

**City of Fairfield Minutes  
Regular Meeting of City Council  
April 27, 2026**

**Council-Manager Briefing**

6:00 PM - Miami University PSP - Urban Forestry Plan

Mayor Miller called the briefing to order at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present: Leslie Besl, Dale Paullus, Debbie Pennington, Adam Kraft, Tim Meyers and Gwen Brill. Staff members present: Scott Timmer, Alisha Wilson, Adam Sackenheim, Gillian Hart, Ben Mann, Mandi Brock, Jason Hunold, Greg Kathman, Diana Davenport, Laurie Murphy, Steve Maynard, Chad Cooper and Tami Moore.

Miami University Students of the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability presented their Urban Forestry project to Council. See attached slides.

**Business Meeting Call to Order**

Mayor Miller called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Dale Paullus led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Councilmembers present included:

Councilmember, 1st Ward Leslie Besl  
Councilmember, 2nd Ward Dale Paullus  
Councilmember, 3rd Ward Debbie Pennington  
Councilmember, 4th Ward Adam Kraft  
Councilmember, At-Large Tim Meyers  
Councilmember, At-Large Gwen Brill

Councilmembers excused included:

Councilmember, At-Large Matt Davidson

Councilmember Kraft, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved to excuse Councilmember Davidson. Motion carried 6-0.

**Agenda Modifications**

None.

**Executive Session Requests**

None.

**Special Presentations**

1. Proclamation - Childcare Provider Appreciation Day

Mayor Miller read the Childcare Provider Appreciation Proclamation.

2. Proclamation - Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Mayor Miller presented the proclamation. Barbara Sheyer, a retired USPS employee, noted that it is the biggest food drive in the entire country. KT Sills, from Shared Harvest Food Bank, said they are excited to work with the letter carriers to collect these donations.

**Citizen Comments**

Vivian Paul, 5367 Lakeside Drive, current Environmental Commission member - Ms. Paul addressed Council regarding Marsh Park and stated that she feels that developing 5% of the park is not commercialization, but rather a focus on creating community and bringing people together. She commented that the City has been transparent with plans and open meetings and the Master Plan will bring amenities for the entire community.

Kim Braunig, 5834 Leslie Drive - Ms. Braunig asked to delay further voting, readings or any further action on Marsh Lake development to allow for organized and mutual decision-making. She stated that the property is a gift, and she feels the City went from "focus on nature" to "tap room, brewery, restaurant, commercial lease." She asked can there be compromises to the current plan and a delay to discuss further.

Sherry Sparks, 5093 Southview Drive - Ms. Sparks thanked Council for their service to the community and for listening to the community. She stated that she has been long-time friends with the Marsh family, and that Thomas Marsh was a naturalist and the lake was named after him to honor that. She said that there are different viewpoints that surveys don't always portray and residents would love a compromise and more discussion.

Dona Canaan, 5073 West Scioto Drive - Ms. Canaan thanked Council for moving conversation forward for the community compost project and said she is excited to partner with the City for this endeavor.

**Council Reports**

Councilmember Meyers noted that he was Marsh Lake on Friday. He thanked the contractors putting in the trails and said the new trails are unbelievable.

Councilmember Kraft reported that the Public Works contractor will pave Harbin Park Tues-Thurs, weather depending. The park will be open but some areas closed. He also announced the STARS recital this weekend.

**Public Hearing(s)**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2026

The Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026 were approved as written and submitted.

**Old Business**

**1. Development Services - Councilmember Gwen Brill**

- a. Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, Section 1130.01(B)(2), the City of Fairfield, Ohio, Zoning Map.

Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to remove the item from the agenda due to the application being withdrawn by property owners. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

**2. Parks & Recreation - Councilmember Adam Kraft**

- a. Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Prus Construction Co. for construction manager-at-risk (CMR) services as related to the advancement of Marsh Park Improvements Project and declaring an emergency.

Councilmember Kraft presented the second reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Meyers stated that he would like Council to consider the idea of a temporary ad hoc committee made up of residents nominated by each Councilmember and one nominated by the City Manager. The committee will work with staff and the contractor to review plans and make the best decision for the community.

Connie Campbell, 1245 Bruton Parish Way - Ms. Campbell thanked Council for listening to residents and asked how residents would be chosen to be on the committee. Council instructed her and anyone interested to reach out to their ward councilmember or the members at-large to indicate their interest in serving.

Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Adam Kraft, moved to implement the Marsh Park ad hoc committee. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

SIMPLE MOTION NO. 15-26. APPROVED 6-0.

**New Business - Motion to Read All New Business by Title Only**

Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved to read all New Business by title only. Motion carried 6-0.

**1. Community & Public Relations - Councilmember Matt Davidson**

- a. Simple Motion: Motion to approve the 2026 Summer Meeting Schedule for City Council Meetings to meet only the second Monday of each month of June, July and August, with no meetings held on the fourth Monday of each month of June, July and August.

Councilmember Pennington, seconded by Councilmember Besl, moved to approve the 2026 Summer Meeting Schedule. Motion carried 6-0.

SIMPLE MOTION NO. 16-26. APPROVED 6-0.

## 2. Development Services - Councilmember Gwen Brill

- a. Ordinance to authorize a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to be made to the Fairfield Helping Neighbors Fund at the Fairfield Community Foundation for the purpose of supporting city residents that cannot physically or financially complete necessary exterior home repairs.

One of the city's ongoing goals has been to enhance property maintenance enforcement and promote stable, resident-owned housing. Each year, Fairfield's zoning inspection team issues 1,500 to 2,000 building or zoning code violations. While the vast majority of these violations are corrected by the property owners after the first notice, a handful of residential violations annually are not able to be closed because the homeowner is unable to complete the required work due to health, finances, age, or other constraints.

In 2024, the City partnered with the Fairfield Community Foundation to establish the Fairfield Helping Neighbors Fund. The fund supported the Fairfield Helping Neighbors pilot program which seeks to provide direct assistance to homeowners to address critical repairs to single-family homes, primarily exterior code compliance issues.

The city partnered with Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families (SELF) to assist with applicant eligibility review and administration of project construction. To date, the pilot program has addressed eleven homes, including at least one home in each ward of the city. City staff considers the pilot to have demonstrated significant success. For each dollar invested from the fund, approximately \$4 in external investment was leveraged from outside grant funds accessed by SELF and volunteer hours. The homeowners receiving assistance, and often their neighbors, were grateful for the efforts of the city, program partners, and volunteers.

This ordinance authorizes a grant of \$100,000 to the Fairfield Helping Neighbors Fund at the Fairfield Community Foundation. The fund is governed by a Restricted Fund Agreement executed between the city and foundation in 2024, restricting the use of its proceeds to the Fairfield Helping Neighbors program. The additional funds will allow the program to move beyond the pilot stage, ramp up the volume of properties addressed, and fund the program for several years.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance.

- b. Ordinance affirming the designation of the Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield as the City's agency for development in the City and authorizing a grant of \$100,000 to be made to the Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield for public purposes.

The Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield ("Fairfield CIC") was established in 1967 and reorganized in 2022 to facilitate real estate-related projects within the City. The Fairfield CIC assists the City by prioritizing and executing projects within the Route 4 corridor, the Town Center, and other areas targeted for development.

City Staff recommends launching a pilot Commercial Revitalization Grant Program to assist private owners or tenants with exterior upgrades to commercial properties. Staff recommends utilizing the CIC to evaluate projects and disburse funding. Approval of this ordinance would affirm that the Fairfield CIC can act as a development agency on behalf of the City and provides a grant of \$100,000 from the Transformative Economic Development (TED) Fund.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance.

- c. Ordinance to authorize the Building Superintendent to waive building permit fees related to projects undertaken as part of the Fairfield Helping Neighbors and/or Commercial Revitalization Grant programs and declaring an emergency.

The Fairfield Helping Neighbors Program provides assistance to city residents that cannot physically or financially complete necessary exterior home repairs. The proposed Commercial Revitalization Grant program will assist private owners or tenants with exterior upgrades to commercial properties. Projects undertaken under either program may require building permits from the city's Building & Zoning Division.

As both of these programs are city initiatives, staff recommends waiving any building permit fees associated with projects completed through the programs. Approval of this ordinance would authorize the Building Superintendent to waive all building permit fees for projects undertaken as part of the Fairfield Helping Neighbors and/or Commercial Revitalization Grant programs.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Kraft commented that this is a great opportunity to help those in need.

ORDINANCE NO. 49-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- d. Resolution imposing a temporary moratorium on the consideration and/or granting of any zoning, occupancy, building or other permits or applications relating to Motor Vehicle Fueling/Charging Facilities within the City of Fairfield and declaring an emergency.

Motor Vehicle Fueling/Charging Facilities share similar impacts related to traffic generation, environmental effects, stormwater management, site circulation, noise, lighting, and compatibility with adjacent land uses. The City is concerned with the location of and proximity of Motor Vehicle Fueling/Charging Facilities to one another and the impact that may have upon future economic development and is concerned with the environmental effect of same as impacted by the changing nature of automobile fueling and charging, the number of underground fuel tanks, the proliferation of electric vehicles, the installation of new tanks and possible need for removal and remediation relating to older tanks. Similar concerns have caused other cities to propose specific regulations of Motor Vehicle Fueling/Charging Facilities.

Given the time needed to fully review the current trends, laws, economic impacts and environmental impacts and other issues associated with Motor Vehicle Fueling/Charging Facilities and to propose, draft and present regulations, that 365 days is a reasonable time to obtain the information it needs.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this resolution. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Meyers said he is often asked why there are so many gas stations in Fairfield and noted that between Bypass 4 and Crescentville, there are 106 gas pumps.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-26. APPROVED 6-0.

### **3. Public Safety - Councilmember Dale Paullus**

- a. Resolution objecting to the renewal of the liquor permit for JS Sizemore, LLC dba Cobblestone Tavern and declaring an emergency.

This objection is based upon the applicant's unfavorable enforcement record and/or operation in disregard for laws, regulations and/or local ordinances and/or the location of the establishment is substantially and adversely interfering with the public decency, sobriety, peace or good order of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Paullus presented the first reading of this resolution. Councilmember Dale Paullus, seconded by Leslie Besl, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Dale Paullus, seconded by Adam Kraft, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-26. APPROVED 6-0.

### **4. Finance & Budget - Councilmember Leslie Besl**

- a. Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Ohio Council #8, Local 3646 for wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment for the period of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029, inclusive, and declaring an emergency.

The City of Fairfield and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Ohio Council #8, Local 3646 have reached a tentative agreement for a three-year successor collective bargaining agreement effective April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2029, inclusive. The AFSCME Bargaining Unit voted and has ratified the tentative agreement.

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 50-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- b. Ordinance to establish salaries and hourly rates for certain salaried and hourly employees of the City of Fairfield, Ohio and to authorize and limit the numbers and types of certain employees, to repeal Ordinance No. 38-26 and all amendments thereto and declaring an emergency.

The collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 8, Local 3646, has been settled and new rates are effective April 1, 2026. The wages on the Ordinance reflect a 3.0% base wage increase effective 4/1/2026, 4/1/2027 and April 1, 2028. Market adjustments have been applied to the following classifications: Dispatchers A-D \$1.30; Mechanics A-D \$3.00; and Maintenance Worker Laborer \$0.50, prior to factoring in the 3.00% base wage increase. Additional adjustments have been made to compensate for licenses, certifications and Mechanic Foreman pay.

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Gwen Brill, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 51-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- c. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 148-25 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026."  
- Supplemental Appropriations

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Adam Kraft, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

- d. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 148-25 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026."  
- Contractual Appropriations: \$200,000 total (\$100,000 CIC Designation and Grant (Development Services); \$100,000 Fairfield Helping Neighbors Grant (Development Services))

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 53-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- e. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 148-25 entitled “An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.”

- Non-Contractual Appropriations: \$361,030 (see below for description)

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 54-26. APPROVED 6-0.

\$36,000 - Wireless integrated headsets (Fire)

\$37,750 - Fairfield Sustains: Energy Efficiency Studies (City Manager's Office - Sustainability)

\$50,000 - purchase & outfitting of a Staff Vehicle #7033 for the Police Department (Public Works)

\$10,780 - Water Division-Raw Water Well #7 Inspection (Public Utilities)

\$11,000 - Aquatic Center repairs (Parks & Recreation)

\$18,500 - Fairfield Sustains: Composting Shelter (City Manager's Office - Sustainability)

\$75,000 - purchase & outfitting of a Staff Vehicle Truck #7032 for the Police Department (Public Works)

\$85,000 - Public Works Building Repairs and Upgrades (multiple vendors; Public Works)

\$37,000 - Medication vaults and key-secure devices (Fire)

**Meeting Schedule**

Monday, May 11: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 26: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Monday, June 8: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Clerk Wilson read the meeting schedule.

**Executive Session of Council (if Needed)**

None.

**Adjournment**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor's Approval

Date Approved: 5/11/20

# Strengthening Urban Forestry in Fairfield, Ohio

Final Presentation



*April 27th, 2026*



**Sam Mezzapelle**



**Ethan Zhou**



**Ethan Belak**



**Isaac Swogger**



**Cannon Jean**



**Sam Lewis**

# Introduction

- Urban forests provide **ecosystem services** and **disservices**
- **Benefits** and **cost** of **trees** vary based on a variety of factors
- Urban Forestry involves the **care, planning, and management** of urban forests
- **Threats** to urban forests include:
  - Urbanization
  - Severe weather
  - Pests

**Urban forests comprise all the woody and shrubby vegetation in an area of human settlement.**





# Fairfield Sustains

- The City's **first comprehensive sustainability plan**
- **Stakeholders** were included in the drafting process through **meetings** and a **survey**
- The plan is built around **five frameworks**
- **Nature & Green Community** is a complimentary framework

Nature & Green Community Framework Goal:  
**Preserve and strategically develop sustainable landscapes and a community-wide culture of sustainability**

# Nature & Green Community Action Steps:

**NGC.1.1.1** Seek funding to **conduct a Citywide Tree Inventory** and **develop an Urban Forestry Action Plan by 2030.**

**NGC.1.1.2** Monitor and seek funding to support Urban Forestry Action Plan, inventory and complementary initiatives. **Establish clear short, mid and long-term goals for tree planting, invasive removal** and low-impact design. **Develop and implement Invasive Species Control Plan by 2030.**

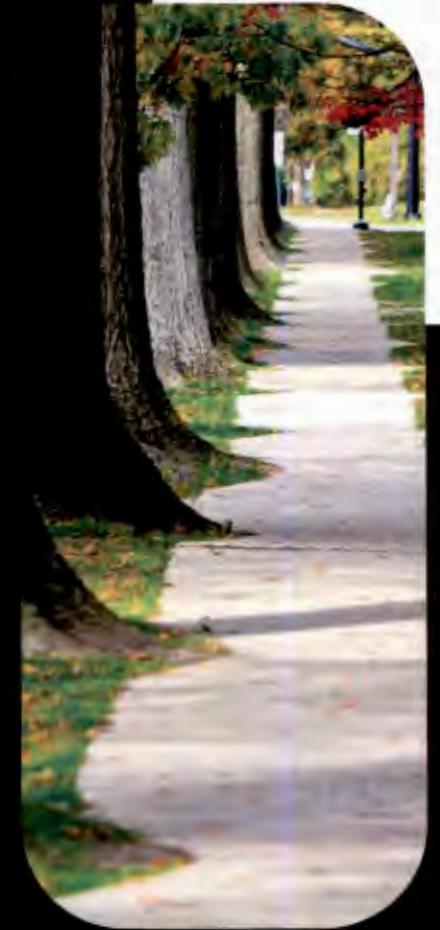
**NGC.1.1.3** Utilizing urban tree inventory, set annual targets to **increase the City's urban tree canopy by 10% over 2021 baseline by 2055.**

**NGC.1.1.4** Document annual tree planting, invasive species removal and low-impact design improvements. Expand current tree planting program by 50 new trees annually. Set annual targets to achieve urban forestry, low-impact design and other UFAP goals. **EXISTING ACTION**

# Urban Forestry Action Plan

**A document that details the goals, data, and actions of a city regarding their urban forest.**

- Goals and actions typically aim to enhance environmental, social, and economic benefits.
- Data typically includes:
  - Tree Inventory
  - Canopy Cover
  - Benefits



# Project Goal

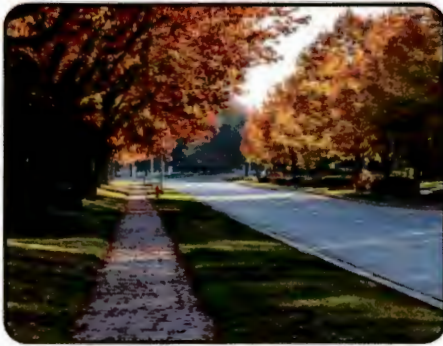
**Preserve** the quality of, **expand** the area of, and **enhance** access to Fairfield's **urban forest and canopy**.

# Project Statement

Develop an **Urban Forestry Action Plan** for the City of Fairfield, Ohio.



# City Property



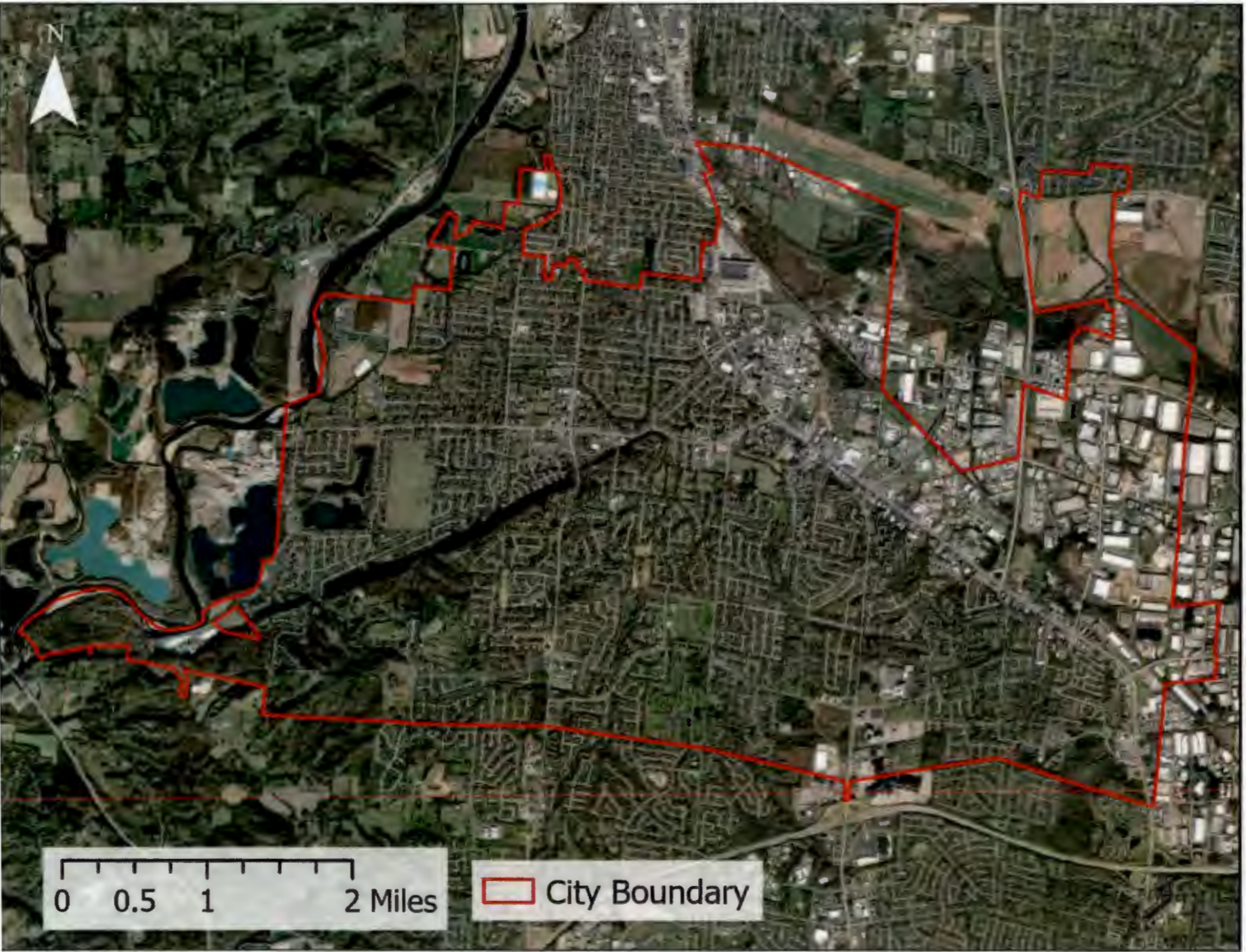
**Streets**



**Parks**



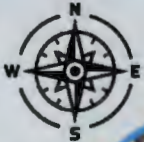
**Facilities**



Created: 4/9/26  
Sources: Earthstar Geographics  
and U.S. Census Bureau

# FAIRFIELD

PARKS AND RECREATION



### PARKS

- |                                                      |                                                                            |                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Creekside Park<br>5225 Blanton Dr                  | 10 Hamilton/Fairfield<br>Skiing Park<br>80 Joe Muxhall Way                 | 18 Public Safety Tribute<br>655 Hilltop Rd                |
| 2 Fairfield Youth<br>Football Fields<br>4875 Groh Ln | 11 Hatton Park/The<br>Joe Muxhall Miracle<br>League Fields<br>4850 Groh Ln | 19 Thomas G. Marsh Park<br>6440 River Rd                  |
| 3 Fairfield Youth<br>Playfields<br>4800 River Rd     | 12 Huffman Park<br>2100 John Gray Rd                                       | 20 Veterans<br>Memorial Park<br>701 Wessett Dr            |
| 4 Founders Park<br>796 Hicks Blvd                    | 13 Joyce Park<br>(City of Hamilton)<br>68 Joe Muxhall Way                  | 21 Village Green Park<br>& Amphitheater<br>301 Wessett Dr |
| 5 Fairfield Dog Park<br>8811 River Rd                | 14 Lions Park<br>4882 Danverson Dr                                         | 22 Village Valley Park<br>2353 Village Dr                 |
| 6 Gilbert Farms Park<br>980 Walter Ave               | 15 Muskopf Preserve<br>S. Muskopf Rd                                       | 23 Waterworks Park<br>5133 Groh Ln                        |
| 7 Good Neighbors Park<br>1191 Reesor Rd              | 16 Oakwood Park<br>2 Jupiter Ct                                            | 24 William Harbin Park<br>1380 Hunter Rd                  |
| 8 Grange Park<br>288 Joe Muxhall Way                 | 17 Point Pleasant Park<br>2601 Reesor Rd                                   | 25 Winton Hills Park<br>6251 Shearwater Dr                |
| 9 Great Miami<br>River Trail                         |                                                                            | 26 Woodcreek Park<br>2200 Woodcreek Dr                    |

### FACILITIES

- |                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 Elisha Morgan Mansion<br>6161 Reesor Rd                                 |
| 28 Fairfield Aquatic Center<br>2008 Reesor Blvd                            |
| 29 Fairfield Community Arts Center<br>411 Wessett Dr                       |
| 30 North Trace Golf Course<br>2988 Augusta Blvd                            |
| 31 South Trace Golf Course /<br>Phelan Banquet Center<br>2200 John Gray Rd |

### HISTORIC CEMETERIES

- |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| 32 Miami Chapel Cemetery<br>6210 River Road        |
| 33 Symmes Burial Ground<br>Hilltop Road/Hicks Blvd |

**GENERAL PARK HOURS:** Facility/Trail access is from daylight to dusk (one half hour after sunset)  
[www.FairfieldOH.gov/Parks](http://www.FairfieldOH.gov/Parks) @fairfieldoh\_parksandrec FairfieldParke

# Deliverables

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Urban Forestry Action Plan

Invasive Species Removal Plan

Residential Tree Program  
Revisions



# Objectives

- **Review Urban Forestry Action Plans** currently implemented in similar U.S. municipalities.
- Create a **baseline Tree Inventory** of the trees owned by the City of Fairfield in non-forested areas.
- Determine **baseline canopy cover** percentage for the entire City of Fairfield.
- Recommend a timeline with actions to **increase** the City's canopy cover by **10% before 2055**.
- Recommend a process and program to **remove** and **limit spread of invasive species**.
- **Revising the tree planting lists** (Environmental Commission list and Residential Tree Program list) to account for future climate change scenarios.

# Urban Forestry Action Plan

# Urban Forestry Action Plan Benefits

- Urban forests provide numerous economic, environmental, & social benefits including:
- Improving
  - **air & water quality**
  - **shade / ambient temperatures**
  - water cycling
  - **city aesthetics**
  - **individual well being**
  - **carbon sequestration**
  - median income
  - food safety
  - **property value**
    - **\$9-\$134 per 1% increase in UCC**
- Reducing:
  - drought
  - flooding
  - erosion
  - aggressive crime
  - disease prevalence





# Objectives

*Objective:* **Review** Urban Forestry Action Plans currently **implemented** in **similar U.S. municipalities**.

# Methods

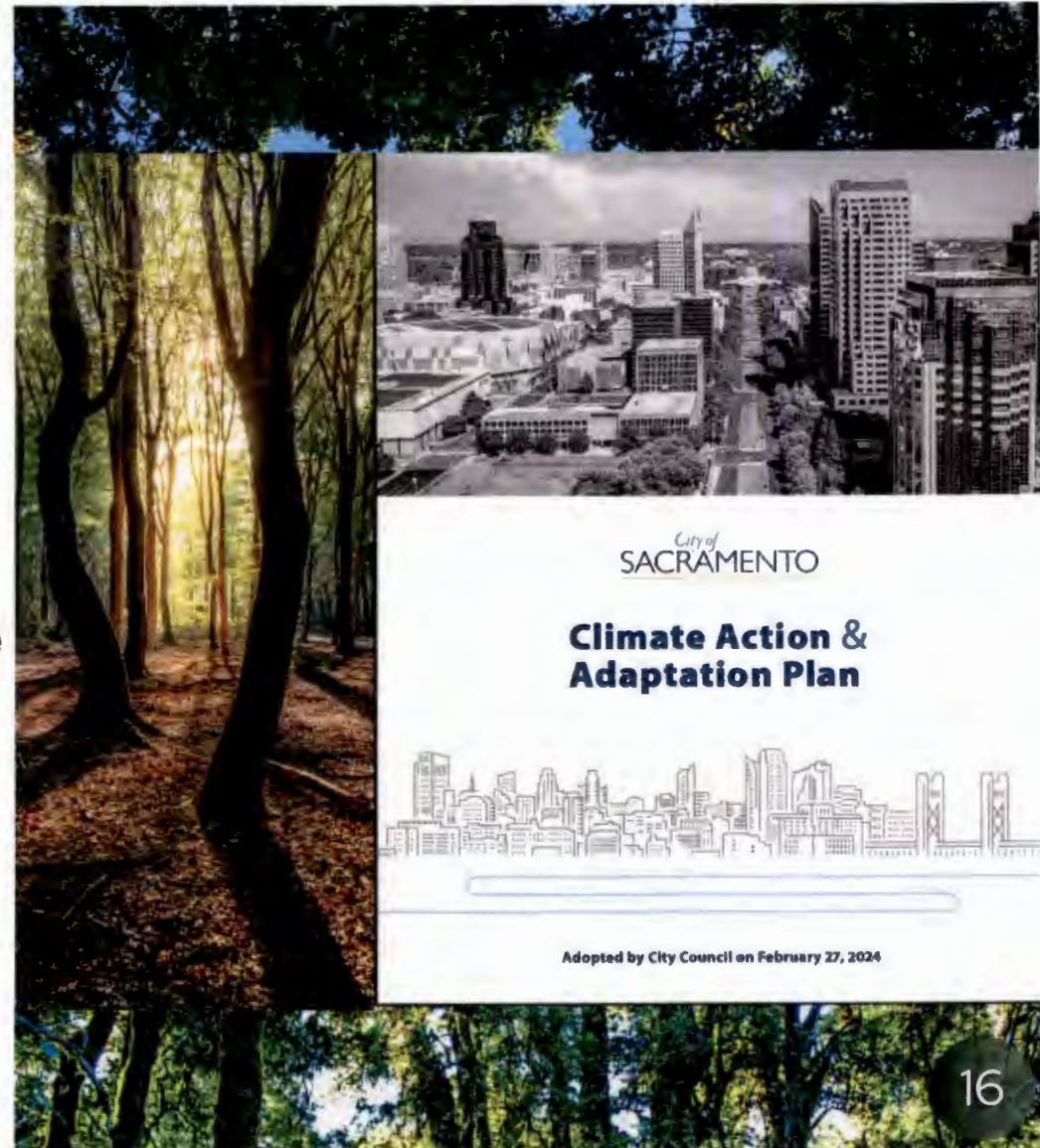
Objective: Review Urban Forestry Action Plans currently implemented in similar U.S. municipalities.

## Data Collection

- Acquired published Urban Forestry Actions Plans for various U.S. cities.
- Key words:
  - Urban Forestry
  - Ecosystem Services
  - City Forestry Programs

## Data Analysis

- Common themes and ideas were synthesized from the case studies and selected literature.



# Urban Forestry Action Plans

Numerous big, medium, and small cities have implemented successful UFAP's:

Shade Phoenix

- **Goal:** ↓ 30° F "real feel" city wide

The Brookline Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan

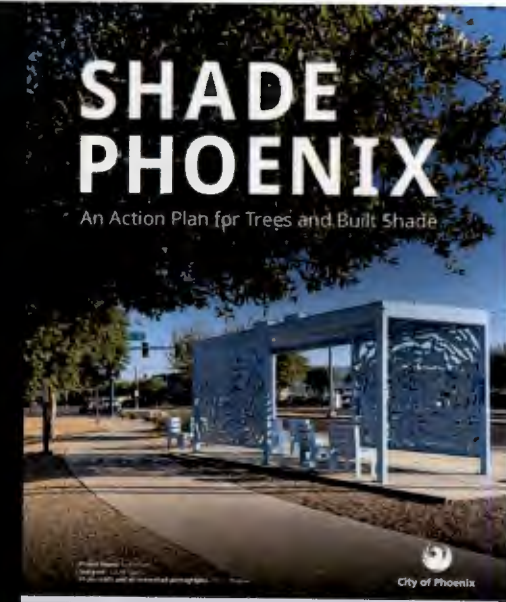
- **Goal:** ↑ environmental resiliency via native tree planting

Sacramento Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

- **Goal:** Sequester 61,474 metric CO2 tons via 35% UCC increase by 2045

Biggest Themes:

- **i-Tree Software & GIS**
- **Community Outreach & Volunteering**
- **Informed Planning & Planting**



**BROOKLINE URBAN FOREST  
CLIMATE RESILIENCY  
MASTER PLAN**



# Results

Common themes were identified to inform the development of **Fairfield's UFAP**

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- **Background**
  - Fairfield Sustains
  - Historic background
  - Benefits of Urban Canopy
- **Current information**
  - Tree inventory
  - Canopy cover assessment
  - Current policies & existing tree ordinances
  - Current management plan
    - Residential tree program



# Results

- **Goals and Objectives of Fairfield & UFAP**

- Needs

- **Timeline / Path Forward**

- Strategies to achieve those needs
  - Grant applications
  - Full tree inventory
  - Invasive removal plans
  - City Tree planting sites
  - Community outreach and engagement
    - Residential tree program (revisions)
    - Stakeholder input
  - Key Take-Aways





# Fairfield's Urban Forestry Action Plan

**Goal:** 10% ↑ UCC by 2055

**Comparison:** 2021 tree baseline

## Recommendations for implementation

- a. Priority Areas (city-owned, little canopy cover, etc.)
- b. Optimal Tree Species (adaptable, native, etc)
- c. Maintenance (care, protection, management)

## Invasive Species Removal Plan

## Residential Tree Program



# Objectives

*Objective:* Create a baseline **Tree Inventory** of the trees **owned** by the **City of Fairfield** in **non-forested** areas.

*Objective:* Determine **baseline canopy cover** percentage for the **entire** City of Fairfield.

# Methods

Objective: Create a baseline Tree Inventory of the trees owned by the City of Fairfield in non-forested areas.

## Data Collection

- Mobile data collection
- Mowed areas around public parks and City-owned buildings.
- Street trees in the public right of way

## Data Analysis

- Used ArcGIS Field Maps to summarize data



# Native Tree Species of Fairfield

- Maples (*Acer*)
- Oaks (*Quercus*)
- Poplars (*Liriodendron*)
- Cottonwoods (*Populus*)
- Juniper/Cedar (*Juniperus*)
- Beech (*Fagus*)
- Elm (*Ulmus*)
- Sycamore (*Platanus*)
- Locust (*Gleditsia*)
- Walnut (*Juglans*)



Location Type

Park/Open Space



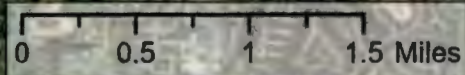
Street



City Boundary



Date Created: 3/26/2026  
Sources: Earthstar Geographics,  
Vantor, and U.S. Census Bureau



# Results

Tree Inventory - 573 trees surveyed

## Non-Forested

- 17% non-native
- **7% Invasive**
  - Bradford Pear
- Eastern Pine
  - 18%



## Forested

- 1% non-native
- High honeysuckle
- Return of Ash
  - 7.1% of individuals
  - 1.4% of area
- Hackberry
  - 27%





# Methods

Objective: Determine baseline canopy cover percentage for the entire City of Fairfield.

## Data Collection

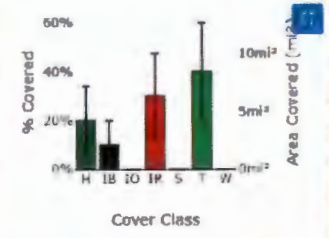
- The i-Tree Canopy web tool
- Tree Equity Score web tool

## Data Analysis

- Software built into i-Tree Canopy calculates tree presence benefits
- ArcGIS Pro to separate by property ownership



**Conduct your survey:** Add survey points by clicking the small + button below. With each point you add, the map shifts to a random location. Use the Cover Class dropdown to record the land cover at the yellow crosshairs at map center. The more points you survey, the lower your standard error, and the more precise your sampling will be. More points provide a better estimation of Land Cover across your study area.



View Results [Report](#)

ID	Cover Class	Latitude	Longitude
1	Tree/Shrub	39.31910	-84.58799
2	Tree/Shrub	39.35269	-84.53385
3	Grass/Herbaceous	39.35458	-84.49405
4	Impervious Road	39.33959	-84.53500
5	Tree/Shrub	39.32777	-84.55296
6	Tree/Shrub	39.31403	-84.54685
7	Impervious Road	39.33955	-84.57696
8	Grass/Herbaceous	39.31088	-84.52511
9	Impervious Road	39.36282	-84.54199
10	Impervious Buildings	39.31890	-84.49330

Page 1 of 1

**Save your Project**

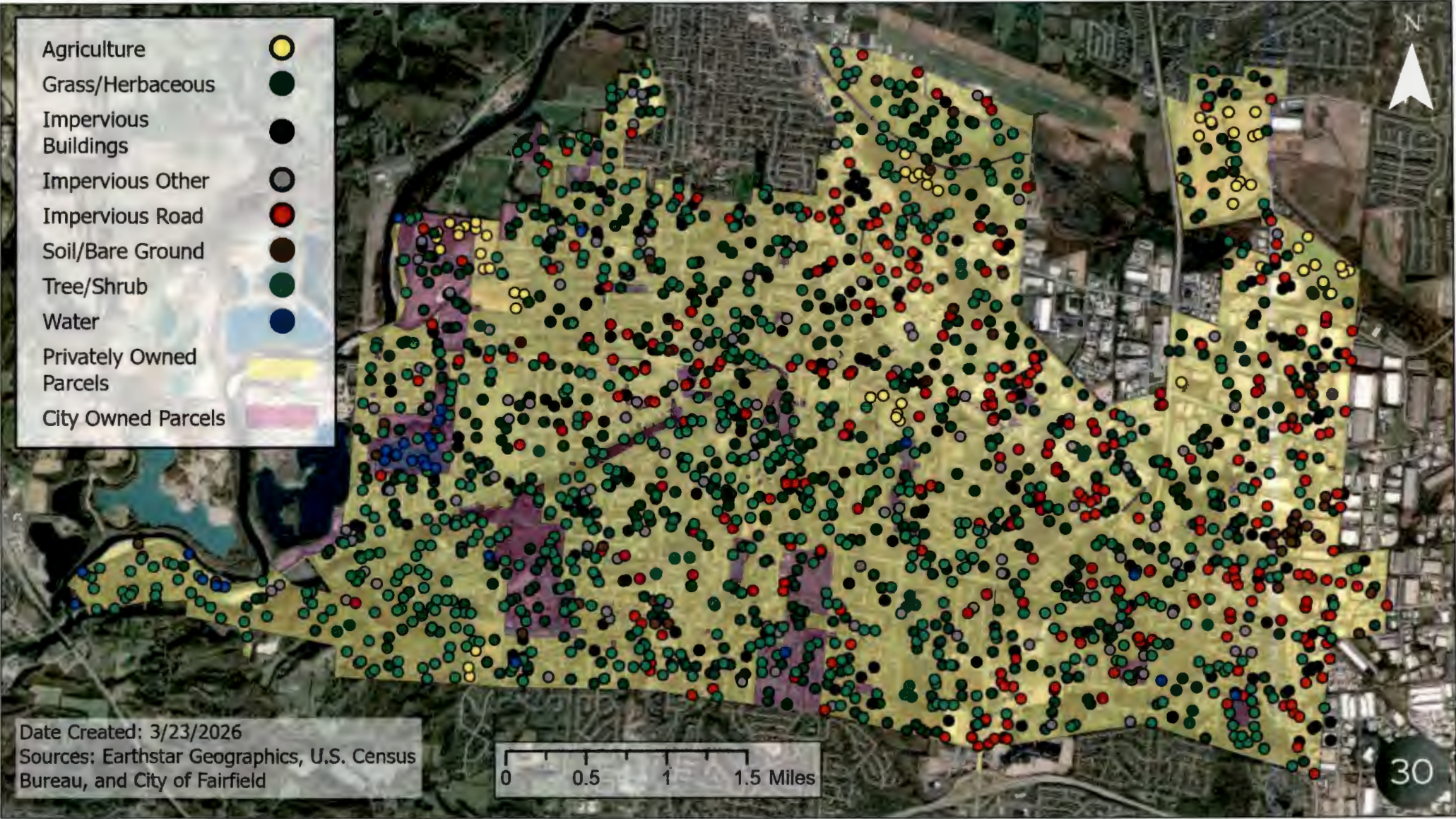
[Save](#) Save often don't lose your data!

# Results

- The City of Fairfield was covered by, approximately, 6.5 square miles or 4160 acres of tree and shrub canopy in 2021\*.
  - Around 32% of total City land cover
- To achieve a 10% increase by 2055, the City must plant an additional 0.65 mi<sup>2</sup> or 416 acres of tree canopy cover.

\*Google Earth imagery from July 2021 and July 2023





Date Created: 3/23/2026  
Sources: Earthstar Geographics, U.S. Census Bureau, and City of Fairfield

0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

## Land Cover Statistics for City of Fairfield Owned Property

Cover Class	Points	% Cover	% Cover ±SE	Area (square miles)	Area ±SE
Agriculture	8	3.92	0.01	0.07	0.03
Grass/Herbaceous	84	41.18	3.45	0.79	0.07
Impervious Buildings	3	1.47	0.01	0.03	0.02
Impervious Other	9	4.41	0.01	0.08	0.03
Impervious Road	12	5.88	1.65	0.11	0.03
Soil/Bare Ground	4	1.96	0.01	0.04	0.02
Tree/Shrub	70	34.31	3.32	0.65	0.06
Water	14	6.86	1.77	0.13	0.03
Total	204	100	N/A	1.91	N/A

## Land Cover Statistics for Privately-Owned Property in Fairfield, Ohio

Cover Class	Points	% Cover	% Cover $\pm$ SE	Area (square miles)	Area $\pm$ SE
Agriculture	52	2.93	0.4	0.56	0.08
Grass/Herbaceous	568	31.98	1.11	6.09	0.21
Impervious Buildings	172	9.68	0.7	1.84	0.13
Impervious Other	107	6.02	0.56	1.15	0.11
Impervious Road	274	15.43	0.86	2.94	0.16
Soil/Bare Ground	41	2.31	0.36	0.44	0.07
Tree/Shrub	547	30.8	1.1	5.86	0.21
Water	15	0.84	0.22	0.16	0.04
Total	1776	100	N/A	19.03	N/A

## Air Pollution Benefits Statistics for City of Fairfield Owned Property

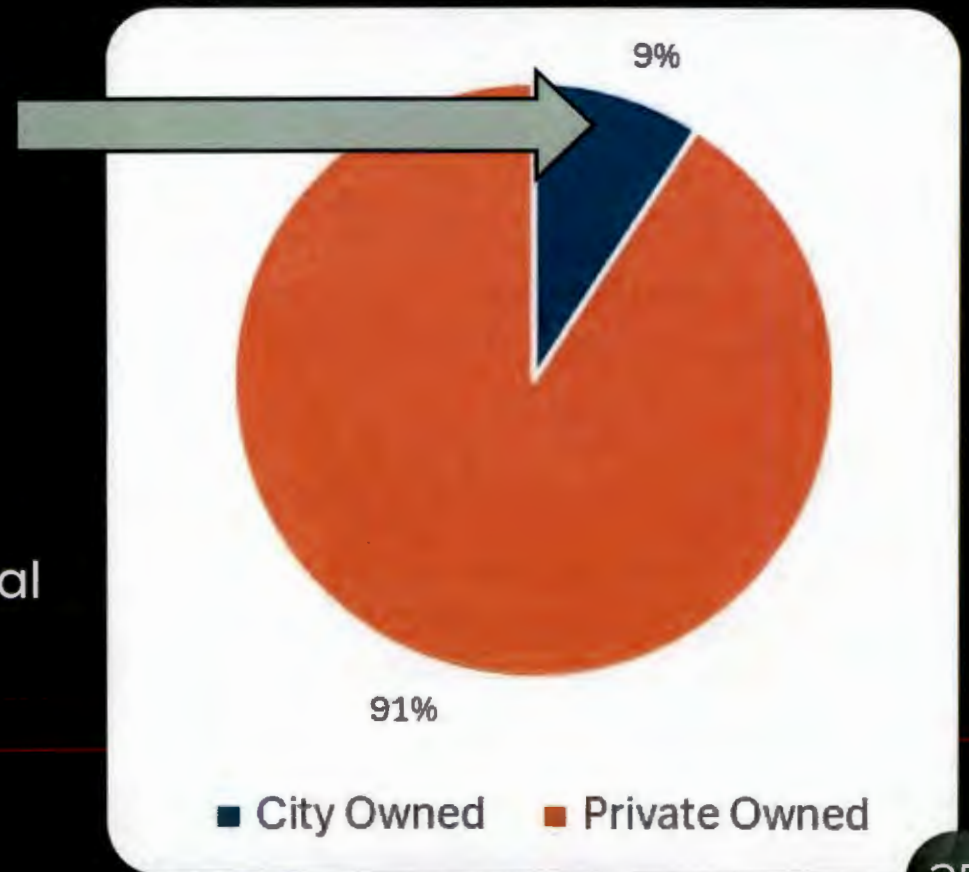
	Amount (T)	Amount (T) ±SE	Value (USD)	Value (USD) ±SE
Carbon Monoxide removed annually	0.13	0.01	179.01	17.34
Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	1.56	0.15	617.09	59.78
Ozone removed annually	8.34	0.81	16,323.45	1,581.25
Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	0.3	0.03	28.8	2.79
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	0.42	0.04	30,216.05	2,927.02
Particulate Matter greater than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns removed annually	1.57	0.15	9,843.24	953.51

## Air Pollution Benefits Statistics for Privately-Owned Property in Fairfield, Ohio

	Amount (T)	Amount (T) ±SE	Value (USD)	Value (USD) ±SE
Carbon Monoxide removed annually	1.2	0.04	1,602.53	57
Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	13.98	0.5	5,524.34	196.49
Ozone removed annually	74.64	2.65	146,130.61	5,197.59
Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	2.67	0.09	257.82	9.17
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	3.78	0.13	270,499.81	9,621.17
Particulate Matter greater than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns removed annually	14.06	0.5	88,118.51	3,134.21

# Limitations of 10%

- City owns ~1222 acres of property in Fairfield
- 416 acres (315 football fields) of additional canopy cover is needed
- City owns ~45 plantable acres (34 football fields)
  - Remainder of 10% (281 football fields) on Residential/Commercial property
- City must rely on key zones and residential planting





# Objectives

*Objective:* Recommend a timeline with **actions** to **increase** the City's **canopy cover by 10% before 2055.**

# Methods

Objective: Recommend a timeline with actions to increase the City's canopy cover by 10% before 2055.

## Data Collection

- Results from baseline tree inventory
- Results of Urban Forestry Action Plan and literature review

## Data Analysis

- Identified areas where increases from the baseline canopy cover can occur
- Identified short and long-term goals



# Results

In order to reach the goal of 10% canopy cover increase by 2055, the City of Fairfield must employ a variety of short and long-term goals:

## Short Term

- Gain funding
- Develop teams
  - Invasive
  - Planting
  - Outreach
- Apply for grants
- Complete Tree Inventory
- Highlight areas

## Long Term

- Plant trees on Fairfield land
  - Parks
  - Municipal
- Replace invasive species
- Plant trees along roads
- Increase residential tree program







### **Miamidale Dr.**

~3.7 Acres



### **Broadview Dr.**

~25 Acres



### **Camelot Dr.**

~4 Acres

Date Created:  
3/18/2026

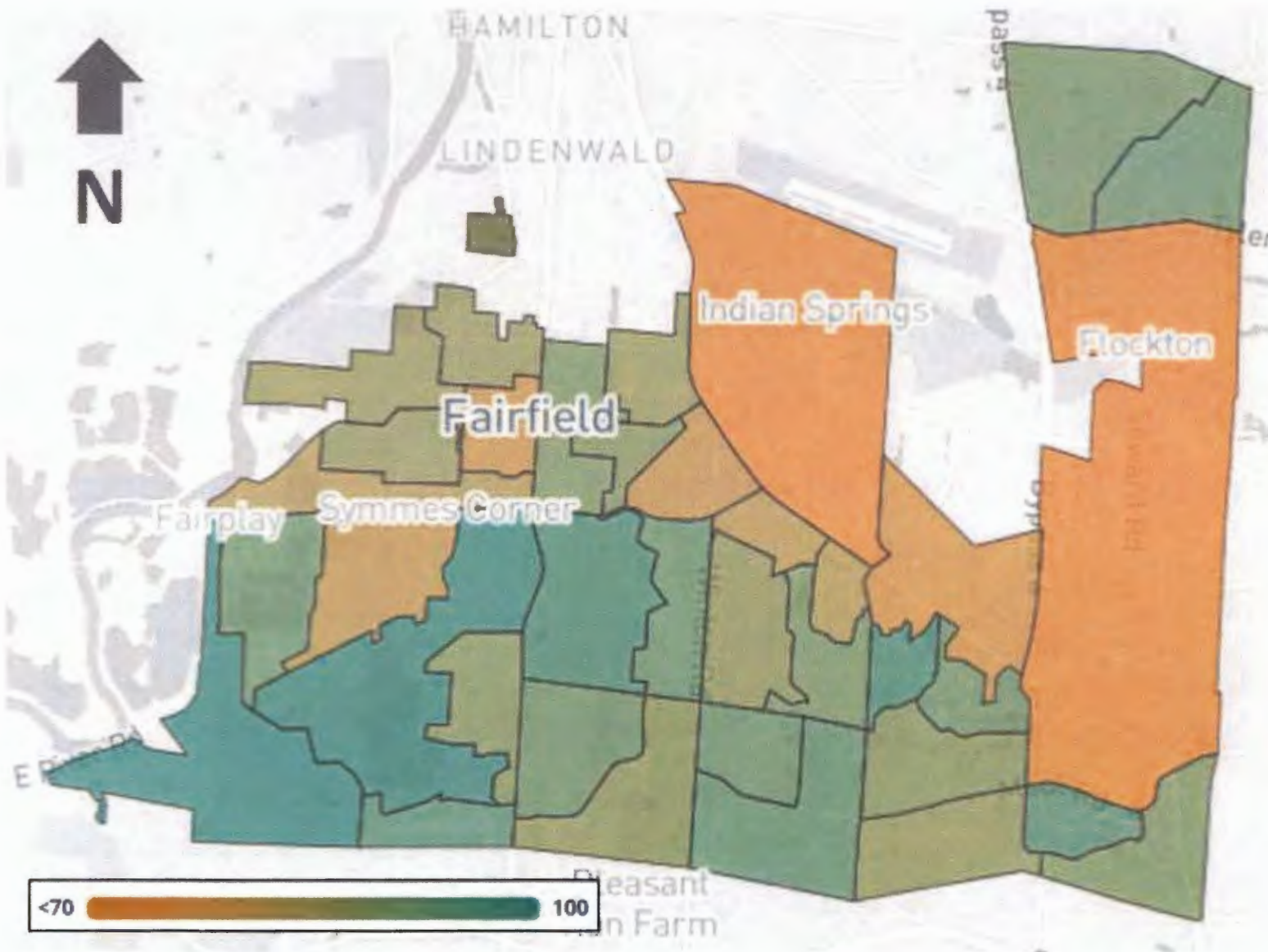
Sources: Vantor and  
City of Fairfield

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

City Owned Parcels



Created: 3/31/26  
Sources: Vantor



**Map of Fairfield  
Census Blocks**  
Symbolized by  
Tree Equity Score

*Adapted from  
TreeEquityScore.org*

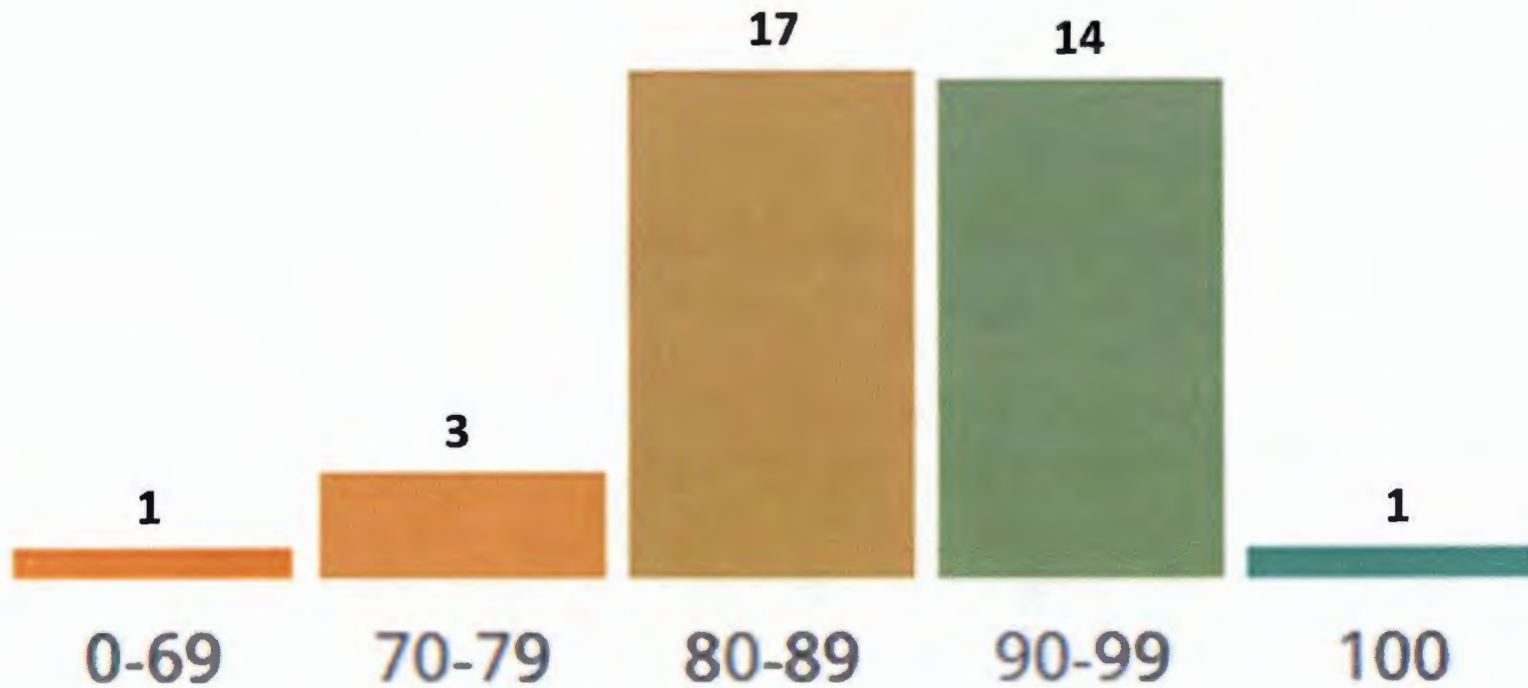


0 0.5 1 2 Miles

City Boundary

Created: 3/26/26  
Sources: Vantor, U.S. Census Bureau

## Bar chart of Fairfield census blocks grouped by Tree Equity Score



Adapted from  
[TreeEquityScore.org](https://TreeEquityScore.org)

# **Invasive Species Removal Plan**



Autumn Olive  
(*Elaeagnus*)



Callery pear  
(*Pyrus calleryana*)

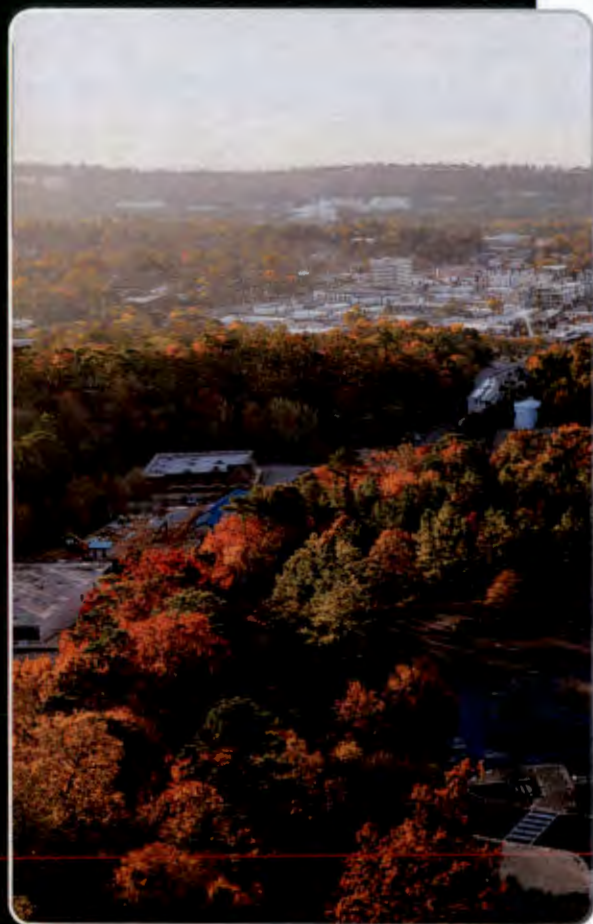


Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera*)

# Fairfield's Invasive Species Removal Plan

- Detail the most common invasive species found in the area
- Provide different methods to control invasive species depending on the species, time of year, and location
- Recommend areas where invasive species should be managed first

**According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, about 22% (around 500 species) of vascular plants (like grasses, trees or wildflowers) are non-native to Ohio**



# Objectives

*Objective:* Recommend a process and program to **remove** and **limit spread** of **invasive species**.



# Methods

Objective: Recommend a process and program to remove and limit spread of invasive species.

## Data Collection

- Results of Urban Forestry Action Plan and literature review
- Literature review of published invasive species removal protocols and programs

## Data Analysis

- Develop and report methodologies for invasive species removal
- Highlight regions of high priority for removal

# Results

- Within Fairfield a variety of invasive species were observed. Each invasive species that was observed was recorded upon a map to help determine the areas that should be managed first.

## Top Five Most Common Invasive Species Observed in Fairfield

- Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

## Recommended Management Methods

- Apply herbicides through cut stump, or foliar application
- Conduct more invasive removal volunteer days
- Create a program that allows citizens to voluntarily be trained to perform removals on their own







# Removal Methodologies List

- Below are examples of some of the list of provided methodologies included in the invasive species removal plan.

## Garlic Mustard

### Mechanical Removal Methods:

Removal Method	Locations This Method Can Be Used	Time of Year This Method Should Be Employed	Effectiveness of The Removal Method (In season)	Effectiveness of The Removal Method (One Year After Treatment)
Handpulling	Anywhere accessible	Early spring through early summer before the plant begins to flower	This method is fairly effective as it can help lower populations during the season, and prevent further emergence of flowers, and spreading of seeds.	This removal method needs to be conducted year over year as garlic mustard will continue to resprout until the seedbank is depleted
Mowing/Weedwhacking	Primarily flatter areas, but can be employed almost anywhere	Early spring through early summer before the plant begins to flower as this removal method has the potential to cause seed dispersal	Can prove to be extremely effective at removing large amounts of garlic mustard before flowers set seed.	This removal method needs to be conducted year over year as it does nothing to prevent future regrowth, and sprouting from the seedbank.

### Chemical Removal Methods:

Herbicide	Application Methods	Locations This Method Can Be Used	Time of Year This Method Should Be Employed	Effectiveness of The Removal Method (In season)	Effectiveness of The Removal Method (One Year After Treatment)
Glyphosphate	Foliar	Precautions should be made to prevent overspray as leaching and drift has the potential to damage non targeted plants. Should be used in locations where runoff into water sources is not a concern.	During fall or spring to plants that have already flowered or are beginning to flower. Applying this herbicide in the fall will only help control current rosettes and will not help manage spring seedlings	Extremely effective, can remove large amounts of garlic mustard in short time spans.	This herbicide needs to be applied year over year to provide consistent long term results.
Impazapic	Foliar	In areas where runoff and leaching into water sources is not a concern.	Apply in fall to spring	Extremely effective, small amounts of this herbicide can terminate large amounts of garlic mustard	This herbicide has higher risk due to it absorbing into soils easier. This fortunately can help combat and control garlic mustard seeds in the seed bank.

# **Residential Tree Program Revisions**

## City of Fairfield Residential Tree Program



Let's work together to maintain Fairfield as a great "Tree City" with a thriving urban forest.



# Residential Tree Program

## Improve community engagement through

- Incentivizing and assisting local residents in planting trees on their properties
  - Include free or reduced prices on trees and possible assistance in removing dead trees off of properties

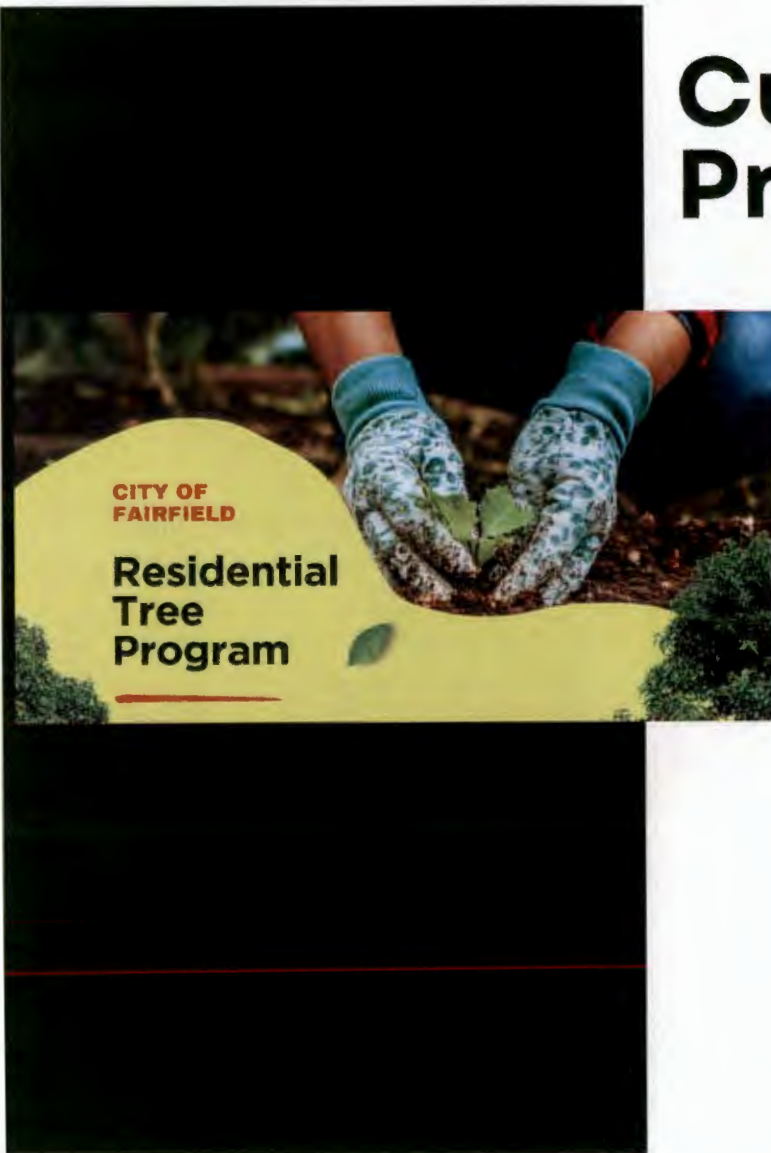
## Why do we need community tree programs?

- In urban areas, the majority of canopy cover usually consist of trees on private properties

**By changing and revising the recommended list of trees, residents have the ability to increase urban canopy cover and the ecosystem services they can provide.**

# Current Residential Tree Program

- City provides 50% co-pay up to \$200
- First come first serve until funds are gone
- Max one tree per residence per year
  - Some exceptions
- April 1st - November 1st
- **Increase Funding**





# Objective

*Objective:* Revise **tree planting lists** (Environmental Commission list, Residential Tree Program list, and Underwire Tree list) to account for future climate change scenarios.

# Methods

Objective: Revise tree planting lists to account for future climate change scenarios.

## Data Collection

- Literature review for generalist native trees of Southwest Ohio and their optimal living conditions.
- Future climate models

## Data Analysis

- Select native tree species that will withstand possible climate change over the next 10 years.

# Results

## Fairfield, Ohio Tree Planting List

### Combined List

- **One guide for all stakeholders**
  - City
  - Residents
  - Employees
- **Consistent information**
  - Unified city
- **Increase Community Engagement**

### Planting Considerations

- **Height**
  - Small, Medium, Large
- **Planting Site Recommendations**
  - Utility lines, Sidewalks, Medians, Residential Areas, & Parks
- **Ecological Status**
  - Native, Non-native, & Potentially invasive
- **Other Considerations**
  - Optimal growing conditions, (in)tolerances, maintenance



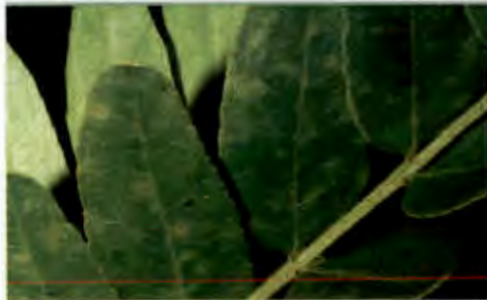
# Contents

## Fairfield, Ohio Tree Planting List



### Fairfield, Ohio Tree Planting List

Provided by Fairfield Professional Service Project Team  
 Ethan Bell, Sam Mansfield, Isaac Pronger, Connor Joss, Ethan Stone, & Sam Lewis  
 Institute for the Environment & Sustainability  
 Miami University  
 May 2025



1. Cover Page

### Ecological Status

**Native (N)** - The existence of native tree species predates human settlement and have expanded in this region through natural dispersion (seedling, propagation, etc). These species are well-suited for the climate of southwestern Ohio, serve a positive ecological role in our natural ecosystems, and are heavily recommended for planting in Fairfield, Ohio.

**Non-Native (NN)** - These tree species are intentionally and unintentionally introduced to an area and are controlled through artificial and natural means. The most common artificial management includes physical removal and pruning. Although sometimes well-suited for the climate of southwestern Ohio, they serve a neutral ecological role in our natural ecosystems and occupy niches that could be occupied by native species and for these reasons are discouraged for planting in Fairfield, Ohio.

**Potentially Invasive (I)** - These tree species are intentionally and unintentionally introduced to an area and have since become unmanageable and often require maximum maintenance to control their expansion. Although sometimes well-suited for the climate of southwestern Ohio, they serve a negative ecological role in our natural ecosystems and are heavily discouraged for planting in Fairfield, Ohio.

### Planting Site Recommendations

**Under Utility Lines (U)** - Trees planted under utility lines should be subject to considerable observation and maintenance, given the dangers of utility line interference. With their inclination to grow up and around whatever is above them, trees can pose a big threat to utility lines. For this reason, it's recommended that only trees with a mature height of <25' should be planted in these sites.

**Maintenance (M)** - Trees planted in meadows are subjected to less sun stress, often competing with forest trees and canopy species, while also managing high levels of pollution. Trees planted in these areas should be hardy and exhibit non-invasive roots.

**Residential Sites (R)** - Residential areas often provide moderate growing conditions for trees, with minimal levels of pollution, high levels of water and sunlight, but limited space for horizontal and vertical growth. Planting recommendations include native species that exhibit moderate root, canopy, and vertical growth.

**Park (P)** - Parks present optimal conditions for tree development, with maximum space, minimal levels of pollution, and high levels of water and sunlight. Species characteristics should

2. Indicators

### Small Trees



From top to bottom right: Callery Pear, Flowering Dogwood, Flowering Quince, and Japanese Barberry. (Landscape Architecture Associates Inc. 2023; Penn State 2024)

### 3. Height Category Cover Page

Tree	Adapted Plant	Leaf Color	Ecological Status	Shade / Frost Risk	Soil	Root Spans (ft)	Height (ft)	Trunk DBH (in)	Overall Spread	Lifespan	Optimal Water	Optimal Sun	Maintenance / Care	Visible Benefits	Maintenance / Care	Site-Specific Recommendations
Callery Pear	Callery pear	Green	I	Shaded	TW	3-4	25-40	30-40	Fast	10-15	WF	PS	Requires pruning, very aggressive and can attack utility lines	Low	Shade of utility and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T	2-4	20-30	15-20	Slow	100-150	S	PS	Requires tree wrapping	High	Shade of city and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Dogwood	Flowering dogwood	Green	N	Shaded	TW	3-4	20-40	20-40	Medium	10-15	WF	PS	Shaded	Low	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T, U, D	2-4	40-60	20-40	Medium	10-15	S	PS	Requires pruning	High	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T, U, D	2-4	20-30	20-30	Fast	10-15	WF	PS	Shade in DBH of utility	Low	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T	4-6	20-30	20-30	Medium	10-15	WF	PS	Requires pruning	High	Shade of city and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T, U, D	2-4	20-30	20-30	Fast	20-30	WF	PS	Shade in DBH of utility	High	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T	3-4	40-70	20-40	Fast	20-30	WF	PS	Shade in DBH of utility	Low	Shade of city and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	T	3-4	30-50	15-20	Medium	10-15	S	PS	Water penetration needed in shade of utility	Low	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R
Flowering Quince	Flowering quince	Green	I	Shaded	TW	3-4	40-50	20-30	Medium	10-15	S	PS	Requires pruning	High	Shade of utility and utility lines, and utility lines	U, R, M

### 4. Tree Spreadsheet List

# Results

## Residential Tree Program Website

### Primary Resource

- **Main resource for residents**
  - Many tree plantings informed by this list
- **Lots of Private Property in Fairfield**
  - To capitalize, **informed planting & community engagement** is important

### Considerations

- **Balance of features**
  - Aesthetics
  - Adaptability
  - Maintenance
  - Ecological Status
- **Previous Recommendations**

Recommended small Trees (25 feet or less at maturity; can be used in a 5 to 6 foot wide tree lawn (between curb and sidewalk). Preference would be that trees are planted further up into the yard so as not to cause conflicts and damage to sidewalk and underground/overhead utilities.

- Allegheny Serviceberry - American Hornbeam - Crabapple - Flowering Dogwoods  
Redbuds - Smooth Sumac - Staghorn Sumac - Sweetbay Magnolia

Recommended medium Trees (25 - 50) feet at maturity; can be used in a 10 foot or greater tree lawn (between curb and sidewalk). Preference would be that trees are planted further up into the yard so as not to cause conflicts and damage to sidewalk and underground/overhead utilities.

- Black Cherry - Black Gum - Northern Catalpa - Ohio Buckeye  
Thornless Honeylocust - Yellow Buckeye - Yellowwood

Recommended large Trees (more than 50 feet at maturity; Recommended for use in large, open residential lots.

- American Sycamore - Cucumber Magnolia - Kentucky Coffeetree - Sugar Maple  
Red Maple - Red Oak - Sweetgum - White Oak

# Future Tasks



- **Edits** on Reports and UFAP
- **Present** project to City Council
- **Submit** deliverables to City of Fairfield

# Acknowledgements



**Gillian Hart**

FAIRFIELD  
OHIO



**Adam Sackenheim**



UFAP PSP Team

# Thank You

Forests play a vital role in our planet's health. By preserving them, we preserve the Earth and everything living on it.



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