



HOME

NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

COMMUNITIES

THINGS TO DO

TRAFFIC

WEATHER

CINCINNATIUSA



Planting a greener Covington



Terry DeMio, tdemio@nky.com

10:56 p.m. EDT March 23, 2014



(Photo: The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy)

SHARE 3

CONNECT TWEET COMMENT EMAIL MORE

COVINGTON – Residents, businesses and visitors can look forward to a more lush Covington with trees and shrubbery that will accent, rather than invade, the urban core.

Covington city commissioners agreed unanimously last week to use five acres of land free of cost at a nursery in Hebron to plant, maintain and grow saplings and other vegetation that eventually will be replanted in the city.

Sand Run Nursery and Preserves at 9063 River Road in Hebron is providing the city with the acreage and the equipment that will allow city public improvements workers to manage the project.

The 210-acre property has about 10 acres of nursery space, with the rest kept for personal use, said owner Paul Hemmer.

“My wife, Mary, and I embrace urban reforestation,” Hemmer said Tuesday. “We’re honored to partner with the city on this endeavor.”

Covington Mayor Sherry Carran said the city has worked closely with the Hemmers for years.

“Paul Hemmer has been a good friend to urban forestry for a long time,” Carran said.

Hemmer has provided trees to Devou Park and Linden Grove Cemetery, the mayor said.

Covington’s urban forester, Jason Roberts, met with Hemmer on Sunday to view the acreage and has provided the city’s public improvements director a list of the types of trees that are native to the region and will work well within an urban setting.

“We’re looking at about 20 species we want to plant that fit with this area to make a smaller canopy in our core,” said Rick Davis, Covington’s Public Improvements director.

“We have a problem when large trees uproot.”

Many of the city’s big, old trees cause trouble, knocking around sidewalks, tangling in overhead wires and snaking into sewer systems that are fitted with old, clay pipes that can easily break.

The maintenance associated with having such trees, and the difficulty of keeping them, will no longer be a problem when the urban core is reforested, although that will

take time.

Davis estimates it will be about five years before the new trees grow to an appropriate size to be replanted within the city.

The public improvements team will plant trees that grow to lower heights and are known for year-round beauty. They'll be planted both in residential and business and commercial districts of the city, Davis said.

Trees that could be part of the mix include the paperbark maple, known for a cinnamon-colored peeling bark; a "Robin Hill" tree, which is popular due to its for flowering in the spring and rich colors in the fall; and the "Winter King" Hawthorn, an ornamental touted for winter hardiness.

Employees of the current public improvements department crew will grow and maintain the trees until they are ready to be harvested and replanted within the city, Davis said. He estimated they'll have to grow about five years before they will be ready to move to Covington.

"I think this is a very well-planned and cost-beneficial approach for the city to provide new trees, replacement trees, the right trees in the right place, going forward," City Manager Larry Klein said. "This will reduce current and future costs to taxpayers."

Davis said he will not have to hire additional workers to plant and maintain the trees at the nursery.



SHARE 3 CONNECT TWEET COMMENT EMAIL MORE

MORE STORIES:



60 years of pizzas at LaRosa's

[News](#) | 10 hours ago



Nearly 32K gallons of liquid removed in Colerain oil spill

[News](#) | 11 hours ago



East Walnut Hills refuses to cower after robbery of CEO

[News](#) | 5 days ago