



# CITY DEMANDS REMOVAL OF LANDSCAPING



## Contact Info:

(I'd suggest you send to one and cc the other two)

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Any assistance or feedback you could provide would be very much appreciated. Thank you for listening.

## Parks Commission meeting on April 11th Olbrich Botanical Gardens @ 6:30 pm

### City is demanding removal of all Landscaping

Thank you for your interest in my property at 1259 East Johnson. You may know it, it's the corner property on the corner of East Johnson St. and Baldwin St. It was originally a drug store built in 1923. I live up stairs and have tenants on the first floor (the original drugstore place has been converted to an apartment). I've owned the place since 1994 and have been making many improvements to the building and also have done much landscaping. I have heard nothing but praise for how the landscaping looks. Now however, the City is demanding I remove all of it. There are two separate issues with the City of Madison.

### Baldwin Street Side

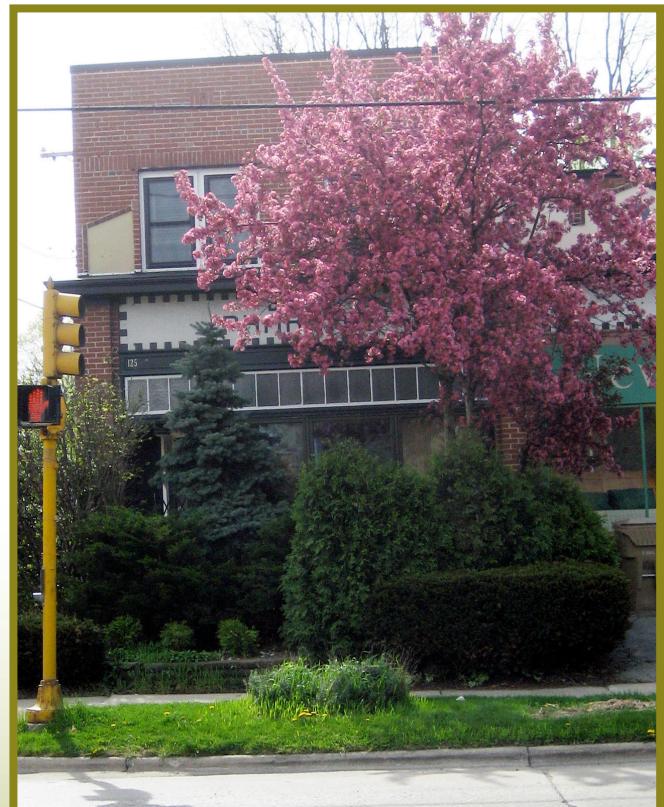
1. The area on the terrace (the area between the sidewalk and the street) along Baldwin St. required a permit and that my plantings are not on the approved list for the City. So many neighbors and people all over the City have done similar landscaping. I was inspired by their work and did my own. Now, fourteen years later, the City wants it gone.

### Johnson Street Side

2. The plantings on the Johnson St. side would all need to be cut down to 24 inches... This would kill everything. The City is stating those need to go because they are a traffic Hazard. (the City requires that within a 25 foot radius from the corner of your property line only things 24 inches high can be planted).

### Community Concern

While this is a personal concern for me, I also see it as a community concern. Many of us have done much work with plantings to improve our neighborhoods making them attractive to people passing by be it on foot, bicycle or vehicle. If this removal of plantings happens with my property, it could happen to every other property that is "out of compliance"



Johnson Street • controlled intersection (traffic lights)

## Past Contact

Several years ago I contacted the City regarding the tree they had provided on the terrace. Over the years the tree grew and started covering the windows on my second floor flat. The tree works for neighbors because they have yard space while my building comes directly to the property line. The City agreed that it should be removed. At that time I asked if I could plant things there. I was told that I could, no mention of a permit, but that the City could remove plantings should they need to do street work or underground work. I made an effort to plant things, both trees, shrubs and perennials that would not grow tall and require being trimmed back because of electric wires.

## Frustrations

This has been, and continues to be a frustrating situation. I pointed out to the City that within a four block radius of my house there are about fifty other properties out of compliance regarding planting on the terrace and line of sight issues at an intersection. I also pointed out some new construction in the neighbor hood that goes right up to the corner (Willaimson St and South Baldwin) restricting the view of motorists. I was told that is allowed because it is a controlled intersection (traffic lights). Mine is also a controlled intersection.

## Deadline April 11th

I'm going to the Parks Commission meeting on April 11th. A decision regarding the planting on Baldwin Street will be made at that meeting. I've been told not to be optimistic because of no permit and the 'approved list'. If the decision is to get rid of the plantings I would be given a certain amount of time to do so, otherwise the City would have it done at my expense. I am accruing fines and have a court date coming up soon.

## Please Help

In my opinion and the opinions of the public who hear about this is that it is a big mistake. Any assistance you could provide would be very much appreciated. If you'd like I've provided contact information for the two people at the City who are contacts for this along with our alders person . Thank you for listening.

