DATE & TIME: Monday, February 1st 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Conference Room 2C, 2nd Floor, City Building One Donham Plaza
Join Zoom Meeting: Zoom Meeting Link
Meeting ID: 848 8032 2260
Passcode: 193593
Phone Information: +16465588656
ID: 84880322260#

MEMBERS: Irene Earl Carolyn Keiffer Steve Lewis
Travis Bautz Adam Johnson
Ami Vitori, City Council Representative
Doris Baden, Keep Middletown Beautiful Liaison
Alison Manning, Staff Representative

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 11th, 2021

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: Travis Bautz

5. AUDIENCE COMMENTS – RESERVED TIME (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

6. OLD BUSINESS
   – Urban Forestry Topics: Tree Removal Report
   – Tree Commission Academy Announcement
   – Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine, https://bygl.osu.edu/

7. NEW BUSINESS
   – Parks Maintenance Update – Monthly Report for January
   – Parks Master Plan Update
   – Example User Group Agreements - comments
   – Park Board Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
   – Non-Voting Liaison Requirements

8. COMMENTS – RESERVED TIME (5 MIN. PER SPEAKER) Board Members, Liaisons, Council Members

9. OTHER

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of Park Board will be held on
Monday, March 8th, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
MIDDLETOWN PARK BOARD MINUTES
January 11th, 2021

TYPE: REGULAR MEETING
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 2C, 2ND FLOOR, CITY BUILDING ONE DONHAM PLAZA
ZOOM: MEETING ID: 834 8383 9718, PASSCODE: 475903

PARK BOARD MEMBERS: TRAVIS BAUTZ, IRENE EARL, ADAM JOHNSON, CAROLYN KEIFFER, STEVE LEWIS
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: AMI VITORI
LIAISONS: JEFF MICHEL OF KEEP MIDDLETOWN BEAUTIFUL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:12 P.M.

ROLL CALL:
Excused Absence
IRENE EARL, ADAM JOHNSON, CAROLYN KEIFFER, STEVE LEWIS
TRAVIS BAUTZ

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes from the July 13th and November 9th, Mr. Johnson seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS
None.

OLD BUSINESS

URBAN FORESTRY DISCUSSION

Tree Removal Report 2020
Ms. Manning distributed the final current tree removal report for 2020. Ms. Manning noted that many of the latest trees removed were from the arboretum and the right-of-way. Ms. Keiffer noted that 104 trees were removed for 2020. She asked how many trees were planted in 2020. Ms. Manning said she thought approximately 45 but was very unsure about that number. She said she would check the numbers and bring that information to the next meeting. Ms. Keiffer remarked that at the current rate three fourths of trees are being removed and they are not being replaced. She said ideally, she would like to see at least one tree planted for every tree removed. Ms. Manning noted that the list can be misleading because not all tree on the list removed are from public spaces. She explained that trees that fall into the right-of-way are sometimes from private property. She also remarked that it has been a goal to replace trees that have been removed from parks back into those specific parks, while also planting in areas that have been identified as good locations for future trees. She stated the City’s goal this year is to find funding for a “tree giveaway”. She said she anticipates challenges with the upcoming Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration due to COVID-19 restrictions and wanted residents to be able to celebrate by at least planting a tree. As another goal for the City, she explained that it is important to recognize that the City is made up of both private and public lands and a larger effort needs to be made to get trees planted on private land as well. Ms. Keiffer described a “tree lottery” program where approximately 5 trees a year were given away to residents. She said tree commission members would go to the locations and suggest planting locations and tree types. She remarked that one disadvantage of the program was that it was not well advertised. Ms. Manning remarked that she wanted to focus on programs that would encourage tree plantings on private land in general this year.

Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine
Ms. Manning distributed the different handouts about street trees of Ohio, emerald ash borer update, and invasive species updates. Mr. Lewis began a discussion about the replacement and repair of the urban canopy from the removal of ash trees. He felt the same approach needs to be like the above discussion, that an effort needs to be made to involve the residents in replacing these quantities of lost trees on private land, not just public. He also said he felt that the Parks Master Plan project shouldn’t contradict efforts to repair the urban canopy and that it should support the strengthening of the urban canopy.
Ms. Manning informed the board that the City submitted a Tree City USA application and Growth Award application on December 4th. She distributed an email about the status of the application. She said that it’s her understanding that the ODNR-forestry division has approved the application and it has been passed along to the Arbor Day foundation for final approval. Ms. Keiffer asked if this was the City’s first Growth Award. Ms. Manning replied saying that it would be the City’s third. She said that all the standards were met for 2020 except for a large Arbor Day celebration, which the Arbor Day excused for all applying communities.

Ms. Manning distributed the monthly report for November and December. Ms. Keiffer mentioned that she forgot there was snow. Ms. Manning reminded the board that the snow hours included any hours for salting bridges and overpasses. Mr. Lewis also reminded everyone that there was snowfall on Christmas that was supposed to end at 11 p.m. but didn’t wrap up until 3 a.m.

Ms. Keiffer asked what type of activities were included in COVID-19 activities. Ms. Manning said the line item included things like restroom sanitation, building facilities maintenance, and setting up and refilling temporary handwashing stations in the parks, along with other COVID-19 mandated activities.

Ms. Manning stated that the public parks survey closed on December 31st. She said she thought the preliminary number of received responses was around 230, which staff felt was respectable considering the City Comprehensive Plan received around 130 responses. She said that so far, the City had only received 2 hard copies of the survey. Consult should have the survey results analyzed within the next couple weeks. She said staff would then meet with the consultant to see if there were any missed demographics and develop opportunities and goals from the survey data. She said at initial viewing it looks like the survey is light on responses from the 10 to 18-year-old age demographic, so staff and consultant are working to reach out to the schools to gather additional information, possibly with a shortened survey format. She said she hopes to get a more accurate picture of park use by getting responses from a wider variety of demographics by utilizing the students and schools. Ms. Manning also stated that Shelby Quinlivan, Communications Manager for the City, was helping with the effort to engage the schools.

Councilwoman Vitori said that she also had a contact with the schools that she could reach out to in an effort to gain traction. She also said she also had a contact at the John XXIII school as well. Ms. Manning said any help would be appreciated.

Ms. Keiffer asked if the community center at Douglass was included in the survey participation. Ms. Manning said they were included in the survey efforts and are a stakeholder in the project advisory groups.

Ms. Manning also presented the most current project binder and offered information to the board at their request. She said that stakeholder meetings would be scheduled soon and encouraged board members to keep an eye out for email invitations.

Mr. Johnson asked if contracts had been signed this year. Ms. Manning said that some had been signed for the 2021 year but not all. Ms. Manning reminded the board about the previous discussion on the topic, referencing previous meeting minutes:

"Ms. Manning reminded the Board that the City’s standard user group agreement along with other example user group agreements were distributed at the last meeting. She asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggestions about them. Mr. Lewis asked who administers the contracts? Ms. Manning said that Scott Tadych, Public Works Director, and the Law Department review the documents and the City Manager signs the final agreements. Mr. Lewis asked who polices the agreements. Ms. Manning said that Charlie Anderson, Public Works Superintendent, and Donna Beauregard, Parks Leadman, supervise and enforce the agreements.

Mr. Lewis said he reviewed Warren County and Lebanon’s agreements. He said that they seemed like simplified agreements. Mr. Lewis said he felt at this point, since he felt like this was dumped on the Board as homework and felt like it wouldn’t be beneficial to discuss the agreements and comments without the council liaison present, since she was the driving force of the topic. Ms. Manning said the topic didn’t have to be discussed at this meeting and could be tabled to the next meeting. Mr. Lewis said of all of them he felt that the City of Lebanon’s agreements seemed the most suitable to follow as an example.

Mr. Jones asked that the topic be added to the next meeting’s agenda."

She asked if the board would like to continue to discussion. Mr. Johnson asked is there a standard use agreement. Ms. Manning informed him that yes there is, although the standard agreement is often modified to fit user-groups specific needs or unique circumstances. Mr. Johnson asked if existing agreements are
automatically renewed. Ms. Manning said no groups are required to reapply or resubmit. Ms. Keiffer said she hadn’t had time to review the agreements. She said in general she would like financial statements of the groups and agreements to be reviewed, and that it has been difficult to do this in the past. She explained that she only remembers Light Up Middletown giving money to the improvements of the parks. Ms. Manning said that to her knowledge soccer, Light Up Middletown, and pickleball groups are all giving money back for the improvement of parks.

Mr. Lewis said he felt that his biggest concern is the follow-up of the agreement and the understanding of the agreements. He said that all the examples provided by staff looked good and were efficient in their own manner, but as with anything it’s about follow-up. He asked if the City allows the continued use without monitoring the groups what is the point? He restated again his biggest concern is follow-up.

Ms. Manning said she felt the discussion about the topic originated from the content of the contract and the desire for it to be improved. She asked if the board has changed direction from modifying the contract to the application and enforcement of the contract?

Councilwoman Vitori specified she feels the issue stemmed from the soccer agreement specifically, and the City making a special agreement with soccer in a time when the city was lacking staff. She said she felt procedures need to be tightened up and, in the process, look around to see what other communities are doing. She stated her main desire was to have a standardized agreement that makes sure revenue generated covers the cost of the use of the parks. She also suggested that at the upcoming council retreat, this body should make recommendations, that are then passed to the Legal Department and staff, who would then present it to City Council.

Mr. Lewis asked who follows up on the agreements. Ms. Manning said it was a collaborative effort of application and enforcement, but the physical use of the parks would fall to Charlie Anderson, Public Work Superintendent, and Donna Beauregard, Parks Leader.

Ms. Keiffer said a simple adjustment would be the requirement of having all agreements signed by a set date in January. Ms. Manning said she felt that this type of recommendation that would be beneficial for the process and improve the group agreements.

Ms. Keiffer also stated that the soccer user group once asked for a calendar of events. She expressed frustration and asserted that she didn’t understand why it was difficult for the City to achieve this. There was a short discussion about the collaboration and creation of such a calendar.

Mr. Lewis said he felt that it may be beneficial to have staff give their perspective of the application and enforcement of the agreements. He said that as the Parks Master Plan progresses the encouraged use of the parks and programming will only compound the problem.

Ms. Manning said she can speak with staff about the agreements but anticipates that the biggest concern about the agreements is the clarity of the contracts and the enforcement.

She asked the board if there were any other additions to the contacts desired such as does the board want user groups to provide certain amenities, like port-a-lots, during use. Mr. Johnson said yes, general cleanup and care need to be specified more and more easily enforced. He stated that he felt a deposit to use the parks should be required.

Ms. Manning reviewed to the group the following adjustments to present to council: signing of agreement by January, care and clean up of parks, deposit requirements, facilities use, and a deadline for applications at two weeks in advance.

There was a discussion about multiple groups using facilities, and the power of staff to enforce the agreements, as well as how quickly the issues would ideally be addressed.

Councilwoman Vitori thought maybe the retreat would be a good platform for the presentation of these topics and would reach out to staff to collaborate this. Ms. Manning asked for the board to send any follow-up comments within the next week via email.

Mr. Johnson motioned for the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be tabled until the next meeting. None opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Lewis asked if Jason Jones was no longer a park board member. Ms. Manning informed the board that council did not reappoint Mr. Jones. There was a short discussion about the reappointment and the frustration about notification specifically from City Council. Councilwoman Vitori expressed that the appointment changes were about consistency, but she hopes there will still be involvement and welcomes input.
ADJOURN

Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn, Ms. Earl seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

______________________________

Board Member          Alison Manning –Secretary
## Tree Removal Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of Tree</th>
<th>Qty. of Trees Removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglass Park</td>
<td>Mulberry, Elm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman Park</td>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Removed Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Removed Right-of-Way</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*fell into right of way
Updated: 1/21/21

## Monthly Report for Parks and Grounds Division

**January 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of trees removed/planted</td>
<td>3/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of trees trimmed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush/limbs removed</td>
<td>73.5 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment repaired</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter picked up</td>
<td>244 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events/Light Up Middletown</td>
<td>35/268 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash pad maintenance</td>
<td>0 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment with pre-emergent/herbicides</td>
<td>0 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowerbed maintenance</td>
<td>5 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mower Inspector</td>
<td>0 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow removal-related activities</td>
<td>45 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mow with arm tractor or batwing</td>
<td>73 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 activities</td>
<td>9 hrs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPLICATION FOR CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SEPTEMBER THROUGH OCTOBER EACH YEAR. COUNCIL CONSIDERS APPLICATIONS DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR ONE YEAR.

All Middletown citizens who are interested in serving on a City Board or Commission are requested to complete the following application form.

NAME: ___________________________ HOME TELEPHONE: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ WORK TELEPHONE: ___________

E-MAIL ADDRESS: ___________________________

List the name of each Board or Commission on which you are willing to serve. (List in preferential order with number one being your first choice).

1. ___________________________
2. ___________________________
3. ___________________________
4. ___________________________

How long have you been a resident of the City of Middletown? _______ Years
How long have you been a registered voter of the City of Middletown? _______ Years

Please use the following space to identify any information which may assist the City Council in considering you for appointment, keeping in mind that most of the Boards and Commissions do not require specialized skills other than a strong interest in and desire to serve the Middletown City Government and the citizens of this community.

List the names, dates of service, and any offices held (i.e. Chairperson) of all City or Government related boards or committees of which you have been or are presently a member: ______

Circle last school year completed: High School - 9 10 11 12 College - 13 14 15 16, more
Identify education certificates or degrees awarded: ____________________________
(i.e. AA, BA, BS, MA, MS, MBA, PhD, etc)

Identify the name, dates of employment, and position held of your current or most recent place of employment: ____________________________

Have you ever been CONVICTED of a crime (excluding minor traffic offenses)?
NO_____ YES _____ (If yes, please describe) ____________________________

Being appointed to a City Board, Commission or Committee makes you a "Public Official". Please acknowledge by your signature that you understand you cannot have any interest in any contract with the City.

DATE: ___________________________ SIGNATURE: ____________________________
Hello Ali,

By popular demand, we're bringing you Tree Commission Academy - Virtual! Enjoy and learn from the comfort of your own space. Our one-of-a-kind, award-winning program was developed for Ohio tree commissioners, staff, and elected officials. Check out our TCA Catalog for more about what you’ll learn & how it will help you be more effective and efficient with your community’s tree program. Spots will fill quickly, so reserve your today.

- Mayors and anyone who’s taken the class before are always free! (but you must still fill out an application)
- We encourage community representatives to experience TCA together (so ask folks in your town to join you)

Please follow the instructions below. We look forward to launching into this new adventure with you!
**Dates:** March 3, 4, 10, 11 & 18, 2021  
**Times:** 6:00-9:00 PM  
**Cost:** $35  
**Application Deadline:** February 10, 2021

We need plenty of time to mail you your supplies.

Each student requires BOTH TICKET and APPLICATION to be fully registered.

Go to the [Ohio Independent Arborist Association Calendar](https://www.ohio-independent-arborist.org/calendar) and open the TCA-V event by clicking on the title of the program.

Click **Ticket Box** in the top right corner to purchase your seat(s). You may buy tickets for more than one person at a time. *(Mayors and TCA Class Alumni skip this step)*

After purchasing tickets, revisit the open calendar event and complete an **Application Form** for **each individual**. You are welcome to copy/send the link to the candidates themselves to complete as soon as possible.

*Each student requires both ticket and application to be fully registered. *(Mayors and Alumni must complete application.)*
Once approved by their urban forester, each student will receive an email with a letter of confirmation and further instructions to prepare for TCA-V. Please watch for emails within a week of your application. I expect this small State-wide class to fill so if you would like to attend, please act quickly.

Slow the Spread: Mask up. Social Distance. Wash Those Hands.

Sincerely,

Wendi Van Buren
Regional Urban Forester

It's the little things that citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.
~ Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, Green Belt Movement

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Please contact me any time at
wendi.vanburen@dnr.state.oh.us
614-670-2653
Ohio Division of Forestry
8570 E State Route 73
Zoo has some great educational opportunities!

Wendi Van Buren
ODNR Urban Forester

Good Morning Friends!

We’re really excited to invite you to two different, highly focused, informative, and inspiring horticultural 5-part series which start in February.

The Best Plants!
The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s "Zoo's Best" Plant Trials Virtual Expo! ON SALE NOW! We’ve been looking for a way to share information derived from our extensive plant trials to the green industry and avid gardeners. Well, here it is! There have been a lot of online horticulture programs, but we've seen nothing this tightly focused on plants. **Five one-hour sessions focused entirely on the very best garden plants! One session each on perennials, annuals, woodies, pollinator plants, and native plants on Thursday afternoons at 2:00PM.** Extra time for Q&A. Price is $10 per session or $45 for the series for CZBG members. $15 and $70 for non-members. Student and CZBG Horticulture Volunteer discounts. For sponsorship opportunities and for group discounts, please email me directly.

1. **Best New Perennials, February 11, 2021 2PM.**
2. **Best New Annuals, February 18, 2PM.**
3. **Best Trees & Shrubs, February 25, 2PM**
4. **Best Plants for Pollinators, March 4, 2PM**
5. **Best Native Plants, March 11, 2PM**

*Links will be emailed 3 days prior to the session. Due to some email system security settings, some of our emails are rejected. Please be sure to type in your correct email address when registering and include a phone contact. Making my email address a contact might help. If you do not receive the link 3-days prior to the meeting, email me directly. Registration will allow viewing of all sessions from a different link after the initial live stream through May 15, 2021.*
Register at: http://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/horticulture_events/

Best Gardening Practices!

The Steve Foltz Landscape Series for Homeowners (The Virtual Version) **ON SALE NOW!** A popular favorite for over 25 years, this series of five two-hour talks is the best way for anyone to quickly become a proficient gardener. Everything you need to know to design, install, and care for your landscape, along with great plant information. **Makes a wonderful gift for any gardener and new homeowners!** Steve Foltz’ experience as the Zoo’s Horticultural Director for over 20 years has immersed him in all aspects of gardening. As a long time adjunct horticultural professor at both U.C. and Cincinnati State, you’ll appreciate his well-honed his teaching skills. **Five two-hour sessions on Wednesday nights beginning February 3**

1. Design Your Landscape, February 3, 7-9PM
2. The Best Trees & Shrubs for Your Landscape, February 10, 7-9PM
3. Bringing in Color, February 17, 7-9PM
4. Now That I Have It, How Do I Take Care of It, February 24, 7-9PM
5. Putting It All Together, March 3, 7-9PM

*Links will be emailed 3 days prior to the session. Due to some email system security settings, some of our emails are rejected. Please be sure to type in your correct email address when registering and include a phone contact. Making my email address a contact might help. If you do not receive the link 3-days prior to the meeting, email me directly. Registration will allow viewing of all sessions from a different link after the initial live stream through May 15, 2021.

Register at: http://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/horticulture_events/

Other 2021 Events and Info!

**CZBG Excellence in Horticulture Symposiums (Save the Dates!)**

1. Plant Trials Day and Native Plant Symposium, August 26, 2021, Dan Hinkley, Paul Westervelt, Jared Barnes, and more!

**CZBG 2021 Native Plant Sales at Bowyer Farm (Expanded Schedule! Save the Dates!)**


**PLANT FOR POLLINATORS CHALLENGE ROLLS INTO 2022 (Register Your Pollinator Garden!)**

2. http://cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/plant-for-pollinators/
KYRA BACK’S BLOG ON OUR 2020 CALADIUM TRIALS


We hope you join us for this program! Many thanks for your love and support through these difficult times!

Scott Beuerlein
Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati OH 45220
o (513) 559-8306 c (513) 232-8343
Number of trees planted  
84
Number of trees pruned  
285
Number of trees removed  
105

Tree Planting and Initial Care- $33,674.81

Included cost of tree purchases, labor and equipment for planting, planting materials, stakes, wrapping, watering, mulching, competition control, etc.

- $1356.00 – Various vendors for tree purchases planted in-house
- $2905.64 – Labor/Equipment for in-house preparation and planting
- $29413.17 – Trees planted by others (Sunset Park GI Basin, Transit Lot Planting, etc.)

Tree Maintenance - $39,768.60

Include pruning, insect and disease management, fertilization, watering, etc.

- $1600.00 – Various Vendors for tree pruning that staff is unable to complete
- $37443.60 – Labor/Equipment/Materials for in-house tree pruning and maintenance
- $725.00 – Various Vendors for insect treatment and competition control

Tree Removals - $39,391.35

Include cost of equipment, supplies, labor, etc.

- $6400.00 – Various Vendors for tree removals that staff is unable to complete
- $32991.35 – Labor/Equipment/Supplies for in-house removals

Management - $35,181.88

Include public education, professional training, memberships, salaries, street and park tree inventory.

- $35181.88 – Public education, training, memberships, salaries, Urban Forestry Conference, board and commission meetings, etc.

Volunteer Time

Number of volunteer hours and other contributions from civic organizations

- 85.15 hrs.- Meetings/Arbor Day Activity Planning/Invasive Species Removal and Clean Up in Armbruster Nature Preserve and Bulls Run Arboretum, and other Misc. Volunteer hours
About BYGL

Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine provides timely information about Ohio growing conditions, pest, disease, and cultural problems. Articles and supporting photos are created by members of the Extension, Nursery, Landscape, Turf (ENLT) team to benefit those who are managing a commercial nursery, garden center, or landscape business or someone who just wants to keep their yard looking good all summer. Additional fact sheet information on any of these articles may be found through the OSU FactSheet database: plantfacts.osu.edu (http://plantfacts.osu.edu/)

BYGL is available online at: [bygl.osu.edu (http://bygl.osu.edu/) ], a website created and maintained by Ernest Witney, Application Developer as part of the "Horticulture in Virtual Perspective", innovated and formed into its current format by the late Dr. Tim Rhodus, Professor, Horticulture and Crop Science, Ohio State University. BYGL is also available as a weekly newsletter delivered via email. To subscribe, send an email to bygl@osu.edu (mailto:bygl@osu.edu)

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The Ohio Woodland, Water and Wildlife (WWW) Conference has been a long standing tradition for natural resource professionals. We have been in Mansfield, Ohio the first Wednesday in March for as long as we can remember. In fact, last year, this was one of the last in person conferences before we went virtual! This conference, that had been a one day conference with three concurrent educational tracks, is going virtual. Each track - Woodlands, Water and Wildlife - will have its own day. Monday, March 1 will be the Woodland topics; Tuesday, March 2 will be the Water topics; and Wednesday, March 3 will be the Wildlife topics. Participants registering for the conference can attend all of sessions on any of the three days.

For more information about the conference, including the class schedules for each day, check out the Ohio Woodland Stewards Website at: https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/events/2021-ohio-woodland-water-and-wildlife-conference

If you are a more of a paper in hand person, you can download a printable copy with session titles and descriptions by clicking here: https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/sites/woodlands/files/imce/2021%20WWW%20agenda.pdf

The registration link can be found on the Ohio Woodland Stewards Website, or if you are ready to sign up, click here: https://web.cvent.com/event/41ecf631-83bd-4af5-9a85-4035dc765126/regProcessStep1
Street Trees Part 10 – Ostrya - Hop hornbeam, Chionanthus - Fringetree and Carpinus - European Hornbeam

Authors: Thomas deHaas
Published on: January 18, 2021

This week we look at what some choices for street trees that you may not have considered; Hornbeam, Hop hornbeam, and White Fringe Tree.

Carpinus caroliniana, Musclewood or American Hornbeam does well in partial shade and can tolerate wet soils.
Carpinus caroliniana ‘Autumn Fire™’, Autumn Fire Hornbeam is an upright grower and can be used as a street tree.
Carpinus betulus, European Hornbeam has been around for a while.

*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata', Pyramidal European Hornbeam is heat and drought resistant and can make a nice street tree.
After many years, it can grow into a large tree so needs room.

Carpinus betulus ‘Columnaris Nana’, Dwarf Columnar European Hornbeam is a dwarf, compact grower requiring little pruning and can be used for small tree applications.
Carpinus betulus 'Lucas', Lucas Columnar European Hornbeam has a dense columnar habit and makes a good street tree.
Ostrya virginiana, American Hop hornbeam, is a native, useful in dry locations. It can be used for lawns, parks, or as a street tree.
Chionanthus retusus, Chinese Fringetree has clusters of white flowers in the spring.
Chionanthus retusus ‘Tokyo Tower’, Tokyo Tower Fringetree has a narrow vase shape and upright in growth habit. It is a small slow growing tree so may be better considered for a small plaza or compact setting.

If you are looking to add variety, consider Hornbeam, Hophornbeam, or White Fringe Tree.
Street Trees Part 11 – Nyssa-Black Gum and Liquidambar- Sweet Gum

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This week we look at what some very durable choices for street trees. Both Nyssa and Liquidambar can grow into large trees so may require adequate room if used as street trees.
But some cultivars can make very nice street trees. 
*Nyssa sylvatica*, Black Gum is native tree that has spectacular fall color.

It can grow into a large tree so needs space to grow.
Several cultivars are available. *Nyssa sylvatica* ‘Tupelo Tower’™, Tupelo Tower Black Gum is a narrow upright grower and can be used as an urban tree.

*Nyssa sylvatica* ‘Wildfire’, Wildfire Black Gum has excellent fall color.

*Nyssa sylvatica* ‘David Odom’™, Afterburner Tupelo has an upright pyramidal to oval shape and turns red in fall.
Nyssa sylvatica 'JFS-PN Legacy1™', Gum Drop Tupelo has an upright oval head and is seedless.
Nyssa sylvatica 'JFS-Red™', Firestarter Tupelo turns red earlier than most cultivars and is seedless.
Nyssa sylvatica 'NSUHF™', Green Gable Tupelo is tolerant of wet sites and salt.

Nyssa sylvatica 'NXSXF™', Forum Black Gum forms a nice central leader with horizontal branching forming a nice shape.
Liquidambar styraciflua, Sweetgum has been used as a street / urban tree for a number of years.

It has dark green foliage that can turn yellow, orange, and red in the fall. The seed pods can sometimes be a problem.
There are several really good cultivars. *Liquidambar styraciflua* ‘Slender Silhouette’ Slender Silhouette Sweetgum has a narrow, low branching, columnar form.

It produces very little fruit and has a yellow to orange fall color.
Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba', Fruitless Sweetgum has a rounded head and is fruitless.
are great additions to your street tree palette.

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This week we look at what some very durable choices for street trees. London Planetree, Cherry, Serviceberry and Linden provide some good alternatives. Some have been used in an urban setting for years, but others are new and worth considering.

*Platanus occidentalis*, Sycamore is a native tree that can be found in low lying areas along riverbanks and stream and has distinct exfoliating bark revealing a white trunk.
Platanus x. acerifolia ‘Bloodgood’, Bloodgood London Planetree has been used for years in an urban, park setting and can become a very large tree when mature.

It handles heat and drought conditions well.
Platanus x. acerifolia ‘Exclamation™’, Exclamation London Planetree has an upright pyramidal habit with a moderate growth rate and shows resistance to anthracnose.
Platanus × acerifolia ‘Suttneri’, Variegated London Planetree has streaked foliage but a very striking white bark.
Prunus – Cherry provides some nice cultivars that lent themselves to use as street trees. 

Prunus x. ‘Okame’, Okame Cherry has a pink flower
in the spring and a good fall color display.

*Prunus serrulata* 'Snowgoose', Snowgoose Cherry has pure white flowers. (center)
The tree is a medium fast grower and tends to form an upright shape and is a good choice for under wire urban tree. Snowgoose Cherry is on the right.

*Prunus sargentii* ‘JFS-KW58™’, Pink Flair Cherry forms a narrow vase shape and has a pink flower and orange-red fall color.
Amelanchier – Serviceberry can form a good, durable tree in a street, parking lot setting.
Amelanchier x. grandiflora ‘Autumn Brilliance’, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
Amelanchier x. g. “Ballerina”, Ballerina Serviceberry has clusters of white flowers in spring, fruit in summer which attracts wildlife, and turns brilliant red in fall.
Amelanchier x. g. ‘Robin Hill’, Robin Hill Serviceberry has pink buds fading to white.

fruit in summer, red fall color and a compact growth habit.
Tilia – Linden has some selections that lend to urban settings.
Most produce yellow flowers that attracts pollinators.

*Tilia cordata* ‘Greenspire’™, Greenspire Linden is a narrow grower with a strong central leader and produces a yellow fall color.

*Tilia tomentosa* ‘Sterling’, Sterling Silver Linden has an upright, rounded growth habit with leaves that are green on top and silver on the bottom.
Tilia americana ‘American Sentry’™, American Sentry Linden has a narrow, pyramidal habit.

Give strong consideration to Platanus, Prunus, Amelanchier, and Tilia for use in an urban setting.