

MASSILLON URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Urban Forestry Program of the Massillon Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for maintaining, and protecting more than **1,700** street trees on over **200** miles of public right-of-way within the City of Massillon.

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM PROVIDE ANNUALLY?

- 24-hour, 365-day emergency services with a 2-hour or less response time to open streets blocked by fallen trees
- Completion of service requests for pruning and removal of dangerous trees with an average 20-day response time in the summer and 9-day response time in the winter
- Preventive maintenance on all large trees (greater than 6" diameter at breast height) every six years
- Stump grinding services
- Pruning and fertilizing small trees three and six years after planting
- Professional source for technical advice on urban tree care
- Educational programs for schools and community groups
- Free mulch for community projects

TREE MAINTENANCE 101

The Urban Forestry Program supports several types of tree maintenance functions, to keep the street trees healthy and to ensure the safety of our citizens. The community forest represents a large investment which is well worth keeping in good health. Protection and enhancement of the community forest through consistent tree maintenance is a critical component of our urban forestry program.

Pruning is an integral part of tree maintenance. Although pruning wounds a tree and provides greater access for attacking insects and diseases to invade, correct pruning can greatly assist in maintaining the health, appearance and vigor of trees. The safe and economical removal of dead or dying trees is another maintenance task performed by our program. After the tree is cut, the stump is removed by using stump grinding equipment. The site is evaluated to see if replanting is a viable option.

City of Massillon

Parks and Recreation Department

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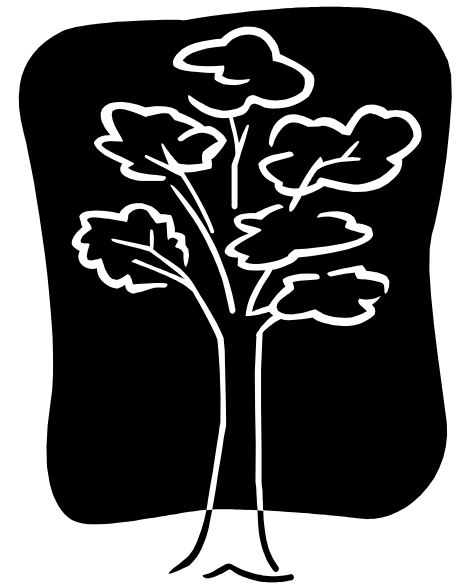
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Explore the Benefits!

Urban Forestry Program



City of Massillon
Parks and Recreation



Explore the Benefits!

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Massillon is fortunately a city consumed by street trees. However, many of these trees are very old and have not received proper care over the years. Many of the street trees pose problems for residents every time there is a storm. Clean up of downed trees are a normal Parks and Recreation and Street Department task after storms and many man hours are put into this reactive work each year. Police and Fire Department personnel are routinely involved during these incidents as well.

A comprehensive assessment of all street trees (trees located in the “devil strip”) in the City of Massillon has brought to our attention a need for a structured maintenance program. Our study has identified nearly 1200 trees in need of trimming and an additional 500 in need of removal within the next couple of years.

Trees were identified for trimming because of low hanging branches, growth around power lines and overall unattractive appearance. Trees were also identified for removal because of lifting sidewalks, disease and severe decay.

The implementation of Urban Forestry Programs within Parks and Recreation Departments is very common and are often present in successful Tree Cities. Massillon is entering its 7th year as a designated Tree City USA community.

We believe that the implementation of an Urban Forestry Program would beautify the city’s street trees and provided the necessary upkeep and maintenance needed to avoid pre-mature problems with disease and growth. Furthermore, we will lessen the risks associated with the falling of dead/diseased trees during storms.

BASIC OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM

- Remove dead and hazardous trees with authorization from property owner for participation in the free removal program.
- Prevent unsafe conditions relating to tree growth.
- Trim trees for clearance of streetlights, traffic signals and signs, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, as well as building clearance.
- Plant trees on newly developed public properties and parks through replacement and/or new planting program.
- Provide public information regarding the care of trees to concerned citizens.

PROCESS FOR NOTIFICATION

- Trees identified for removal will require homeowner permission through a notification and confirmation process.
- If homeowner denies the offer from the City for free removal, the homeowner must have tree removed within 30 days upon issue of a certified letter.
- A condition for free tree removal by the City will include a mandate to the homeowner to replant a tree if there is adequate space conducive for tree growth within 90 days after stump has been removed.

STREET TREE SAMPLE PLANTING LIST

- Amur Maple
- Serviceberry (Single Stem)
- Kousa Dogwood
- Ottawa Grey Dogwood
- Galaxy Magnolia
- American Salute Crabapple
- Shubert Choke Cherry
- Jack Callery Pear
- Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

REMOVAL/TRIMMING PROCEDURES

- Set up “Work Safety Zone” for traffic control.
- Check work site for all possible hazards (power lines, parked cars, pedestrian crossing).
- All trees designated for removal that have power lines through the crown, will be trimmed/topped below the lines by Ohio Edison prior to complete removal.
- Removal/trimming of trees will be done in a safe and controlled manner with the use of rigging equipment and ropes as described in the Arborist Certification Manual from the International Society of Arboriculture.
- No tree shall be removed/trimmed that would interfere with the flow of traffic or cause damage to public or private property.
- No wood or brush shall be left on roadway or sidewalk when crews are not on the job site.
- Job site shall be clean and presentable when work has been completed.
- Public safety departments will be notified of streets where work is being done to minimize disruption to emergency routes and response times for emergencies.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Urban Forestry Program will also maintain an area where tree limbs and logs can be recycled into landscape mulch that is used in City Parks around trees and landscapes. This mulch, along with firewood will be sold to the public as a means of revenue for the program.

