

**CITY OF FAIRFIELD, OHIO
COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM
ANNUAL WORK PLAN
2016**

The Parks and Recreation Department administers the City of Fairfield's Community Forestry Program. The Parks Maintenance Division, Golf Course Maintenance Division, and the Public Works/Street Division share the maintenance responsibilities of the community forest. The annual tree program includes the following activities: Holiday Tree Recycling Program, Median/Entry Beautification Program, Brush/Limb Drop-off Program, Brush/Limb Pick-up Service, Leaf Collection Program, Street Tree Planting Program, Arbor Day Celebrations, and Routine/Emergency Maintenance Program.

The **Parks Maintenance Division operates the Holiday Tree Recycling Program from the last week of December through the second week of January.** The residents are encouraged to bring their holiday trees to a centrally located park site (Waterworks Park) for disposal. The trees are then shredded/chipped, the chips are then available to the residents or used throughout the parks system. This program offers the residents an environmentally friendly option for the disposal of their holiday tree. The program disposed of approximately 255 trees in 2016.

The **Parks Maintenance Division operates the Brush/Limb Drop-off Program** year-round, on the second Saturday of the month. The program provides the residents with an option for the disposal of their brush/limbs rather than placing them out for collection by the waste haulers. The residents are encouraged to bring their brush/limbs to a centrally located park site (Public Work Dump area) for disposal. The brush/limbs are shredded/chipped, the chips are then available to the residents or used throughout the parks system. The City expended approximately 190 overtime man-hours to this program.

The **"Operation Dump Truck" Program** is operated year-round by the Public Works Department/Street Division. This program provides the residents with another option for the disposal of their brush/limbs rather than placing them out for collection by the waste haulers or participating in the **brush/limb drop-off program.** In this program the city parks a 3 cubic-yard container at the resident's home for an extended period of time and allows the resident to fill the truck with brush/limbs. The city then disposes the brush/limbs in an environmentally friendly manner. In 2016, the City expended approximately 1,300 man-hours to this program.

The **"Door to Door" Brush/Limb Pick-up Program** is operated April through October in the City of Fairfield. The program is operated by the Public Works/Street Division and provides the resident with the option of scheduling to have their brush/limb debris picked up at home's curbside. Individual neighborhoods are scheduled on a monthly basis. In 2016, the City expended approximately 4,200 man-hours implementing this program.

The **Public Works Department/Street Division operates the Street Tree/Median/Entry Beautification Program year-round.** The program provides for tree plantings and maintenance along streets, the median strips in the City's major thoroughfares and at the City's main entrances. This program is both an aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly option along the City's thoroughfares. The City expended approximately 1175 man-hours to this program.

The **Public Works Department/Street Division operates the Leaf Collection Program** during November and December. This program provides free leaf collection services and is especially helpful to the resident who has a large amount of leaves of which to dispose. Residents are asked to rake their leaves to the street/curbside at which time the city crews will collect the leaves at posted scheduled intervals. The City is split into three areas and crews sweep each area three times as part of this program. The City expended over 2,147 man-hours to this program.

The **Arbor Day Celebration** is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department. Each program is planned to be an educational and recreational experience for the residents. This year's Arbor Day activities included a mayoral proclamation at an April City Council meeting and the Environmental Commission passed out educational literature, 150 Eastern Redbuds and 125 Bur Oak and 125 Tulip Poplar seedlings at the Fairfield Farmers Market on April 27, 2016 to celebrate Arbor Day.

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The **Street Tree Planting Program** is operated both by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department during the spring and fall planting season. The City currently requires that street trees be planted in all subdivisions and public improvement projects. Subdivision developers have the option of planting the approved street trees or making a cash payment to the City in lieu of planting the street trees. The City then contracts with local nurseries, for the planting of the street trees.

The **Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department conduct the Routine/Emergency Tree Maintenance Program.** The routine maintenance of trees (pruning/removal) is scheduled through the parks system and along the City thoroughfares year-round. The Public Works Department provides routine/emergency maintenance for street trees that impede pedestrian/vehicular traffic or are damaged due to storm/disease/vehicular accidents. The Public Works Department undertakes a major tree maintenance program along the Pleasant Run Creek on a quarterly basis.

The **Environmental Commission**, which serves as Fairfield's Tree Board continues to meet on a monthly basis dedicated to maintaining and increasing the amount of tree cover on public and private land in Fairfield by coordinating, initiating and publicizing activities that promote the community forest and environmental awareness. The Parks and Recreation Department assigns a staff person to serve as the liaison to the commission. The Environmental Commission is a major contributor in the City's Farmers Market where it celebrated Arbor Day by handing out Eastern Redbud, Bur Oaks and Tulip Poplar seedlings, along with educational literature. They also sponsored a **tree pruning seminar** that was held at the Fairfield Farmers Market on Wednesday September 21st from 4pm to 7pm. They passed out educational brochures and also had live trees on site to give demonstrations of correct pruning.

The **Southwest Ohio Tree City USA Awards Ceremony/Luncheon** in The City of West Carrollton was attended by members of the Environmental Commission, staff from the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments.

The **Izaak Walton League Educational Planting Program** is conducted on a semi-annual basis with the IWL donating approximately 45 trees to the city at each planting. The program consists of a "hands on" planting/educational/conservation experience for elementary school children, in which the children and the IWL volunteers plant trees within city facilities. In 2016, the program planted hardwoods 22 Maples and 23 Pine Furs at the Huffman Park and 22 Bur Oaks and 23 Pine Furs at Great Miami River Bike Path.

The **Living Legacy Tree Program** was created in 2013. The Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department and the Environmental Commission is privileged to provide a unique opportunity to our residents who would like to plant a tree in honor of a family member, a special loved one, or for themselves. There are over 45 different species of trees to choose from and several different levels to pick from depending on what type of tree you select. There were 20 additional trees added to the Honor Grove in 2016. This brings the grand total of trees planted in the Honor Grove to 42 trees.

The **Earth Day Celebration 2016** - The City of Fairfield and the Duke Energy Corporation celebrated Earth Day 2016 with the planting of 5 1.5" caliper trees at Huffman Park. Representatives of both companies helped plant the trees that were purchased by Duke Energy and were planted in Huffman Park on Friday April 22nd at 1:00 pm.

The **Tree City Academy** that was held in Hamilton Ohio was attended by three of our Environmental Commission members. They all three completed their Bachelor's Certificate in the spring of 2016.