



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Public Spaces Committee

Meeting Date: July 13, 2026

Item Title: Consider and take action regarding tree border concerns in the City of Columbus

Submitted By: Matt Amundson, City Administrator

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

I've recently fielded concerns and have noticed violations within the tree border. I've included ordinances related to the Tree Border below and would like to have a discussion regarding this issue with the committee.

Sec. 106-66. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Tree border means and includes any publicly owned land abutting the traveled portion of a public street or alley in the city.

Sec. 106-39. - Planting of public trees and shrubs.

(a)
Tree planting program. The city forester, using the Arboricultural Specifications Manual for the City of Columbus and with the advice and approval of the beautification committee, shall recommend to the common council a program for tree planting, care, and protection for public trees and shrubs. The council shall also encourage the planting, care, and protection of trees and shrubs on private premises within the city.

(b)
Unlawfully planted trees. Trees, plants, or shrubs planted within the tree border without the authorization and approval of the forester may be removed. The abutting owner shall be notified in writing, listing the unlawfully planted trees, plants, or shrubs stating that they will be removed and when.

Sec. 106-67. - Parking of vehicles, placing of signs and storage of goods or merchandise restricted.

No merchandise, goods, materials, equipment, signs or vehicles shall be stored, placed, left or parked on any tree border or other public place within the city except as follows:

(1)
Materials customarily removed by the city may be placed on the tree border a reasonable time prior to the anticipated pickup by the city.

(2)
Motor vehicles may be parked on the tree border to facilitate snow removal in the city after first securing the permission of the chief of police.

(3)
Motor vehicles may be parked on the tree border in public parking stalls clearly designated by the public works department at the direction of the common council.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

n/a

Action Requested of Committee:

Discussion and direction related to tree border concerns.