

# Shade Tree and Beautification Commission Minutes Commission Meeting

March 31, 2026



## VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

Meeting videos are broadcast live and published on YouTube.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofmountvernon3369>

## CALL TO ORDER

Present	Absent	Excused
Fourth Ward LeNan Hager Russ Mentzer James Brown Emil Diener	Safety Service Director Tanner Salyers Engineer Brian Ball Jon May	Sarah Wagner

### Others in Attendance:

Zane Mikesell, City Forester  
Quentin Platt, Assistant City Engineer  
Rachel Wilson, Admin. Ast. Engineering  
Randy Pursel, Assistant Director of Parks  
Brian Wade

## MINUTES APPROVAL

Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - February 24, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### OLD BUSINESS

#### TCP

Brian Wade is working on the list and is almost done.

#### West End

There is a tree that has to be removed at 309 Greenwood. Wade will put a tree at 201 N Harrison St.

#### Clintonville

Brown took care of this area and moved a couple trees on Mansfield Ave. 121 Mansfield Ave. has a tree that may need to be removed.

#### Invasive Removal

80 pear trees throughout the community were replaced last year. The City is looking to do 80 more this year. Mikesell has removed invasives along Kokosing River. He reminded the Commissions that April 1-Oct. 31 is bat exclusion window. There is an area that has 57 pears off of S. Edwood, where Mount Vernon Ave. connects. Mikesell would like to remove those.

## Ariel Foundation Park Meadows

Off of Pittsburg Ave. is the Meadows. There is a pocket of invasives that will be removed. There are three dead or dying trees that need to be removed.

## America 250

Six trees have been planted behind the sign at the Meadows. One bald cypress, red oak, and white oak. Brown is going to look into getting plaques, noting that the 12x14 granite plaque costs about \$250. America 250 will give the City another white oak to plant. Hager will follow up with Olivia Toth.

## Experience Mount Vernon

Experience Mount Vernon wants to plant in the tree pits downtown. The Mount Vernon Municipal Center has an oak tree that the City would like removed. The tree has a 25-year look back. The City wants to put a clock there. And potentially put another, smaller tree nearby, such as a coral burst.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Martinsburg Rd

The trees along this route have been removed. AEP, MVNU, and the City all removed trees along Martinsburg Rd. concurrently. For the City, this is to prepare for adding sidewalks along the road. The City's removals will be replaced with more suitable trees. The City removed eight. Six were done by a homeowner. MVNU removed about 8-10.

## OTHER

### Storm Damage

Weather events were drastic. 16 trees came down. 60 events warranted intervention. The Streets Department has worked diligently to remove trees from roadways and collect sticks. The City can address trees that are in the road or right-of-way.

### Block Grant

Mikesell noted that as Community Development Block Grants go forward, trees will be considered and included in the requests.

### Tree City Banquet Awards

This will be on May 6. The City qualifies for our 33rd Tree City Award and either 12th or 13th Growth Award. Brown will attend. Hager may, as well.

### Burgess & Hamtramck Project

The City will be removing five trees. Four additional were removed last year. The job has been put out to bid.

### Bee City

Platt noted that along the south-east side of the river, the City has planted Pawpaw seed. Also collected elderberry and dogwood and staked them in by the river a few weeks ago. About 440 specimens. The focus on native flowers for pollinators is to provide for pollinators that have a unique or specific relationship to flora. For instance, Monarch butterflies need milkweed. April 13 is Dark Sky week. There will be a proclamation from Council regarding it. Important for pollinators. Mayor has established a sustainability advisory group that meets quarterly. Platt is the chair.

### Water Bags

Brown ordered 600 new bags last year. There should be a few hundred more old ones.

### March 16th Email Regarding 10 E Gambier Repair

Memorial Tree for Bill Jones. Brown & Zane are looking into getting quotes: one for repairing the curb and one for adding a tree pit. Then look into potentially planting an Autumn Gold Ginko.

### Ariel Foundation Park

West part of Ariel Foundation Park: Delano Field of Discovery. The City planted fifty native trees about ten years ago. The plan is to add 20 Aspen, 3 Hickory trees, and 3 American Beech. Some of the Pawpaw trees will need to be replaced. There will be natural exhibits put in by community partners. Goal to designate as an arboretum.

#### The Square

With the Veterans Memorial moving, Brown would like the Commission to look at the area and how it could / ought to be modified and maintained. Part of this may include seeking to designate that area as a level one arboretum.

#### Arbor Day

The Arbor Day event will be April 24 at 10am at the Salvation Army. Mayor will read a proclamation. Captain Christine will provide a reading. Brown will give a speech, most likely. Children will have the opportunity to work on art projects. There will be a whole week of environmental programming that week.

### **ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 3:49 p.m.