

FINDLAY SHADE TREE COMMISSION

2014 Annual Report

January 2015

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 2014.



Volunteers planting trees at Sherman Park

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

Findlay was recognized as a Tree City USA on April 9, 2014 in the Northwest Ohio awards ceremony co-hosted by the City of Kenton, the Village of Mt. Victory and their Tree Commissions. This is the 32 time our community has been honored with this nationally recognized award.

The awards were presented to the Tree City USA communities by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry at the Abundant Life Assembly of God Church in Kenton. The title of "Tree City USA" was bestowed on our community for its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life through a comprehensive street tree management program. The program is guided by the Shade Tree Commission and the municipal government



2014 Arbor Day Celebration at Jefferson School



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

2014 Tree Commission Highlights:

- **Over 350 Trees Planted** as a result of the various planting programs and the efforts of our city staff.
- **"NeighborWoods" continued** at the Sherman Park Neighborhood on May 10 with 57+ participants and 17 trees and 9 shrubs planted.
- **Findlay's 2014 Arbor Day Program** was hosted at Jefferson School, Friday April 25 at 9:30 am. Students heard from Mayor Lydia Mihalik and the "Tree Lady" Cathy Smith, and the students participated in planting an Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry tree. The planting location was on the north side of the school at their "Butterfly Garden".
- **Over 35 Residents "Adopted-A-Tree"** during October distribution at the Public Works Garage, thanks to City Council and the \$2500 budget approved early summer, matched by private donations.
- **Master Tree Planting Plan** continued in several neighborhoods with help from ODNr Urban Forester Stephanie Miller; hazardous tree inventories planned in the future.
- **Volunteers Log 561 Hours in 2014**
Over 65 volunteers assisted various tree projects and programs city-wide with an in-kind donated value of \$10,788 to Findlay and benefit to the Tree Commission.
- **Young Tree Training Workshop** held to help residents in Findlay and the surrounding area to train trees through proper pruning. Trained trees are better able to withstand storms
- **Lye Creek Riparian Buffer Project** – 305 trees and 260 bushes were planted at the mouth of the Lye Creek on the west side of E. Main Cross St. with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the Ohio EPA.

MORE →

FINDLAY SHADE TREE COMMISSION 2014 Annual Report

January 2015

2015 Events Planned

- **January 22 – 23** – Tree Commission Academy
- **March TBA** – Tree Commission Academy
- **April 30** - Arbor Day Program including special presentation by Mark Bays Oklahoma Urban Forestry Coordinator about the Oklahoma City Bombing Survivor Tree
- **Early May TBA** – Tree planting along South Main St. neighborhood
- **Early May TBA** – Tree planting and tree care workshop in conjunction with NeighborWoods
- **July thru September** – Adopt-A-Tree applications / inspections underway.
- **September TBA** – Tree Commission Academy
- **October 4** – Adopt-A-Tree Distribution Day at Public Works Building, N. Cory St.
- **November TBA** – Young Tree Training
- **December TBA** – Tree Commission Academy

Thanks to our Tree Commission Members:

Welcome **Randy Greeno** as our newest member, recently appointed by the Mayor. Ed Crawford and David Gasior are retiring after their service on the Shade Tree Commission – **THANKS Ed and Dave!**

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



University of Findlay Students Assist With 2014 Adopt-A-Tree Program



"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now."
– Chinese Proverb

"Neighbor Woods" Neighborhood Adopt-A-Tree Program



Sherman Park NeighborWoods - 2014

"NeighborWoods" encourages larger tree planting projects in areas of town where neighbors can join together to plant and care for trees as a group. 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. The Sherman Park NeighborWoods Project is the second of its kind, assisted by a Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation grant of \$1731 supporting the residents' efforts to re-store trees destroyed by windstorms and disease in recent years. The Mound Park Neighborhood was the pilot project that helped launch the program to encourage neighbors to band together, plant more trees and take care of them. Other Findlay neighborhoods are encouraged to participate and contact the Tree Commission. Project guidelines have been adopted, and the next project is the South Main St. Neighborhood.



October 5 Adopt-A-Tree Distribution