

My name is John Schofield. I have owned a home at 1125 Jefferson Avenue in Downers Grove for 11 years.

I would like to thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. I would also like to thank Village staff for helping me with some exhibits.

There are two brief points I would like to make.

First I want to speak in support the proposed ordinance concerning trees and shrubs on public land. This is a good step.

Permit me to quote briefly from the purpose of the proposed ordinance:

- Trees enhance and preserve the air quality...
- Reduce noise...
- Reduce topsoil erosion...
- Reduce energy consumption...
- Provide nesting areas for birds... which in turn assist in the control of insects...
- Reduce storm water runoff...
- Replenish ground water supplies... and...
- Protect and increase property values.

That's a great list of benefits! The challenge is to achieve these benefits in actual practice.

It is my prayer that the Village – both the elected officials and the staff – go beyond the legal language of the ordinance to foster an atmosphere that actually protects the Village's trees to the maximum extent possible.

The Village's trees are a valuable community resource. They deserve a high moral stewardship to conserve them for everyone. And for the future.

Trees should not be sacrificed for profit.

In particular I hope that ALL Village departments, not just the Village Forester, will practice tree conservation in their daily decision-making.

Secondly... I want to speak in defense of some specific trees that are on public land but are nonetheless endangered.



These trees have already been tagged. There are at least 25 numbered metal tree tags. My neighbors and I fear that these trees will be destroyed to make a street serving a new subdivision project. Even though they are on public land, the 25 tree tags could quickly become 25 toe tags for dead trees.

These 25 trees deserve that high moral stewardship that I advocate. We ask the Village to protect them for everyone. And for the future.

These trees should not be sacrificed for profit.



These trees are located on public land adjoining the properties at 5712 and 5737 Brookbank Avenue and 1202 Jefferson Avenue. You may recognize this site.

These 25 trees enhance the entire neighborhood and are an asset to the Village. Their destruction would compound the loss of trees already suffered by the neighborhood when adjoining private land was cleared.

In the spirit of the ordinance you are considering, we ask the Council to assist us in protecting and conserving these 25 trees that are still-existing on public land.

Thank you.