

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

STAFF REPORT: AUGUST 10, 2021

PROJECT UPDATES

Conifer Tree Planting project was completed in June. All trees were planted, and the invoice forwarded for payment. 46 trees were planted for a total of \$21,920.00.

TREE PLANTING CONTRACT

The ITB (Invitation to Bid) (ITB-4688) on the committee’s yearly tree planting projects posted in July. Bid opening is August 18, 2021. Lowest responsible bidder will be recommended for approval at the soonest City Council Meeting possible.

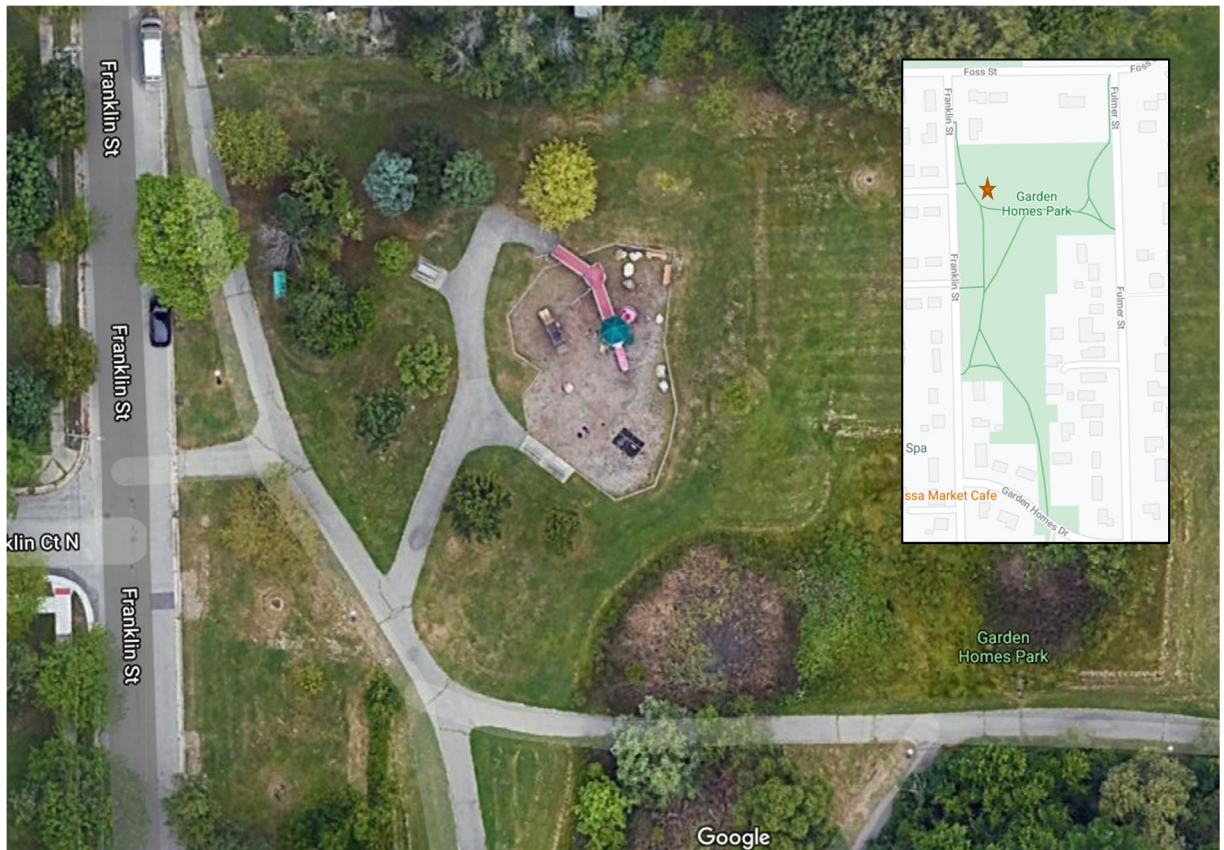
POTENTIAL PROJECTS

1. **204 W. Jefferson London 24.2 Inch Landmark Planetree.** It is suspected that a neighbor applied some chemical to the tree to try and kill it a few months ago. Matt and I have looked at the tree and both suspect that it’s been poisoned but have no proof as to with what and by who. The adjacent neighbor reached out and let me know the tree has started to try and leaf out. I would like to have Guardian Tree Experts out to look at the tree to see if we can do anything to help it. There is a \$95.00 consultation fee for them to come and look at the tree. From there, they would provide recommended treatments, if applicable. I anticipate costs between \$300-\$500 beyond the consultation fee, but that is a best guess.





2. **Garden Homes Park.** (see accompanying Project Proposal) Residents that live adjacent to Garden Homes Park are requesting at least 3 trees to be planted around the playground area to provide future shade for the play area. They are requesting large canopy shade trees be planted. Residents would like to contribute to the purchase of the tree, buy donating money to the parks. They anticipate they can gather \$20 per resident for approximately \$200.00. Additionally, they state they will make sure the trees are watered by bringing 5-gallon buckets of water to each tree each week, unless rain is received. They have worked with Hillary Hanzel about the park in the past and mentioned they wanted trees planted there. They are good with staff selecting species and appreciate the committee’s consideration on their proposal. Forestry staff would coordinate with parks and ask them for a landscape plan for committee approval.



SIGNAGE

Parks staff, Erika Pratt, has reached out to open discussions about signage and recognition for planting projects supported by the committee. Parks is in the process of doing audits and reviewing signage to remove those that are dated or no longer applicable.

She brings as an example Arbor Oaks Park. There is a sign there that states “Trees Donated by the Elizabeth Dean Fund” but it is not clear which trees were donated. All the trees there are larger and have been there for years.

Parks are proposing to remove this sign but would still like to recognize the donation by the Dean Fund in the Arbor Oaks web page (<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Parks-Recreation/parks-places/Pages/ArborOaks.aspx>). Ideally, they would provide a bit more information about the donation(s) and the Dean Fund in general. Specifically, for this park and planting project, staff has not been able to find any records of the planting.

Parks would like to hear the committee's thoughts on how long signs should stand following a planting and whether you support removing them after a period, for example 2 years, and keep planting project information and recognition on appropriate park web pages. Currently, there is not an established signage protocol for donations. Perhaps this could be discussed, and recommendations given to parks staff.



Erika is available to attend a meeting should the committee wish to have more in-depth discussions with her regarding this matter.

ITEMS OF NOTE

1. **Moving On.** Kellee Byard will be moving on to a new position with The National Wildlife Federation through AmeriCorps. She'll be moving to Washington State at the end of August.
2. **Urban Wood Reuse Program Feasibility Study.** Staff has been working with Paul Hickman, Urban Ashes on the possibility of creating an urban wood reuse program here in Ann Arbor for city trees that are removed from our urban forest. We just learned that our Ann Arbor/Washtenaw Circular Circular UrbanWood Triconomy® (CUT) model was one of only 8 out of 55 proposals selected for the NextCycle FLOWs trac focused on organics. This is funding to develop a feasibility study on building a program here in Ann Arbor. We wanted to ensure we create a solid baseline set of Life Cycle Assessments for all 3 key areas, environmental, social and economic. We are in the very early stages of planning, but this is exciting, and I will keep you updated on further developments regarding urban wood reuse program here in Ann Arbor.
3. **Farmer's Market Community Engagement.** Urban forestry staff have been working with other areas of Public Services to staff a table at the Farmer's Market one day a month on Wednesdays. We're there to answer urban forestry questions and engage with our residents. Dates we're there include: July 14, August 5, and September 8 from 11 AM – 3 PM. Come see us! ☺

