



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

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ODNR DOF  
360 East State Street  
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Re: TRAQ assessment of pin oak in public ROW at 1100 Phillips Street Marietta, OH

At the city of Marietta's request, an inspection of the pin oak at 1100 Phillips Street, Marietta Ohio was done on July 15, 2024. At this site visit, I consulted with the property owner and city representative, the long time renter, a Tree Commissioner, a former Council member, the ISA CA who bid on the tree's removal and a local Tree Care Company owner who has worked on the tree in the past.

The property owner and long time renter have expressed concern about this tree for a long time. A few years ago, a large sweetgum tree nearby failed in a storm and did significant damage to a home. That storm damage loomed large in the memories of the people at this site visit. While we respect their concerns and while we want to please every resident, we balance these requests with the science of Urban Forestry and the expertise of the ODNR Urban Forestry program and the local Tree Commission made up of a Forester who retired from AEP, an ISA Certified Arborist who works for a Utility Company and other long time volunteers who have worked hard to educate themselves and dedicate their volunteer work to the City and residents who directly benefit from the historic Urban Forest in Marietta.

This tree is located in the Norwood neighborhood between the sidewalk and the curb. A primary electric wire runs to the north side of the tree. The tree's DBH is approximately 53 inches. The tree exhibits a very uniform and nicely flared root crown with no blemishes. The trunk is very well tapered with what foresters call, a "low center of gravity". The crown appears very healthy & balanced. The tree has been pruned periodically by the city and by electric contractors for clearance over the house and away from utility lines. **All** of the visible wounds show exceptional callus aka as wound wood. In layman's terms, the tree had the vigor to efficiently cover off the pruning wounds which protects the tree and makes it stronger over time.



An old wound was observed on a branch facing the house that we were told may be the result of an old lightning strike. From our ground inspection, this is plausible. The wound is flanked on both sides by generous wound wood that appears healthy. This tells us that the wound is old and that the tree has been working to compartmentalize it over many years.

Big trees like this provide significant heating and cooling savings for nearby buildings. They also absorb tremendous amounts of stormwater, particulate pollution like soot and dust but also NO, Sulfer, Carbon and heavy metals. This tree provides traffic calming, a shady place to park and an attractive barrier between the homes and the busy street.

**However, no, tree is completely safe. Managing city trees is managing risk. We are balancing the benefits that trees provide with the likelihood that they will not fail. We do this by educating people who work around trees to plant trees properly, to prune them using ISA professional standards and to work around them with care and skill.** We also rely on the International Society of Arboriculture's Tree Risk Assessment Protocol to help us identify, analyze, evaluate and communicate risks that are associated with urban trees. The following outlines the findings with this tree.

Based on the track level two basic assessment that was done, this tree presents a moderate risk over the next year. Conditions of concern are the tree's size and location. The targets are the street and the homes and the people who frequent the area.

**While this tree appears healthy and structurally sound, I would recommend that that tree be added to the City's annual inspection list so that annual TRAs may be conducted. I would also recommend that the tree be pruned by an ISA Certified Arborist at the time when the maple nearby will be removed. Conducting clearance and reduction pruning of the branches that are stretching over the house shows goodwill towards the property owner and renter who do not like the tree. This will also be an opportunity for the ISA Certified Arborist to scan the tree Canopy for defects that are not visible from the ground.**

Lastly, due to this tree's proximity to primary AEP utility wires and the City's positive and long standing relationship with AEP, **future work could and should be coordinating with AEP** to save city dollars and to ensure the protection of the utility wires.

For more information on Tree Risk Assessment, go to [https://www.isa-arbor.com/education/resources/educ\\_Portal\\_Risk\\_AN.pdf](https://www.isa-arbor.com/education/resources/educ_Portal_Risk_AN.pdf)

To hire an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist for tree care, go to <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>

For information on the proper care of mature trees, go to [https://www.treesaregood.org/Portals/0/TreesAreGood\\_Mature%20Tree%20Care\\_0721.pdf](https://www.treesaregood.org/Portals/0/TreesAreGood_Mature%20Tree%20Care_0721.pdf)

Sincerely,



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