



# CITY OF BEXLEY TREE & PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION APPLICATION STAFF REVIEW

Project Name: TPGC-25-8 Fair Ave. Median Plantings  
 Project Address: 271 S. Cassingham (General Location)  
 Reviewed by: Walter Reins  
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 614-315-7304  
 Date: 08-13-25

|    | Project Description  | Completed | Incomplete | Missing | N/A |
|----|--|-----------|------------|---------|-----|
| 1a | Application  | X         |            |         |     |
| 1b | Project Description  | X         |            |         |     |
|    | <b>Research</b>  |           |            |         |     |
| 2a | Significant examples   |           |            |         | X   |
|    | <b>Design Documentation Drawings</b>                                 |           |            |         |     |
| 3a | Existing conditions photographs                                      | X         |            |         |     |
| 3b | Site plan or location plan   | X         |            |         |     |
| 3c | Schematic plan with north arrow and bar scale                        | X         |            |         |     |
| 3d | Elevations, perspectives, isometrics, axonometrics or detailed model |           |            |         | X   |
| 3e | Existing City trees indicated on plan                                | X         |            |         |     |
| 3f | Proposed vegetation  | X         |            |         |     |
|    | <b>Recommended information</b>                                       |           |            |         |     |
| 4a | Irrigation and maintenance plans                                     |           |            |         | X   |
| 4b | Hardscape layout and materials                                       |           |            |         | X   |
| 4c | Lighting locations and specifications                                |           |            |         | X   |
| 4d | Fixtures, furniture and equipment                                    |           |            |         | X   |
| 4e | Accessories  |           |            |         | X   |
| 4f | Buildings  |           |            |         | X   |

|    |       |  |  |  |   |
|----|-------|--|--|--|---|
| 4g | Other |  |  |  | X |
|----|-------|--|--|--|---|

| Comments |   |  |  |  |  |
|----------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 4g       | <p><b>Project Description:</b><br/> <i>"In 2024, Trees for Bexley raised \$37,000.00 to improve the 11 medians at Fair Avenue. Over the years, old trees have had to be removed and there are many opportunities to plant new ones. The street tree for the Fair Ave medians is a Bur Oak which is the majority of what is currently planted there now. During the design process, Paige Crane introduced the idea of a 'Quercetum' - an arboretum dedicated to oak trees.</i><br/> <i>The City hired Spruce for the median design. The design fee included an assessment of the plant material, field locating the existing trees, meetings with an appointed design group, preparing drawings, Tree and Public Gardens Commission review, and coordination with Yard Barbers for an installation cost.</i><br/> <i>There are 17 species of oaks native to Ohio. The medians currently have 39 oak trees, representing 6 of the native species. The proposed landscape plan will provide 36 new oak trees that will allow the other 11 native species to be represented. In the areas where there is not enough space, 21 pink or white dogwood trees will be planted as understory trees providing spring and fall color. Also included in the plan are replacement of the dead/dying plant material at the endcaps at Drexel and Gould Avenues.</i><br/> <i>Approximately (9) existing trees have been designated as unhealthy and need to be removed."</i></p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using the 11 medians located along Fair Ave. from S. Drexel Ave. to S. Gould Rd. provides a great location to showcase a full collection of Ohio's common and not-so-common native oak trees.</li> <li>- A site visit confirmed there are a number of trees located in the medians that are unhealthy. Some of these trees, if not already done so, should be deemed high risk due to their locations and close proximity to a number of targets.</li> <li>- The use of smaller understory trees as well as the renovation of the endcap landscape beds will help to provide a varying aesthetic along the medians and offers options where larger trees (in maturity) do not have the room to grow.</li> <li>- Also noted during the site visit, the recent break in steady rainfall during the spring and summer months helped to reveal the root competition present in many of the areas throughout the medians, as the larger trees take much of the resources, resulting in a browning of the surrounding, unirrigated lawn areas. Since the new trees will be immediately adjacent to the well-established root systems of mature trees, this should be taken into consideration with the new plantings A more aggressive post-planting watering schedule for the first 1-2 years of establishment should be considered.</li> <li>- Most species of oak native to Ohio are capable of adapting to a wide range of soil conditions, including pH, moisture, and soil composition. 2 exceptions to this are pin oak and scarlet oak. Central Ohio provides an overwhelming number of examples of pin oaks struggling with chlorosis due to high (alkaline) soil pH levels and a general lack of organic matter in most urban sites (though this is also occurring on very large, old, and mature trees that clearly were not chlorotic for much of their younger stages of growth, suggesting in influence by an outside variable in recent decades (lawn care practices perhaps?). Scarlet oak, though not as commonly planted and therefore not as commonly observed, can struggle similarly with neutral to alkaline soils. With</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |

regards to plantings of specifically these 2 species in this project, consideration should be given to increasing the level of amendment of the planting holes to attempt to positively influence their long term viability.

- Recommend approval of landscape plan as submitted.