

## Village of Perry Tree Board Master Plan

(10-10-17, revised 2023)

### Intent.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Perry has determined that it is in the interest of the citizens of the Village of Perry to appoint a Tree Board to promote and protect village trees. The Tree Board recognizes the role that trees play in the village ecosystem. They reduce noise and visual pollution, help to moderate climatic extremes, and conserve energy. The Tree Board further recognizes that street trees enhance property values and the general quality of life and health in the Village.

The Tree Board recommends this updated Master Plan to aid in prioritizing the planting, maintenance and replacement of trees in the village. The following Master Plan will be re-evaluated approximately every 5 years.

### Budget.

The Village Board provides an annual tree budget, a portion (\$5,000 to \$10,000) of which the Tree Board will allocate between the planting projects listed below. An expectation is to plant approximately 40-50 new trees per year. A small portion may be allocated for incidental costs such as printing, Arbor Day activities, publicity, and outreach.

### Projects.

1. Priority street plantings – each year pick two to four needy streets from our Wind Shield Survey prioritization to do batch plantings. Multiple plantings on individual streets adds efficiency to planting and post-planting care.
2. Individual location plantings.
  - a. Removal locations: Where trees have recently been removed and replacements are needed, nearby properties will also be included in the planting plan.
  - b. Gateway Streets: Continue to prioritize filling holes on gateway streets.
  - c. Experimental plantings as we have opportunity.
    - i. Grove or copse planting: Convert an open area to a small wood or grove to serve as a visual or wind barrier and create a place of refuge in an amenable location.
    - ii. Special varieties. Take advantage of unique off street or protected locations to try less common or less hardy species.
    - iii. Plant some sugar maples for potential school or educational use.

### Other Goals.

1. Village Arboretum “Tree Trail” QR code guided tour of village street tree varieties along sidewalks, perhaps integrated/converged with the online village tour map.
2. Tree Backstories: Pick some unique village trees and research for some interesting backstories
3. Publicize the Memorial Tree options: Establish a process and guidelines for individuals and entities to plant and mark trees, and inform local funeral homes of the options.
4. Survey the village by windshield every few years for needed tree removals and updated street prioritization for planting.
5. Support village trails efforts

6. Assist in beaver tree damage protection and tree replacement along the outlet trail.
7. Maintenance: refine our monitoring of mulching, pest management, and pruning needs as our new trees age.

### **Education and communication.**

1. Update material available on the village website (tree list, standards and specifications, forms), and Facebook page.
2. Continue Arbor Day Events: tree planting, tree identification, tree walk, and field trips.
3. Continue yearly Perry school activities such as the PoeTree contest, tree-themed art, and short stories.
4. Present the Tree City USA process to any interested surrounding community.

### **5 Years (2017-2022) in review:**

1. Tree City Status achieved for 5 years: tree board, passing tree law with standards and specifications and master plan, tree budget increased, proclaimed village Arbor Days.
2. Published a brochure, tree care inserts, two articles a year in local papers.
3. Village wide Tree Opinion Survey, Windshield Street Prioritization Survey , and Grant Inventory of the condition of the village forest.
4. Tree removals based on tree survey prioritization.
5. Arbor Day events have included tree plantings, workshops on pruning, tree care, and tree pests.
6. Monthly Tree Board work days.
7. Perry schools have integrated our annual poster and PoeTree contests into the curriculum.
8. Planted 256 Trees (not counting outlet trail) including theme street plantings such as Cherry St., Hawthorne St., uniform plantings on Watrous, Dolbeer, and Borden,
9. Planted 141 different varieties/cultivars which greatly increases Perry's diversity of street trees including unique varieties to the village (ie. Dawn Redwoods, Cornelian Cherries, Maackia, Coffeetree, Osage Orange, Limber Pine, Serbian Spruce, Planetrees, Tree Lilac, Purple Leafed Catalpa, Sweetgum, Serviceberry, Hackberry, Larches). This reduces the vulnerability of the village forest to pests and gives villagers species examples to consider for their own plantings.
10. Grants and Donations: New Tree City grant, Tree Management grant, Rotary Donations, Complete Payroll donations, Garden Club donations, 2022 Urban Forestry Grant.
11. Field trip to Drave's Arboretum
12. Established a planting process:
  - a. prioritized individualized planting sites,
  - b. proposed-planting letters,
  - c. split fall (bareroot) and spring (ball-and-burlap) Schichtel's orders,
  - d. confirmation-of-order letters,
  - e. flagging,
  - f. November and April DPW schedule of planting and staking,
  - g. Tree Board early care (trunk protector, cloth, mulch),
  - h. water bag watering,
  - i. stake removal,
  - j. pruning and care by village sector.

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