

## Tree Canopy Committee Minutes for July 8, 2025

Attendees: Mitch Bass, Sandra Turner, David Atton, Erick Carlson, Peter Wiest.

Guests: Lucy Chamberlain, Sharon Bodker

Absent: Nathaniel Smith, Holly Mathews

1. Minutes for TCC meeting of 6/10/25 were reviewed and approved.
2. Question of where the minutes will go after completion and approval – Mitch Bass will follow up with Jean.
3. Mitch presented status of timeline for pilot projects by BMW: Feller Field – completed round 2 of foliar treatment on 7/8/25; Arboretum – completed second round foliar treatment and will repeat in August, in part due to the presence of Gout Weed; Merkel and Cleveland Metroparks will start first foliar treatment in August.
4. David and Lucy asked about the progress and quality of the work provided by BMW. The committee felt that it will require at least one year after the start of land remediation to begin to assess the impact of the work by BMW. To date, we are seeing the results of treatment that started only 6 months ago.
5. PlanITGeo. Erick gave an update on PlanITGeo and the difference in the results of the tree canopy changes between Cuyahoga County (2013 – 2017) and PlanITGeo (2013-2023). It is unclear if the improvement in the tree canopy in Gates Mills from 2013 to 2023 was due to planting of new trees or just the growth of existing trees and invasives to expand the canopy. It was felt that a meeting between the TCC, the County and PlanITGeo was needed to examine the discrepancies between the two systems. David was going to speak with David Meany at the County and Mitch was going to discuss with PlanITGeo to arrange a meeting.
6. David stated that the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy (HUTC) awards were to be announced in early July followed soon after by a session for the awardees to start implementation of the programs. HUTC were to provide funds and access to expertise to implement projects by the TCC. (Results were announced July 31 and we were not selected.)
7. A summary of the invasive control of the LoConti Preserve for the GMLC was discussed by Peter. BMW quoted \$8,300.00 to manage invasives on this 6.5-acre property. This quote was approved by the GMLC on 7/8/25 and will be funded by a grant to GMLC. A survey will be performed by Judy Semroc to assess the diversity of species on the property and any significant concerns regarding management.

8. The renewal of the levy for 2026 was discussed. It was felt that these discussions should be started early prior to the levy to assure adequate time to address concerns by all parties.
9. Expansion of invasive control of village properties beyond the pilot projects was discussed. The request was to address management of the waste water treatment plant property (2.5 acres) and Gates Mills Parcel 2 (4.9 acres). Since these properties are divided from the Merkel property by the Chagrin River Road which has undergone invasive control and North of the adjoining LoConti Property for which approval of invasive control had been given by the GMLC Board, it was felt that treatment of these two additional villages owned properties was prudent at this time. This would allow management of invasives in a contiguous area in the village. BMW quoted \$3,000.00 for treatment of the waste water treatment property and \$1,400.00 for Gates Mills Parcel 2. Since invasive control of these two village properties was beyond the pilot projects approved by Council, the TCC recommended this proposal be presented to Council on July 15 for approval. All members of the TCC present at the meeting 7/8/25 approved the motion. Sandra Turner will present the request to Council. (The request was approved by Council on 7/15/2025).
10. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted

Peter M. Wiest