

From: [Grace Hasler](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: regarding agenda item 78194: the proposed removal of trees for construction of the history museum
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 9:37:55 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to speak to the issue of tree removal for the construction of the new Wisconsin Historical Museum. According to recent reports, the city of Madison is losing tree canopy at an alarming rate. We currently have 23% canopy cover when we should ideally have 40% canopy trees in our urban landscape.

I am writing to express my objection to removing trees from our critical downtown spaces. The trees to be removed offer shade and seating at a critical intersection for the square. I see in your public comment section that the Madison Mifflin District, CNI has recommendations for landscape; I particularly like the “humane” and “see nature reflected” comments and the very specific asks for a coordinated landscape.

I hope that the discussion tonight will include a serious conversation by the commission regarding tree removal and the lack of tree canopy in downtown Madison. Perhaps the staging for construction could be done differently so as to avoid this removal proposal. I also hope that the many layers of decision making regarding the urban landscape will be focused toward preventing our downtown from becoming a heat island and will take into account the report of the City of Madison Urban Forestry Task Force recommendations for a healthy urban environment.

Urban heat islands are created through a combination of factors. Green spaces and vegetation play a vital role in reducing surface temperatures.

The city leaders could demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment by considering all alternatives to the decision to remove canopy trees.

Grace Hasler
gracehasler@gmail.com