



Tree Board

~Agenda~

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Clerk of Council
937-535-1005

October 21, 2025

5:15 PM

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Tree Board Meeting Minutes - August 19, 2025
- III. Business**
 - A. 2025 Tree City USA
 - B. Winter Tree Care Article
- IV. Other Business**
- V. Adjournment**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Tree Board

Held August 19, 2025

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:26 PM.

Sylvia Harlow	Chair	Present
Patricia Bond	Member	Present
Sharon Duff	Member	Present
Jeanie Gay	Member	Present
Erica Grooms	Member	Present

Staff Present: City Planner Nick Sorice; Parks and Recreation Director Brent Shane; Board and Zoning Administrator Brent Carpenter; Clerk of Council Karen Powell

Approval of Minutes

Tree Board Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2025

Mrs. Harlow asked if there were any changes or corrections to the June 17, 2025, Tree Board meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business

Tree City USA Application Approaching - September 2025

City Planner Nick Sorice said the Tree City USA status is why the Tree Board exists and why the meetings are held. He stated the Tree Board members make a great impact on that, and he appreciates their support. He noted that almost all departments in the City help out as well. He said the application process opens in September, and he is going to apply as soon as possible. He said he is expecting a son in October, and he will be out of the office for a portion of October through November. He reported that he works together with Brent Shane and Kelly Strickler of Parks and Recreation and Chris Dunn and Sherry Buschur of the Street Division to compile information for the application. He said he is looking forward to year 15 of being a Tree City.

New Tree City Signs with New City Entryway Signage

Mr. Sorice reported the new City Entryway Signage project has been completed which encompassed a total of 33 signs. He thanked Cory Jones of the Street Division for creating the Tree City USA signs. He referred to the photo images in the packet. He said the Tree City signs add a nice touch to the entry signs in the City. He said the Tree City status makes a big difference in terms of the City's reputation and staying on top of things.

Other Business

OCISA - Tree of the Month Article

Mr. Sorice said the attached article comes from the Ohio Chapter of the International Society of Agriculture (OCISA). He noted this month's tree is the Turkish filbert. He said as the name implies, the tree is not native to Ohio or North America, but because of its growing characteristics, it is increasingly being planted in urban forests and is regularly used by municipal arborists as a street tree. He noted this is a good tree for medians and areas of high traffic and wind. He reviewed the favorable traits of the Turkish filbert tree with the board members. He described the leaves and bark. He said nuts occur in clusters and although edible, they are hard to extract and usually left to small mammals. He reviewed the size and shape of

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

	Minutes of Tree Board	Held August 19, 2025	
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the tree, and reported that Ohio's largest Turkish filbert is located in Franklin County and measures 74 feet in height with a 47 feet crown spread, and a trunk circumference of 98 feet.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

2025 Tree City USA

Department: Community Development

Request: Staff Report

Item Background and Purpose:

City Staff are working away on the Tree City USA status with a deadline of December 2. We appreciate the work of the Tree Board, Parks & Recreation, Community Development, and the Streets Department for making this a possibility.

Attachments:

Winter Tree Care Article

Department: Community Development

Request: Staff Report

Item Background and Purpose:

This article outlines the different ways of preparing your trees for winter, from proper pruning to proper inspections, to keep your trees safe.

Attachments:

1. Winter-Proofing Your Trees TREE BOARD MEETING



WINTER-PROOFING YOUR TREES

By Ahlum & Arbor | November 11, 2024 | Uncategorized

As winter approaches, the cold temperatures, snow and ice can put stress on your trees. To help them weather the season, it's important to prepare before the first snow hits.

These are **pre-winter tree care tips** to ensure they remain healthy through the winter months.

ASSESS FOR WINTER DESICCATION

Drought stress can take a heavy toll on trees, particularly in Ohio, where our summers are dry, with most rain arriving in the fall. But recently, we've seen longer summer droughts that extend into the autumn season. Watering trees until early to mid-December, especially in such dry conditions, can help maintain their health when soil moisture is low.

Evergreens are particularly vulnerable to winter elements and suffer needle drop due to the cold and dry winter winds. Applying an anti-desiccant spray can help reduce moisture loss as it provides a protective layer on the surface of a tree's leaves or needles. It forms a waxy or polymer-based coating that helps lock in moisture and protect the plant from the elements.

Applying anti-desiccant sprays in late fall, before the oncoming freezing temperatures, can improve a tree's ability to retain moisture throughout the winter, particularly for evergreens that are vulnerable to drying out.

PRUNE FOR HEALTH

Pruning is important for a tree's health and protecting it from winter damage. While most trees can be pruned year-round, some species require pruning during specific seasons to avoid the spread of diseases. For instance, cherry or apple trees are best pruned in winter to prevent fire blight, and oak trees should be pruned in the fall or winter to reduce the risk of oak wilt.

Winter damage often results from snow and ice accumulating on branches. Having an arborist identify weak branches or structural flaws and recommend appropriate pruning or cabling will help reduce the risk of winter damage to your trees.

Trees damaged by decay or structural defects may require removal, depending on the extent of the damage. Warning signs to look out for include the sprouting of mushrooms, soft or loose bark or flat spots around the trunk's base.

If there are signs of structural weakness, such as co-dominant stems or long limbs with poor taper, an arborist may be able to

reduce the risk through cabling or reduction. Trees with significant damage may need to be removed to prevent future hazards.

Trees located near structures or power lines can pose a significant risk during winter storms. A trained arborist can assess these trees to determine whether pruning, relocation or removal is the best course of action. If relocation isn't feasible, replanting with a species that's better suited for the location is an excellent long-term solution.

PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

To prepare for potential winter storm damage, regular inspections by an experienced arborist can play a huge role in protecting your trees. Proactive tree care can prevent future issues, but in case of an emergency, Ahlum and Arbor can mobilize crews to respond quickly, sometimes even on the same day a call is received.

Additionally, trees susceptible to deer damage, like young, thin-barked trees, should be protected with a wire cage or fence. If damage has already occurred, loose bark can be trimmed away to encourage new woundwood formation. To prevent sunscald, apply white latex paint to the southwest side of young trees to reflect sunlight and prevent frost cracks during late winter or early spring. As the tree matures, its bark will thicken and become resistant to sudden temperature changes.

Even if the snow has already arrived, there are still steps you can take to help your trees stay strong throughout the winter months. Whether it's 30 degrees or below zero, [our expert arborists at Ahlum & Arbor are ready to assist you](#) with the best care for your trees during the colder months.

◀ [Fall Tree Care: Inspecting Your Trees Af... How to Pick, Care for, and Recycle Your ...](#) ▶

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