

FINDLAY SHADE TREE COMMISSION 2017 Annual Report January 2018

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 2017.



Elliott Tyzzer, Street Dept., pruning on Lincoln Street

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

Findlay was recognized as a Tree City USA Community on May 3, 2017, in the Northwest Ohio awards ceremony hosted by Lakeside and its Tree Commission. This is the 35th time the City of Findlay 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. 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 Shade Tree Commission and various City departments. The featured speaker was Cheryl Harner, speaking on "Our Living Legacy: American Trees."



Jacobs Primary School students - Arbor Day Planting



2017 Arbor Day Celebration

Pictured: Mayor Lydia Mihalik and Jacobs Primary School Students

2017 Tree Commission Highlights:

- **Trees Planted** – 74 trees were planted as a result of the various planting programs and the efforts of our City staff.
- **Municipal Dollars Spent** – City of Findlay spent \$212,234 on tree related work including planting, pruning and removing trees. Wood and leaf residual processing is included in these figures. Staff support of the Shade Tree Commission efforts was also an expense.
- **NeighborWoods** – This program was again held in two locations in Findlay on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The program was held in the West Park and in Southridge Estates neighborhoods. There were 21 trees planted.
- **Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation** – The Community Foundation worked hand in hand with the Shade Tree Commission to kick off and support the NeighborWoods program for the past five years. NeighborWoods is operational and will be continuing thanks to the start up support of The Community Foundation.
- **2017 Arbor Day Program** – Findlay's Arbor Day program was held at Jacobs Primary School on Monday, May 8, 2017.
- **Volunteer Hours** – 160 volunteer hours were logged in 2017. Over 16 volunteers assisted various tree projects and programs city-wide with in-kind donation valued at \$3,678.40.
- **Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar** – The Shade Tree Commission was represented at the ODNR, Division of Forestry's Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar held November 8, 2017, in Bluffton, Ohio.
- **Young Tree Training** – The Shade Tree Commission was represented at an area wide Young Tree Training workshop held in Ottawa to help residents to train young trees through proper pruning. Trained trees are better able to withstand storms.
- **Community Forestry Expenditure** – In 2017, \$6.02 per capita was spent on trees and tree related items.
- **Tree Maintenance** – 135 trees were pruned and 247 trees were removed by City staff in 2017.

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2018 Events Planned:

- **April 27** - Arbor Day Program
- **April 28** – Tree Care Workshop
- **April 28** – NeighborWoods Tree Planting in White Birch Drive and Nutmeg Lane neighborhoods
- **September 15** – Tree Care Workshop
- **September 29** – Fall Planting
- **November TBA** – Young Tree Training Workshop

New Tree Survival School

Jerry Williamson, a new member of the Findlay Shade Tree Commission, attended a new training program brought to northwest Ohio by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

This three day Tree Survival School is designed for anyone who purchases, plants or cares for trees in a commercial or public landscape. The three days are divided between classroom and hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

The course focused on trees from planting time to 10 years of age. The topics include: Introduction and Tree Biology, Proper Transplant & Care of Trees Before They Are Planted, Developing a Tree Maintenance Program Before You Plant, Watering Requirements, Proper Pruning of New and Established Trees, Buying and Selecting Trees in the Nursery, Proper Planting Methods, Protecting Trees, Insect and Disease Problems in Trees, and Proper Mulching and Fertilization.

Thanks to Shade Tree Commission Members

We had a great year! The Findlay Shade Tree Commission including: Mary Flickinger, Jerry Williamson, Randy Greeno, Karl Farwig, Jim Niemeyer, Tom Mills, Tim Brugeman, Dave Honse, AJ Copus, Jeremy Kalb, and Brian Thomas provided yeomen service on behalf of Findlay's urban forest.

Special THANKS to Kathy Launder for coordinating Shade Tree Commission activities and records at the Mayor's Office and to Robin Schey for coordinating the Shade Tree Commission budget at the Public Works Department.

Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar

The Findlay Shade Tree Commission was represented at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry's Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar held November 8, 2017, in Bluffton, Ohio. Dr. Greg Dahle, Assistant Professor Forest Resources Management at West Virginia University spoke on Trees + Wind + Gravity. Other presentations included: Tree Research and Rocket Science, Gypsy Moth Update and Information on Ohio Pollinators.



NeighborWoods - 2017

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 offered up to \$2,500 in 2017 to the Shade Tree Commission, matched by neighbors' funds and in-kind help, to encourage more neighborhoods to organize to plant more trees.

In 2017, two neighborhoods participated in NeighborWoods. The program was held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, in the West Park and Southridge Estates neighborhoods where twenty-one trees were planted.

This project is the fifth of its kind assisted by a Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation grant of \$2,500 matching the residents' efforts to restore trees destroyed by windstorms and disease in recent years. Other Findlay neighborhoods are invited to participate in the program by contacting the Shade Tree Commission.



NeighborWoods Planting in West Park

Pictured: Mark Sica, Tim Brugeman, and Jerry Williamson

