



## Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

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**HPC meeting date: 4/2/2018**

**Ald. Milele Coggs District: 6**

**Staff reviewer: Tim Askin**

**PTS #114479 CCF #171795**

**Property** 626 E. NORTH AV. Kilbourn/Reservoir Park

**Owner/Applicant** CITY OF MILWAUKEE Mr. David Sivyver  
WATER WORKS DPW - Ops - Forestry  
841 N BROADWAY RM 409  
MILWAUKEE WI 53202 Phone: (414) 286-3729

**Proposal** City Forestry desires to plant a Centennial Tree Collection with 100 new trees to highlight urban tolerant trees used in street and boulevard tree planting. This legacy planting will serve as an educational resource for the community to demonstrate urban trees with a variety of characteristics. The Centennial Tree Collection will be located at Kilbourn Park. The south portion of the historic park, south of North Avenue, provides an opportunity to create a tree collection comprised of existing, mature trees and newly planted trees. The Centennial Tree Collection will include 100 newly planted tree species and incorporate 17 existing tree species located onsite. The Centennial Tree Collection will be planted in groves or groups by tree species including Maple, Flowering Ornamental, Hybrid Elm, North Avenue planting, Understory, Lowland, Linden & Locust, Grand, Conifer, Flowering Crabapple, Ornamental Pear, and Commerce Street planting. Each grove of trees will include multiple cultivars of the identified tree species or multiple species with similar characteristics. The Centennial Tree Collection will reflect the diversity of tree species and cultivars planted on city streets, boulevards, green spaces, and other public right-of-way spaces. These trees are appropriate for Milwaukee's climate and suitable for residential use. Kilbourn Park is centrally located and is recognized as a visual landmark, making it an ideal site for the tree collection. No trees will be planted on the reservoir portion of the park, north of North Avenue.

While much of south Kilbourn Park is comprised of rolling terrain and open grassy meadows that have remained significantly unchanged over time, the park includes an inventory of 98 existing trees that contribute to the character of the space and offer valuable benefits. The park's trees improve air and water quality, enhance human health, increase public safety, and provide wildlife habitat among many other benefits. The Centennial Tree Collection aims to restore historic tree canopy and enhance park function and aesthetics while honoring its historic significance. As one of the city's earliest green spaces, the Centennial Tree Collection will protect the park's trademark open, rolling hills and panoramic city views. New trees will be planted primarily along the park perimeter and will not obstruct view sheds of the Milwaukee River and Milwaukee skyline.

**Staff comments** Relevant guideline section:  
"All efforts should be made to retain the open rolling character of the lower park. Intended as passive green space when purchased for park use in the 1870's, the park would be an inappropriate location for development of housing or commercial recreational facilities or other such construction."

The proposal is well thought through and appropriate. The proposal meets all relevant guidelines and should be approved as proposed.

**Recommendation** Recommend HPC Approval

**Conditions** N/A

**Previous HPC action**

**Previous Council action**