



**LEBANON TREE ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 14, 2025 - 5:30 PM
MEETING ROOM 1, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

A. June 2, 2025

3. Old Business

A. Planting Review

1. Follow up on water, watering bags, staking etc. Summer maintenance. 5 extra trees.

2. Fall sites:

A. Mechanic Street (with easements)

B. Senior Center (with easement)

C. On Seminary Hill, in front of the SAU building and school bus stop

D. Civic Field

E. Skate Park

F. Jay, was there an additional location you recommend?

3. Species Selection

4. Easements needed Dig Safe?

Update on West Lebanon Main Street trees. What is the schedule for review / plans / bids?

Inventory update / asset management

Meeting with The Falls

5. **Environmental Justice Task Force Report:** At TAB's last meeting on 6/2/25, we discussed and made suggestions for revision of a draft report that we were not yet ready to endorse. The suggestions, among others, were provided by each of the EJTF's constituent organizations and have been incorporated into the revised report.

EJTF hopes to present a final report to the Lebanon City Council in September and request an endorsement from the Tree Advisory Board.

PROPOSED ACTION: If the board supports the report as written:

MOVED, that the Lebanon Tree Advisory Board hereby endorses the Environmental Justice report as presented to us at our July 7th, 2025, meeting and recommends its adoption by the Lebanon City Council.

4. New Business

A. Trees dying

Elms at Kilton Library

Several Ash behind City Hall and on the Mall

Maple on School Street.
Planning Regulation update

5. Next Meeting

A. August 4, 2025

6. Adjournment

AGENDA
Tree Advisory Board
July 7, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 2:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 2, 2025

DRAFT

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes, Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5:30pm
Meeting Room 1, City Hall or remote via virtual platform lebanonnh.gov/live

MEMBERS PRESENT (7/7): Kathleen Corrigan, Charlie DePuy, Andrew Garthwaite, Kelsey Haigh, Susan Johnson, Mary Maxfield, Sarah Riley
STAFF PRESENT: (2/2) Alanna Cilbrith, Jay Cairelli

Questions in RED.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:37
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from 5/5/25 were approved after review and minor changes
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Strategic Plan update:** (Jay)
 1. Recently the Strategic Plan was moved from one platform (Miro) to another (**Replit-sp?**).
 2. The tabs for "Tree Advisory Board" were "repopulated" and so a little hard to read. It's recommended that we look at this by September/October. Kathleen and Mary will follow up on this. Jay will email the old Miro link.
 - B. **Plantings review:**
 1. A couple recently planted trees on both Evans Drive and School Street and were uprooted during weather events. AJ Dupere recommends replanting them.
 - a) In retrospect, because those trees are in spots vulnerable to wind and rain, we think we should go back and stake all the trees in those two areas—in the next couple of days.
 - b) Supplies needed: 2 or 3 stakes per tree, post-hole-drivers, link lines, post-hole-drivers from the Rec Dept, and watering bags.
 - (1) We need more stakes; Jay will get them.
 - (2) **Storage of supplies: either with Susan or at the DPW shed.**
 2. Because hotter weather is here, Susan will place the 5-gallon watering bags around, and Alanna will do the watering once/week

3. There are still five trees left—to be planted in the fall or even this summer with volunteers on a weekday.
 - a) One is intended for Evans Drive next to the HSS playground to replace a tree that is dying. Since it's over 4 inches in diameter, it needs to be posted to be replaced.
 - b) There's some space for a couple trees at the skatepark in the central garden area. The ashes there look bad.
 - c) Another place could be Mechanic Street near the bus stop(s).
 - d) Upper Valley Music Center (UVMC)
 - e) Mount Lebanon Elementary School parking lot (MLE)
4. Any trees we have should be planted in the next few weeks—and sprayed every day while waiting.

C. Looking ahead: Fall plantings—

1. Mechanic Street (with easements)
1. Senior Center (with easement)
2. On Seminary Hill in front of the SAU building and school bus stop:
3. Civic Field
4. Skatepark

D. Remaining 12+ and 10+ trees and locations for planting if easements fall through

B. Easements:

1. We need a new method; the old method isn't working.
2. Perhaps a more direct, personal approach, starting with places where people live. (Susan, Kathleen, and Mary will look at the spreadsheet of proposed tree locations and figure out the best places.)

C. West Lebanon Main Street trees update:

1. Jay has the plan and a list of specific trees.
2. He'll send it to us so we can review and comment.
3. The trees won't be ordered for a while because planting can't happen until the road construction is done.

D. Inventory update/asset management:

1. The inventory/asset management program-app is being updated.
2. Inventory this summer: LHS students might be working on this this summer. Susan wants to pay them, but because Rebecca said the budget is already set, Susan will be exploring alternatives like gift cards and farmers' market cash.
3. Asset management "notes" can be translated by Deana into work orders that can be set to expire in x-number of years.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Environmental Justice Task Force report and feedback from TAB:

1. TAB is generally supportive of the report but concerned that trees are mentioned only once and limited to the role that trees would play in mitigating urban heat along pedestrian walkways and bus stops.
2. Suggested ways to increase the inclusion of trees in the report:
 - a) To the Environmental Quality section
 - (1) Assert the value of trees in absorbing air pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter, thus contributing to cleaner urban air.
 - (2) Assert the value of trees in stormwater attenuation: Tree canopies and root systems reduce runoff, decreasing the risk of urban flooding.
 - b) To the Access to Nature section
 - (1) Assert the human health benefits of urban trees: enhancing mental health, stress reduction, and cognitive function.
 - (2) Assert the value of urban trees in promoting physical activity, social cohesion, and overall well-being.
 - (3) Access to trees needs to be shared by all—across the city.

5. ADJOURNMENT: At about 7pm

6. NEXT MEETING: July 7 at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Maxfield, Recording Secretary

AGENDA
Tree Advisory Board
July 7, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 3:
OLD BUSINESS

**Environmental
Justice Task Force
Report:
Responsible
Governance and the
Environment or City
Projects Serve All
Residents**

Responsible Governance and the Environment

or

City Projects Serve All Residents

Environmental Justice report - City of Lebanon

Introduction

In the fall of 2023, the Lebanon City Council approved a Strategic Plan that mandated (a) the definition of and (b) the development of a plan regarding environmental justice as it relates to the operations of the City of Lebanon. Members of the DEI Commission, Tree Advisory Board, Sustainable Lebanon, and Conservation Commission have worked since that time to fulfil that mandate, meeting with City officials and departmental staff, and seeking input from external experts and members of the public, including some of the City's most vulnerable residents, with the result being the following report.

The report begins with an Executive Summary that includes the definition of "environmental justice" as it pertains to the City, then breaks down recommendations into six Focus Areas: Shelter, Access to Nature, Environmental Quality, Ecological Protections, Community Resiliency, and Transportation. Within each Focus Area are several Priority Recommendations, as well as Additional Recommendations, all of which together serve to improve the quality of life of the City's residents and community members, helping us to better live in harmony with the natural and built environments and each other.

While the specifics of implementation are and should be up to the City Council, we, the authors of this report, stand by these recommendations, and believe that they will lead to a fairer and better City of Lebanon for those who live and work here, today and into the future.

Executive Summary

For the purposes of this report, the City of Lebanon defines “environmental justice” as follows:

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all Lebanon community members—regardless of race, skin color, national or ethnic origin, cultural group, language, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, age, religious or political opinion or activity, economic status, immigration status, or housing status—in decisions that affect their access to and quality of interaction with the natural environment. For environmental justice to be achieved, three aspects must be considered: (1) distribution of environmental risks, (2) access to environmental benefits, and (3) involvement in the policy, investment, and advocacy decisions made affecting or related to environmental issues. Protection from environmental risks and access to environmental benefits should be fair and equitable, and the decision-making processes surrounding environmental issues should meaningfully involve those who stand to be affected.

The distribution of environmental risks refers to how the negative effects of environmental hazards—such as pollution, climate change, toxic waste, and harmful chemical exposure—are spread across different communities, particularly those that are socioeconomically disadvantaged or belong to minoritized groups and are thus least able to afford the costs of these negative effects or the efforts to fight them.

This issue is crucial because when certain communities face higher exposure to pollution, industrial waste, or climate-related disasters like flooding or heat waves, often due to their geographic location or work conditions, it deepens social and health disparities. Achieving environmental justice involves addressing these inequities and ensuring that every group is equally protected from environmental harm.

Access to environmental benefits refers to ensuring that all communities can enjoy the positive aspects of a healthy environment, such as clean air, clean water, green spaces, renewable energy, and a resilient ecosystem. Often, wealthier or more privileged communities have better access to these benefits, while disadvantaged groups face limited resources, fewer publicly available parks, polluted air, or unsafe water. This also includes access to public resources including the funding to make improvements in the environment.

Having access to these benefits is crucial for people's well-being. It improves physical health, such as by reducing respiratory problems from polluted air, and supports mental health by providing stress relief and increased happiness through exposure to green spaces. Achieving environmental justice means guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic background or race, has equal access to these positive environmental outcomes and feels welcome and comfortable using these spaces.

Involvement in Policy, Investment, and Advocacy Decisions emphasizes the importance of participatory decision-making in environmental matters. It calls for the inclusion of communities—particularly those most affected by environmental issues—in the processes where policies are made, investments are directed, and advocacy efforts are planned. This includes not just being consulted, but actively shaping decisions about environmental regulations, land use, energy infrastructure, and climate adaptation strategies.

Historically, marginalized communities have often been excluded from decision-making processes about environmental issues that directly impact them. They may lack representation in government bodies, have limited influence over corporate decisions, or struggle to advocate for their own interests. True environmental justice cannot be achieved without the voices of these communities being heard and valued in decisions that affect their lives.

This report consists of six Focus Areas, each of which is a vital component of environmental justice as defined above and each of which will be discussed in the following pages, alongside recommendations to help the City move toward that vision.

Of all the Focus Areas, one that invites special attention is **Shelter**. In the absence of adequate shelter, every so-called “environmental issue” becomes a deeply personal issue. When the “natural” environment is a person’s daily environment, inconveniences like heat, cold, rain, and snow can become life-threatening. For this reason, these recommendations have been placed first.

The rest of the Focus Areas have been presented in no particular order. **Access to Nature** refers to an individual's capacity to physically and meaningfully engage with natural environments—including parks, forests, beaches, rivers, gardens, and other green spaces. This concept encompasses not only the availability of these natural areas but also a person's ability to reach, enter, and enjoy them. Recommendations include green space

access both nearby to residences and via public transit and enshrining the development-to-nature ratio in the city's future plans.

Environmental Quality focuses on the quality of both the indoor and outdoor environments, with recommendations concerning contaminants like lead and radon as well as limitations on harmful particulate matter in the air.

Ecological Protections focuses on the ways the City's residents interact with the natural environment, with recommendations aimed at maintaining that environment for present and future generation of Lebanonians to enjoy and benefit from.

Community Resiliency focuses on the intersection of human needs and the changing environment, and the recommendations in this section are aimed at strengthening Lebanon's communities against real and potential harms.

Finally, **Transportation** affects so many of the above Focus Areas that it deserves its own. Transportation not only affects the ability of community members to access the environment, but also contributes to the quality of that environment in many overlapping ways. Recommendations concerning both private and public transportation are covered in this section.

A final note of some importance: the City of Lebanon is best able to serve its communities when it can establish strong policies and regulations; thus, a central recommendation of this report is that **green space protections and environmental impact regulations must be developed in such a way that they may be enforced**. Without this power, Lebanon cannot guarantee that it will be able to pursue these goals and recommendations and must rely on the mere aspiration that other private entities will voluntarily support and adhere to them.

A list of institutional stakeholders and potential partners is provided at the conclusion of each Focus Area.

Shelter

Shelter is the most tangible way in which people interact with environmental risks, as it provides protection from harmful elements of the environment. While a comprehensive analysis of housing equity is beyond the scope of this report, there are some actions that may be considered to expand environmental justice in the area of shelter.

Priority Areas

- Create a full minimum housing code with inspections; a minimum housing officer and staff for enforcement; and a switch from a reactionary posture to an active and preventative effort to maintain the quality of housing units in the city.
- Create more robust tenant protections, to allow tenants to feel safe in reporting unsafe housing without threat of displacement.
- Revisit the “camping ban,” City Code §49, to reduce the criminalization of homelessness while still protecting ecologically sensitive areas.
- Provide accessible shelter options for unhoused people, including:
 - a permanent, year-round shelter;
 - micro-dwellings as transitional solutions.

Additional Recommendations

- Eliminate regulations requiring a minimum number of parking spaces for dwellings close to transit stops to facilitate affordable housing development, improved air quality, and access to public transportation.
- Create policies and initiatives to protect the belongings of unhoused people, especially vital records required to access services and access employment, such as supervised storage sites and distribution of waterproof document bags, backpacks, etc.
- Establish standard and widely-publicized hours for warming and cooling spaces for vulnerable persons.
- Establish and implement a “cumulative effect” rule for FEMA regulations, to avoid the situation where developers repeatedly replace less than 50% of a site, until a whole building is functionally replaced but still noncompliant with modern housing standards.



Institutional Stakeholders and Potential

Partners: City Planning and Development Dept.; City Fire Department; City Human Services; The Upper Valley Haven; Grafton County Senior Citizens Council

Access to Nature

A just society seeks to ensure all people have access to environmental benefits. Access to nature promotes physical and mental health, social cohesion, and overall wellbeing in communities. Natural resources are among the major attractions of the Upper Valley, and communities should strive to ensure that everyone in the community can not only physically access those resources but also feel comfortable enjoying them alongside their neighbors.

Priority Areas

- Create and maintain accessibility to green spaces via public transit stops, for disabled people, and for unhoused people.
- Ensure that the planning goal for development to be limited to 20% of Lebanon's area, with the remaining 80% preserved as open space, remains in the Master Plan.

Additional Recommendations

- Research the construction of a trail from the river near the water treatment facility up to South Main Street, in the area of Romano Circle. Access could be increased for fishing/hiking/biking. (A trail would also be beneficial for treatment plant staff to access a sewer line.)
- Plan a new site for public access to the Connecticut River, if they do go ahead with the well.
- Add the creation of a more comprehensive citywide Dark Skies Policy to the City's Strategic Plan.
- Strive to ensure residents in densely developed areas still live near to green spaces.



Institutional Stakeholders and Potential Partners: City Conservation Commission; City Water and Waste Water Treatment Departments; City Planning and Development Dept.; City Recreation, Arts and Parks Department; City Planning Board

Environmental Quality

Environmental justice includes natural infrastructure and City policies to ensure protections for the natural environment. Air, soil, and water contaminants and extreme summertime heat such as in Lebanon’s documented urban heat islands can cause significant harms to vulnerable populations and often are not distributed evenly among different groups.

Priority Areas

- Mitigate or phase out the use of small, gas-powered internal combustion engine devices (e.g., yard trimmers, snow blowers/throwers, lawn mowers, etc.) by City Departments, in favor of sustainable alternatives.
- Take steps to make lead-licensed contractors easier to find for owners of older buildings.
- Implement stronger oversight and disclosure for mold, lead, radon, and other contaminants in older residential dwellings, as well as required disclosure by landlords in residential rental units.
- Make free or cheap soil testing kits available to test garden soils for lead levels, and promote education including hosting a [soilSHOP event with the NHDES APPLETREE team](#).



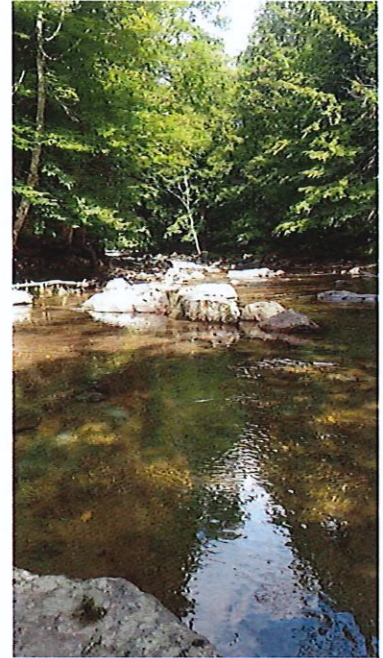
Additional Recommendations

- Create a policy to limit City use of leaf blowers when healthier alternatives exist.
- Recommend the creation of plans to mitigate or phase out the use of small, gas-powered internal combustion engine devices in the city (e.g., yard trimmers, leaf blowers, snow blowers/throwers, lawn mowers, etc.), such as incentive/disincentive schemes, and promote sustainable alternatives.
- Increase education about the ecological and human wellness harms of using leaf blowers, to preserve soil health and air quality.
- Continue to focus on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detection / mitigation steps already underway.
- Since the majority of local PFAS contamination comes from household products, inform households of ways to avoid releasing PFAS into the water.

Institutional Stakeholders and Potential Partners: City Public Works Dept.; City Recreation, Arts and Parks Department; City Planning and Development Dept.

Ecological Protections

In order for community members to benefit from and enjoy continued access to the natural environment, that environment must be managed and maintained sustainably, even as the City of Lebanon continues to develop. A strong natural environment is important for its own sake, but it additionally provides benefits to residents living busy lives by reducing stress, boosting mood and cognitive functions, and improving immune systems and sleep cycles.



Priority Areas

- Maintain a comprehensive tree plan to include the following:
 - policies to save our existing urban trees, both public and private, and those in existing and newly established green spaces;
 - additional tree-planting in identified heat islands, especially areas used by vulnerable populations;
 - tree-planting to take advantage of trees' ability to absorb air pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxide compounds, and particulate matter.
- When making efforts to secure a secondary water source, do so in the most environmentally friendly way possible.
- Create wildlife corridor protections in Zoning Ordinance and Site Plan Review Regulations, as well as the Complete Streets Program.
- Determine the best ways to create safe and effective wildlife crossings, including widening culverts under busy roads such as 120, and implement them as soon as possible. Ensure they remain part of any further development of the area.

Institutional Stakeholders and Potential Partners

City Public Works Dept.; City Planning and Development Dept.; City Conservation Commission; City Tree Advisory Board

Community Resiliency

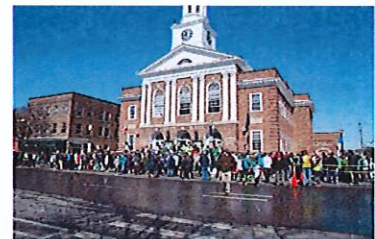
When systems fail to meet the needs of a population, those with the least privilege are typically the first to experience harm. Thus, environmental justice should seek to ensure communities are adequately able to address those needs.

Priority Areas

- Continue to work with the LEAC Lebanon Energy Savings Subcommittee to facilitate the access by residential households, especially those experiencing high energy burden, to federal and state rebates and incentives for switching from using fossil fuels to more efficient, cost saving, electric heating and appliances, as well as weatherization programs.
- Implement and incentivize, where applicable, diversion of recyclables and organic waste from the landfill, including requirements for landlords to provide recycling and composting options.
- Preserve and expand vegetation (including tree canopies and root systems) to decrease runoff and reduce the risk of urban flooding.

Additional Recommendations

- Create a city-run solid waste pickup solution for low-income, disabled, and non-driving residents. Ideally, this would be universal curbside pickup, but at the very least a pilot program for people who cannot get rid of their solid waste themselves. An alternative could consist of occasional additional dropoff locations for rubbish and/or recycling.
- Prioritize infill development near existing stops on transit routes whenever possible to prevent sprawl.
- Re-examine water rates for multi-unit buildings as a way to potentially help lower-income households.
- Create an emergency infrastructure repair fund so that high-cost sudden repairs (e.g., major washouts) don't use up funds necessary to provide regular maintenance.
- Create policies in which retrofitting older neighborhoods more easily triggers regulatory review, to better tackle increased risks of flash flooding.
- Explore potential subsidies for residential water infrastructure upgrades to protect against lead and other contaminants.
- Promote rain harvesting as a sustainable and affordable source for garden water.



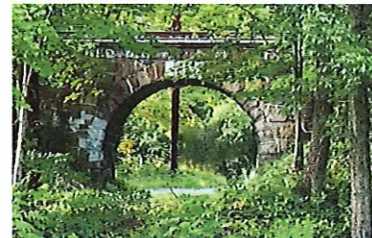
Institutional Stakeholders and Potential Partners: Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee;
*City Planning and Development Dept.; City Public Works Department; LISTEN; COVER
Home Repair; City Manager’s Office; Vital Communities*

Transportation

Access to both the benefits of the environment and protection from environmental harms requires transportation. This topic includes not only private vehicles but also public transit, bicycle paths, and pedestrian infrastructure. These resources should be equitably maintained to ensure broad access is available.

Priority Areas

- Commission a study, with a goal of potential implementation, of microtransit to allow for public transportation in areas not served by fixed routes.
- Add new shade trees and bus stop shelters along pedestrian routes, and update Site Plan Review Regulations Section 6.2.E to include mandatory shading requirements specifically for disabled parking spots.
- Create a comprehensive e-bike policy for the City, with input from Planning, Ped-Bike, and DEI Commission, to expand equitable adoption, charging access, and route safety for cyclists and pedestrians alike.
- Prioritize public transit and multimodal transport over single-occupant vehicles to reduce pollution and traffic congestion, including pilot projects converting some existing rights of way (ROWs) into limited access ROWs to give priority to pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit.
- Create restrictions on idling internal combustion engine vehicles.



Additional Recommendations

- Establish additional multimodal transport paths in the City.
- Continue work with the LEAC EV Subcommittee to expand access to EV charging sites for renters and low-income households.
- Establish parking fees in high-demand areas to reduce parking scarcity and decrease driving-around time.
- Research and potentially implement ways that the Airport could incentivize airplane owners to switch away from leaded aviation fuel ahead of the FAA's EAGLE (Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions) goal of 2030.
- Create programs to support and encourage car-sharing, public transit, and alternative transportation.

Institutional Stakeholders and Potential Partners: *City Planning and Development Dept.; City Planning Board; City Pedestrian and Bicyclist Advisory Committee; Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission; City Tree Advisory Board; Advance Transit; Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee Electric Vehicle Subcommittee; Lebanon Municipal Airport; Vital Communities*