

FINDLAY SHADE TREE COMMISSION

2015 Annual Report

January 2016

To Mayor Lydia Mihalik, 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 2015.



Volunteers planting S. Main St. NeighborWoods trees

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

Findlay was recognized as a Tree City USA Community on April 9, 2015 in the Northwest Ohio awards ceremony co-hosted by the City of Toledo and their Tree Commission. This is the 33rd time our community has been accredited by the National Arbor Day Foundation for a successful program.

Awards were presented to various Tree City USA communities by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry at the Toledo Zoo. The title of "Tree City USA" was bestowed on Findlay 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 Tree Commission and various City Departments.



2015 Arbor Day Celebration University of Findlay

Pictured: Dr. Michael Reed, Noritaka Sugiyama, Mayor Mihalik and University President Dr. Katherine Fell.



2015 Tree Commission Highlights:

- **Over 600 Trees were planted** as a result of the various planting programs and the efforts of our city staff.
- **"NeighborWoods" continued** along S. Main St. from Lima St. to 6th St. on May 2 with 57+ participants and 29 trees planted.
- **Findlay's 2015 Arbor Day Program** began at the University of Findlay on Thursday, April 30 at 4:00 pm. A Kwansan Flowering Cherry Tree was planted in the Sensory Garden behind the Japanese Program House. Special presentations were made by Mayor Mihalik and University representatives.
- **Maple Grove Cemetery** – The Findlay Adopt-A-Tree program was put on hold for the year and moneys were used to add 40 new trees in the cemetery through city staff efforts.
- **Master Tree Planting Plan** continued in several neighborhoods with help from ODNR Urban Forester Stephanie Miller; hazardous tree inventories planned in the future.
- **Volunteers Logged 561 Hours in 2015** Over 65 volunteers assisted various tree projects and programs city-wide with an in-kind donated value of \$10,788 to Findlay.
- **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
- **US Forest Service EAB Mitigation Project Findlay** took advantage of a special US Forest Service Grant and 100 trees were planted in Swale, Firestone and Emory Adams Parks to replace trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- **The Spruce Dr.** buffer was replanted with 430 evergreen trees, right trees in the right place.
- **Eagle Creek Riparian Buffer Project** – 70 trees and 12 shrubs were planted along Eagle Creek on the west side in Emory Adams Park with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with the Ohio EPA, the Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District and Blanchard River Watershed Partnership.

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2016 Events Planned:

- **January 7 and 22** – Tree Commission Academy
- **February 6** – Young Tree Training Workshop
- **April 29** - Arbor Day Program
- **Early May TBA** – Tree planting and tree care workshop in conjunction with NeighborWoods along the West Howard St. and Greystone Dr. neighborhoods
- **October** – **Potential NeighborWoods Project**
- **November TBA** – Young Tree Training Workshop.



Findlay Tree Commission members and City Staff with ODNR Urban Forester Stephanie Miller at Tree Commission Academy (TCA) being held in Findlay at ODNR Wildlife Building – Final Classes & Graduation were held January 2016. This is the largest class of Findlay participants and ALL Tree Commission members will be TCA graduates.

Thanks to Tree Commission Members:

We had a great year! The Findlay Shade Tree Commission including: Randy Greeno, Lynn and Karl Farwig, Anne Spence, Deb Seng, Tom Mills, Tim Brugeman, Dave Honse, AJ Copus and Paul Schmelzer 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.



Training at South Main St. NeighborWoods - 2015

“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 South Main St. Project is the third of its kind, assisted by a Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation grant of **\$1731** matching the residents’ efforts to re-store trees destroyed by windstorms and disease in recent years. Other Findlay neighborhoods are encouraged to participate and contact the Tree Commission. Project guidelines have been adopted, and the 2016 project may include two neighborhoods along west Howard St. and Greystone Drive.

“The Survivor Tree” Special Presentation

Together with Toledo Tree Commission, ODNR, and the University of Findlay, Findlay hosted nationally known urban forester Mark Bays April 30 at an evening public program in Ritz Auditorium about the tree that survived and symbolized the recovery from the Oklahoma City bombing.



Mark Bays and The Survivor Tree in Findlay