

BACKGROUND:

TreezPlease Mission as Presented to public via:

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' Mahoning River Corridor Revitalization Plan mission statement says in part:

"Growth is managed sustainably so that development works in tandem with environmental protection."

I am encouraged that EGCOG recognizes the importance of environmental protection. Now is the time to ensure that sustainable environmental policy is enforced by every community government. Protection of the natural resources we have is crucial during any development. Now, enhancing and adding to natural areas must be a crucial component of any development plan.

I came to the Citizen Advisory Board after I attended the October 2021 Mahoning Valley Tree Consortium at YSU, where I was advised that as a representative of the non-profit TreezPlease I should join Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. My initial motivation was to recommend that the exact same method employed in the repaving of 5th Avenue be used when repaving Mahoning Ave. from Meridian down to the city. This is just one project of many that are opportunities for our local governments to improve the sustainability and resiliency of their communities.

Regional Tree Planting Policy

Discussion led by Lynn Anderson, TreezPlease Board Member

About Lynn: My experience in other cities informs what I will be proposing for the Mahoning Valley. For 12 years I lived in Los Angeles (I was in Tree People and we got 1 million trees planted for urban reforestation before the 1984 Olympics) and Austin TX for 6 years where nothing that would be environmentally damaging would be allowed above the Edwards Aquifer where they obtain their water. Since 2006 I have been a board member of Treez Please, facilitating urban reforestation in Youngstown, OH.

NEED TO OBTAIN A LPFM STATION:

TreezPlease would like to incorporate a public radio station as a method of getting information about the climate crisis emergency, necessary environmental policy and tree planting out to the general public. When allowing development here, of course we want to attract businesses, but they will understand that we must be like other more progressive, proactive, environmentally-concerned cities now. It simply cannot be "business as usual." At the February 2022 Mahoning Valley Tree Coalition meeting, Matt Zone of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy spoke about Cleveland's campaign to increase their urban tree canopy to improve the health of residents. It was at this meeting that several members of TreezPlease decided that we needed to work hard to get the public empowered to improve the community environment. Now, we've been informed of low-power FM and we believe that a radio station can help us reach more of the public, some of whom we would be able to motivate to become active in helping activities, such as tree planting.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh's environmental policies can serve as blueprints for our local governments to construct theirs. We can broadcast programs concerning the necessary action that groups and individuals can take to lobby their governments to adopt the same more progressive policies to help remediate the climate crisis.

Some Programming Considerations to Address the Topic:

- Preservation of all old growth trees (they are the most effective at sequestering CO₂)
- No clear-cutting of trees for development (leave largest trees whenever possible)
- No draining of wetlands or artificial re-routing of them for development (they are the natural filters of pollution and help trees grow elsewhere)
- Every development project, whether they are excavating or not, needs to "give back" to the Mahoning Valley by planting trees where they are most needed. (Warren and Youngstown urban canopy is woefully sparse, and residents suffering bad health outcomes in these areas)
- Every road building and or paving project, every development or expansion project that would require any soil disturbance, digging, or any type of excavation must include a tree planting plan.

We seek a LPFM station to:

1. Help community members to create radio programming that is relevant and valuable to the community.
2. Train community members how to run a broadcast studio.
3. Enable community members to use their public speaking talents as advocates for the environment on the radio.
4. Enrich our area with a source of factual climate crisis research based on peer-reviewed studies, providing an alternative voice that champions preserving our natural spaces.
5. Inspire people to "step up" and do something positive to improve environmental conditions in the area.

Mahoning and Trumbull County have recently received a USDA grant of \$5 million to help mitigate the climate crisis by planting trees. Our local groups, TreezPlease of Youngstown, Legacy Tree Project at YSU and Plant Ahead Ohio will all be able to get valuable information out to the community about planting activities on the radio. We also have a former radio DJ from the San Diego market, Keisha Washington, who works now in tree planting at Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp. who is interested in developing a radio broadcast. We can get local and state experts who are now advising our tree planting groups to speak on the radio. They are: from ODNR's forestry division Lola Lewis and Tom Macy, Dr. Lauren Schroeder, professor emeritus of YSU, and Dr. Dan Herms, Research and Development of Davey Tree Preservation.

TreezPlease is interfacing with all local environmental groups to encourage participation in developing programming at this crucial time. We urge the FCC to grant us a low power FM station so that we can not only rebroadcast Carolyn Harding's GrassRoots Ohio programming on environmental issues, but also add our own. The sooner we can get a LPFM station up and running, the better it will be for our community.

Thank You,
Lynn Anderson
on behalf of TreezPlease

