

Findlay Shade Tree Commission  
**2013 Annual Report**  
January 2014



**To Mayor Lydia Mihalik, Findlay City Council,  
and Area Residents.....**

Thanks to all of you for your continuing help to make Findlay's Tree Program a success. This Annual Report gives an overview of progress in 2013.



Volunteers planting trees at Mound Park

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

Findlay was recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as "Tree City USA" for the 31st year. Mayor Mihalik and Chairman Tim Brugeman represented Findlay at the State Awards Program last April in Whitehouse Ohio, also receiving a Growth Award achieved during our 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bicentennial Year when over 200 trees were planted.

**Findlay Tree listed on National Register**

A Common Hackberry tree in an alley behind 337 E. Sandusky Street is now the National Champion of its kind according to the "American Forest" Program. Previously nominated in 1991 as the largest Ohio Hackberry, it now has national attention in the Big Trees Register. It is still healthy after many storms and floods.



Findlay Hackberry tree receives national recognition

**2013 Tree Commission Highlights:**

- **Over 75 trees planted** in partnership with citizens throughout Findlay.
- **First "NeighborWoods" Project** at Mound Park Neighborhood completed April 20 at Arbor Day Educational Event with 90+ participants; 16 trees planted.
- **Over 100 seedlings**, both hardwood & evergreen trees, distributed FREE to area residents at Arbor Day Program.
- **4 Educational Workshops** presented to residents by area professionals for tree selection, care and planting during Arbor Day Event at Mound Park.
- **Over 50 Residents "Adopt-A-Tree"** during October distribution at Elks Club, thanks to City Council and the \$2500 budget approved early summer, matched by private donations.
- **Master Tree Planting Plan started** in several neighborhoods with help from ODNR Urban Forester Stephanie Miller; hazardous tree inventories planned in the future.
- **Traveling Exhibit & Website Updated** Educational information was updated on an exhibit for location around town that promotes good tree care and planting; new locations welcome. Visit our city website to see more.
- **2 Tree Commissioners graduate** January 22 from Ohio Tree Commission Academy sponsored by ODNR Division of Forestry 2012-2013. (Details back side)
- **Long Range Planning Workshop Held** Downtown groups, Regional Planning Commission staff, local tree services and engineering firms met November 4 with the Tree Commission to start an ongoing Long Range Tree Planning Plan to address various issues around Findlay with old, dying trees and potential plantings in new growth areas.
- **Volunteers Log 470 Hours in 2013** Over 80 volunteers assisted various tree projects and programs city-wide with an in-kind donated value of \$10,899 savings to Findlay and benefit to the Tree Commission.

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## First Findlay TCA Graduates

Tom Mills and Tim Brugeman completed the 2012-2013 Class at Ohio's Tree Commission Academy; they are the first from Findlay. Mayor Mihalik attended the graduation ceremony to view the Findlay presentation. TCA encourages Tree Commission members to learn successful techniques for taking their tree programs to the next level of success.



## 2014 Events Planned

- **Late January TBA** – Public meeting with neighbors for the Spring NeighborWoods Project at Sherman Park.
- **April 25** – Tentative date for Arbor Day Program at Jefferson Primary School.
- **Early May TBA** – Tree planting at Sherman Park neighborhood
- **July thru September** – Adopt-A-Tree applications / inspections underway.
- **October 4** – Adopt-A-Tree Distribution Day at Public Works Building, N. Cory St.

## Thanks to our Tree Commission Members:

Welcome Lynn Farwig as our newest member, recently appointed by the Mayor, replacing Mike Jurkiewicz who retired after many terms on the Shade Tree Commission – **THANKS Mike!**

Other members include: Anne Spence, Deb Seng, Ed Crawford, Dave Gasior, Tom Mills, Tim Brugeman, Dave Honse, and Paul Schmelzer.



Brugeman, Mihalik, Miller & Mills at TCA graduation

## "Neighbor Woods" Neighborhood Adopt-A-Tree Program



New Adopt-A-Tree Program Started April 2013

"NeighborWoods" encourages larger tree plantings in areas of town where neighbors can join together to plant and care for trees as a group. The idea, developed with residents in the Mound Park neighborhood who asked for city help after the wind storm of June 2012 destroyed most trees in their Park, was completed April 2013. Thanks to a Community Foundation grant, matched by funds from residents and other private donors, 16 trees were planted in one 2 hour event (and they are still growing great!). The Community Foundation now offers up to \$2500 per year to the Tree Commission, matched by neighbors' funds and in-kind help, to encourage more neighborhoods to organize to plant more trees.

Project guidelines have been adopted, and the next project is the Sherman Park Neighborhood.



October 5 Adopt-A-Tree Distribution