

# FINDLAY SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## 2021 Annual Report

### To Mayor Christina Muryn, Findlay City Council, and Area Residents

Thanks to all of you for your continuing support to make Findlay's Tree Program a success. This Annual Report gives an overview of progress in 2021.

Last year continued to be a challenge due to COVID-19.

We continued to receive program support from Stephanie Miller, Urban Forester, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Forestry. The 2021 Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Conference was a Road Trip Edition. Stephanie developed a series of caravan tours to see what our villages, cities, friends, and neighbors are doing. We had the opportunity to see innovative technologies, new and historical ways to address challenges, champion trees, and some beautiful sites on and off the beaten path.

The tours began in Bowling Green with a visit to their rubber sidewalk installations. Next the tour went through Waterville and Whitehouse to see two historical cemeteries, one with traditional large trees and the other uniquely sculpted arborvitae. Waterville also had recently installed Silva Cells in their downtown. This trip ended in Grand Rapids to see some sidewalk rebuilds and see some of the sites.

The next tour started at the Lima Children's Garden and included historic Faurot Park, Woodlawn Cemetery, historic West Market Street, and Hermon Woodlands Metro Park.

The next tour began at Findlay's historic Riverside Park followed by a visit to the United States' largest hackberry tree and Ohio's first Silva Cell installation in downtown Findlay. The tour continued to Gilboa and Ottawa where flood reduction work has been done. Finally, the tour ended in Columbus Grove to visit the former Ohio Big Tree Champion Baldcypress and the Columbus Grove Municipal Pool which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The next tour started at St. Mary's Memorial Park and ended at Fort Recovery Community Park. Along the way, there was a visit to St. Mary's Heritage Park, Grand Lake St. Mary's State Park, Celina City Parks, Coldwater Memorial Park, and their Nature Preserve. The tour concluded at the Fort Recovery State Museum.

The last tour for the year started at Upper Sandusky's Harrison Smith Park. The tour continued through Tiffin, visiting a variety of spots along the way and ending at Spiegel Grove in Fremont.

This was a variety of opportunities in which Shade Tree Commission members could participate.

## 30+ years... a Tree City USA Community!

Findlay was recognized as a Tree City USA Community on December 21, 2021, through an announcement from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.



**2021 Arbor Day Celebration at Bigelow Hill School**  
Pictured: Mayor Muryn, Students, and Staff

### 2021 Tree Commission Highlights:

- **Trees Planted** – 62 trees were planted as a result of the various City projects and planting programs at a cost of \$9,071.00. 5 trees were planted in conjunction with the County Road 236 reconstruction/multiuse path project, and 19 trees were planted with the Brookside Drive/walking path project.
- **Municipal Staff Dollars Spent** – City staff spent \$210,978.00 total on tree related work including planting, pruning and removing trees. Wood and leaf residual processing was also involved in these figures. Staff support of the Shade Tree Commission efforts was also an expense.
- **“NeighborWoods”** – This special program was again held on October 9, 2021. The program was held in the Remington Avenue neighborhoods. There were 17 trees planted.
- **Adopt A Tree** – Findlay residents took advantage of this program to plant 8 trees throughout the town with tree pickup taking place on October 9, 2021.
- **Findlay's 2021 Arbor Day Program** – Arbor Day was held at Bigelow Hill School on April 23, 2021. As part of the program one tree was planted on school grounds.
- **Volunteer Hours** – 183 volunteer hours were logged in 2021. Over 29 volunteers assisted various tree projects and programs city-wide.
- **Community Forestry Expenditure** – In 2021, \$3.44 per capita was spent on trees and tree related items.
- **Tree Maintenance** – 114 trees were pruned at a cost of \$3,420.00, and 124 trees were removed at a cost of \$68,855.00 by City staff in Findlay in 2021.



“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.”  
— Chinese Proverb

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### 2022 Events Planned:

- **May 6** – Arbor Day Program
- **May 11** – Tree City USA Recognition Program – Hosted in Findlay, Ohio
- **Fall** – Annual Urban Forestry Conference
- **September/October TBA** – Tree Care Workshop
- **October 8** – Fall Planting Day, NeighborWoods Tree Planting, Tree Care Workshop w/NeighborWoods
- **November TBA** – Young Tree Training Workshop

### Thanks to Tree Commission Members

We had a great year! The Findlay Shade Tree Commission including Ed Crawford, Tim Brugeman, Brian Bauman, Tom Mills, Jim Niemeyer, Dave Honse, AJ Copus Jeremy Kalb, provided yeomen service on behalf of Findlay's urban forest.

**Special THANKS** to Kathy Launder for coordinating Tree Commission activities and records at the Mayor's Office, Denise DeVore for general support, and Robin Schey for coordinating the Tree Commission budget at the Public Works Department.



**Pictured: Jim Niemeyer, City Councilman, planting a NeighborWoods tree**



**Pictured: Brian Bauman, City Councilman and Findlay Shade Tree Commission Chair planting a tree for NeighborWoods.**

### NeighborWoods - 2021

"NeighborWoods" encourages larger tree planting projects in areas where neighbors can join together to plant and care for trees as a group. The City digs the holes and delivers the trees with a bag of mulch each. An individual with expertise in tree planting guides the project.

In 2021, one neighborhood participated in NeighborWoods. The program took place on Saturday, October 9, 2021, in the Remington Street neighborhood, and 17 trees were planted.

This project is the ninth of its kind in Findlay. Other Findlay neighborhoods are invited to participate in the program by contacting the Shade Tree Commission.

