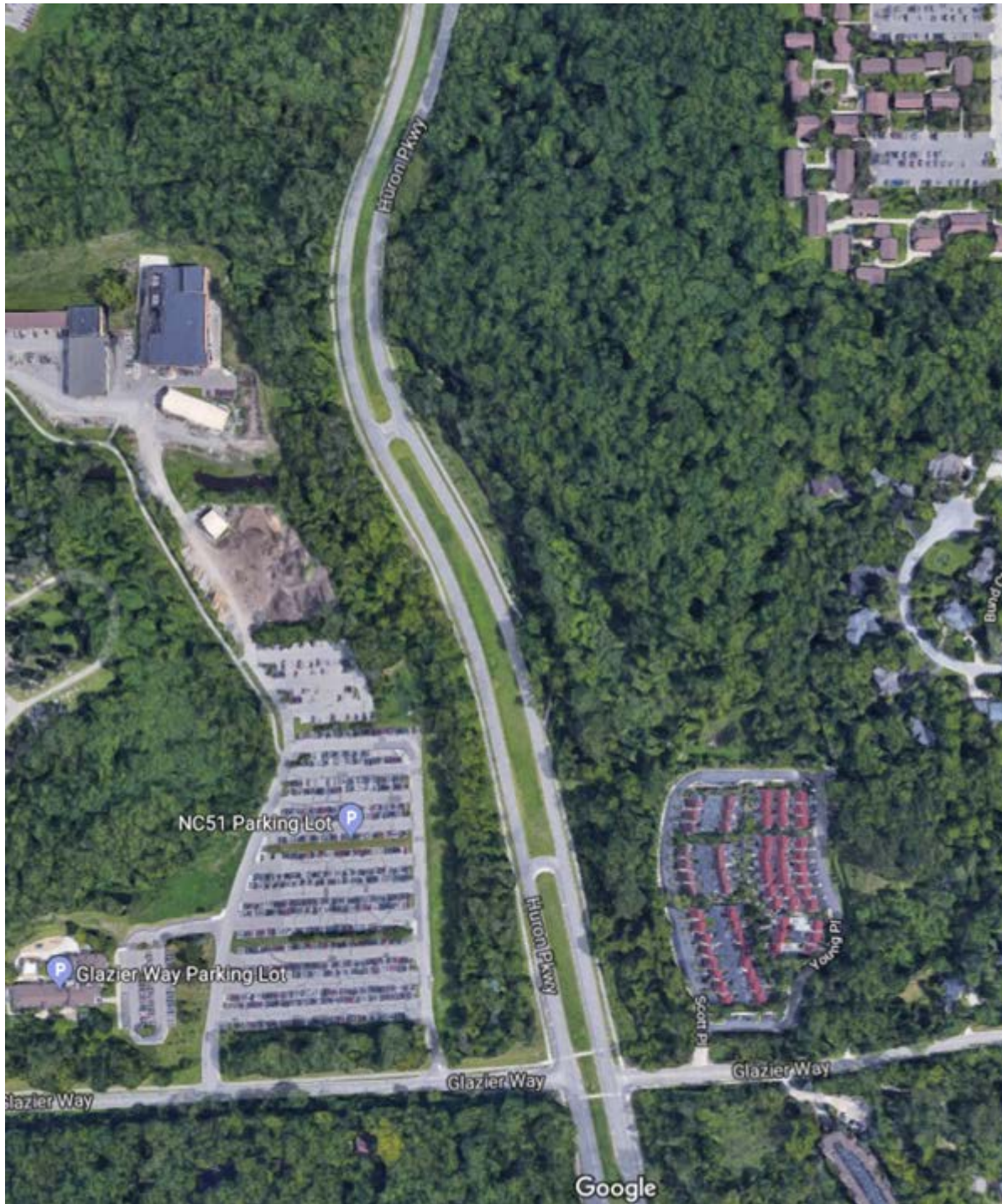
This treatment plan would not guarantee long-term health, but gives them a good chance at living for a few years, likely longer. This would also give the newly planted succession trees time to grow and begin producing fruit before the older generation is lost to age and possible disease.



## 2. Huron Parkway Boulevard

Natural Area Preservation (NAP) maintains this site. They do it with prescribed burns, but also with staff out physically cutting and herbiciding any woody plants (at least once per year). They also manage leafy spurge (and other herbaceous invasive plants) by herbiciding. They do this to maintain visibility, and to maintain the prairie planting. Burning is the best tool for them there, but it's a tough one to do, given the adjacent roadways (no good direction to put the smoke). NAP recommends against planting trees there if it is to be maintained as a prairie, which needs lots of sun, and some burning. Trees would be challenging in both those areas.

However, there is an identified project in the Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) to redo the entire "Huron Parkway Median" as a Stormwater infiltration/bioswale. Tree plantings could be included in this future project since it would no longer be a prairie.



## BUDGET UPDATE

### 1. FY2020 Update & FY2021 Planning

**FY2020 Update:** The amount budgeted at the last budget planning meeting for FY2020, was \$27,520.00. This year so far, you have encumbered \$27,500.00 for projects. This does not include any

post-planting maintenance projects such as watering or the purchase of tree guards. Right now, with encumbered monies and spent monies, the budget is over by \$1,035.84.

In order to increase this budget, a resolution to council would be necessary and for them to appropriate the funds (requiring 8 votes by council). In the resolution, you would need to explain the need, and how things have changed since last year's budget request as to why it wasn't budgeted. Unspent monies are not carried over from one year to the next without direction either during the budget planning or resolution to city council.

The committee must decide if they want to work within this year's current budget and postpone or reduce scope of some of the projects; or if you want to move forward with asking council to move monies into the EDFC FY20 budget.

**FY2021 Planning:** Finance has approached me to indicate the budget for FY2021 should be turned into them in December. I recommend we use November's EDFC meeting to work on setting goals for budget for FY2021.