





City of Belpre Tree Commission Annual Report 2018

The City of Belpre Tree Commission was created with the passage of local ordinance 38(94-95) in November 1995. The duties of the Belpre Tree Commission are as follows:

-  To study, investigate, plan, advise and report any action to the city regarding tree management
-  To assist the proper city officials as well as city council and citizens to find or determine to be necessary or advisable for care, preservation, trimming, planting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in public ways, street and alleys
-  To provide regular and special meetings at which the subject of trees insofar as it relates to the city may be discussed by members of committee and personnel of the city and all others interested in the tree program
-  To recommend to the city the type and kind of trees to be planted upon city streets or in parks as designated

The Belpre Tree Commission is approved and appointed by the Mayor of the City of Belpre. Those members consist of:

Mike Lorentz – Mayor	Team Member –Maxine Mobbs (Chairperson)
Ron Cross – Safety/Service Director	Team Member – Mary Jo Slater (Secretary)
Jon Neff – Nursery Professional (Bob’s Market)	Team Member – Sheila McCloud
Ann Bonder- ODNR/Division of Forestry	Team Member – Paul Mobbs
Leslie Pittenger- City Auditor and Belpre in Bloom (Chairperson)	Team Member – Joyce Lorentz
Marcus McCartney – OSU Extension	
Elmer Lee Shutts – City Council – Recreation Committee Chairman	

The Belpre Tree Commission is honored to present to the Mayor and City Council the following accomplishments, organization goals and objectives for the forthcoming year.

Accomplishments

- As part of our tree canopy, the following was performed:
 - Eight trees were pruned
 - Two trees were removed
 - Eight trees planted - Seven in Civitan Park and one in Depot Park for a total cost of \$1,423.00 (includes mulch and dirt)
- This year, we had 291.00 adult volunteer hours (for a cost of \$7,184.79) and 34 youth volunteer hours (for a cost of \$839.46)
- The revision of some of our tree ordinances, which are currently waiting for approval by the Belpre City Attorney
- Our twenty-third Arbor Day program was held on Friday, April 27 with the Mayor, Mike Lorentz presenting a proclamation at 10:00 am at Civitan Park Gazebo and 1:00 pm at Depot Park. Planting of the Arbor Day tree was included as part of our tree planting work-shop
- Eight adults and one youth mulched all the trees in Howes Grove Park

Educational Accomplishments

- On Friday, April 27, the OSU Extension Washington County and the Belpre Tree Commission sponsored a tree planning work-shop for residents and Botany Class students from Belpre High School at Civitan Park. This hands-on workshop covered tree selection, site preparation, tree planting, and follow-up care. The students and residents helped plant six trees, including two white dogwoods, two chokecherries and two redbuds near the Civitan Park gazebo. We had 30 individuals who attended.
- A brochure was published titled "Garden Trees That Attract Butterflies". This brochure listed eight species which have nectar-rich blossoms that will entice butterflies. The species are Choke Cherry, Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, River Birch, Sassafras, Sourwood, Sugar Maple and Wild Cherry.
- Eight Tree Commission members attended the America in Bloom Symposium - University of Kentucky Arboretum Tour in Lexington, Kentucky
- Four Tree Commission members attended the America in Bloom Symposium -- Gateway Farm and Arboretum and McConnell Spring Nature Center in Lexington, Kentucky
- Belpre Tree Commission held a Belpre Tree Seminar (Tree Academy Refresher Course) on Friday, October 12 in the Belpre City Council Chambers from 10:00 am -- 2:00 pm. The Belpre Tree Commission members (Maxine Mobbs, Sheila McCloud, Mary Jo Slater, and Leslie Pittenger) along with Marcus McCartney OSU Washington County Extension did the presentations, with Joyce Lorentz catering our lunch. Ann Bonner represented Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The topics that were covered were Right Tree, Right Place, Belpre Tree Inventory, Mulching/Pruning/Maintenance, Invasive Plants/Trees and Culture Awareness/Identifying Diseases. There were nine individuals in attendance.
- Three Tree Commission members traveled to Mason, WV to take a tour of Bob's Market.

- One Tree Commission member attended the first Tree Survival School on Saturday, October 20 at Little Hocking Riverfront Park in Little Hocking, Ohio. The participants gained knowledge and hands on experience in how to get a tree to thrive in its early years.

Partnership Accomplishments

- Three Belpre Tree Commission members set up a display table at Bob's Market in Belpre to talk with Bob's Market customers about garden trees that attract butterflies and bees on Saturday, June 2 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- Nine Boy Scouts and tree adults from Boy Scout Troop 91 mulched trees at Civitan Park.
- One Belpre Tree Commission member met with the two America in Bloom judges to talk about our Urban Forestry program that was held at Civitan Park
- The Boy Scouts from Troop 91 planted a memory tree in Civitan Park
- Four Belpre Tree Commission members traveled to Lewisburg, West Virginia to meet with Lewisburg Tree Board on July 27, 2018. Both groups shared ideas and Lewisburg asked us to be their mentors for 2018/2019.
- Belpre In Bloom and Belpre Tree Commission partner together for the City of Belpre Urban Forestry. This partnership includes purchasing and planting trees in Civitan Park, purchasing and mulching around the trees in Howes Grove Park, purchasing and setting up tree watering bags and protectors for the new planted trees in Civitan Park, printing of the "Garden Trees That Attract Butterflies" brochures, participating in America in Bloom, sponsoring memorial trees (which includes the posts and plaques), and attending the American in Bloom Symposium in Lexington, Kentucky
- Belpre Garden Club purchased a memorial tree and partnered with Belpre Tree Commission to help plant the tree in Depot Park

Award Accomplishments

■ Six Tree Commission members attended the Southeast Ohio Tree City USA Awards at Shawnee State University Portsmouth, OH on April 12, 2018. The City of Belpre received their **22-year Tree City USA** award made in recognition of work completed by the city during 2018 calendar year. City of Belpre was the **only city** that received the **Tree City USA Growth Award** for our region. We completed **15 points: Two points for Belpre Tree Selection Guide, four points for holding a Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop and nine points for the computerized Belpre Tree Inventory by Bartlett Tree Experts.** Representing the Southeast Ohio Tree Cities were eleven Tree City USA Communities, three Tree City USA Campuses, and one Tree City USA City (Belpre) receiving the Growth Award (our second since becoming a Tree City USA City). In the **State of Ohio**, there were 241 Tree City USA cities/campuses with 34 cities receiving the Growth Award.

The Tree City USA Growth Award is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry. It also provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country. Your community can achieve a Tree City USA Growth Award if it qualifies as a Tree City USA for at least the second consecutive year and completes activities in eligible categories totaling 10 or more points. Eligible activities fall into one of four categories, and each activity has an associated point value.

- Category A: Education and Public Relations
- Category B: Partnerships
- Category C: Planning and Management
- Category D: Tree Planting and Maintenance

■ America in Bloom 2018 Evaluation Report (seventh year of involvement in the America in Bloom national awards program) for Urban Forestry received 32 actual points with 80 possible points for a total of 40 percent.

Goals and Objectives

- The approval of the revised tree ordinances with the City Attorney and City Council
- Continue to be a Tree City USA and have an Arbor Day program
- Belpre Tree Commission and the City of Belpre will be the host for 2019 Southeast Ohio Tree City USA Award Program on Friday, May 03, 2019
- Continue to receive our Tree City USA Growth Award
- Currently our total tree canopy is estimated about 25% and to establish a plan to increase our canopy by planting trees for every tree that is removed plus an additional 5%
- Continue our education as Tree Commission members
- Recognition and protection of heritage trees in the City of Belpre
- Improve our maintenance on tree health – having a program in place to monitor and manage diseases and pest; have another program in place that includes watering new trees, proper mulching, appropriate pruning, removal of dead limbs and canopies raised adequately above vehicle and pedestrian area
- Access Park – the trees that our on the right as you enter the access road to increase the view of signs and make these trees a start of an arboretum.
- Continue to be an active Tree Commission
- Continue to be a Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 Per Capita (2018- Per Capita \$2.24)
- Establish a partnership with the Belpre Rotary Club
- Work with Jen Bowman, Director of Environmental Program and Nicole Kirchner, Environmental Specialist from Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs

*Respectfully submitted,
City of Belpre Tree Commission*

