



August 22, 2025

Meeting Notice
Tree Commission
August 28, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Tree Commission of the Village of Whitehouse, Ohio will meet on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Classroom, Village Hall, 6925 Providence Street, Whitehouse, Ohio.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approve Minutes of the July 10, 2025 Meeting
- III. Old Business
 - A. Tree Inventory (James)
 - B. Tree Inventory Updating: Data and Discussion
 - C. Whitehouse Library Visit Scheduled
 - D. Story Board Ideas
 - E. Forms and Docs
- IV. New Business
 - A. Fall Tree Planting Schedule
 - B. Discussion on Attendance for the 2025 Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Conference
- V. Discuss Other Issues as Appropriate under the Village Charter
- VI. Adjourn

Submitted by:
Jordan D. Daugherty, CPA
Village Administrator

Whitehouse Tree Commission

Minutes from July 10th Meeting

Attendance: Elliot Tramer, Christine Manzey, Diane DeYonker, Laurie Mauro, Steve Connelly (Council Representative), James Forrest (Staff Representative), Guests: Haley Belisle and Stephanie Miller (Urban Foresters).

Call To Order: Elliot Tramer called meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Minutes from June 19, 2025, were approved. Diane DeYonker moved and Laurie Mauro seconded.

Introduction of Guests: Stephanie Miller, current Urban Forester for our region, explained that Ohio regions for Urban Forestry were being increased from 6 to 10 regions and that Whitehouse was in a new region (#8) which will be overseen by Haley Belisle starting around March of 2026. Haley has a degree in Environmental Science and has been involved in stormwater management before being hired for the Urban Forester's position. She has been a Tree Commissioner at Findlay and will be shadowing Stephanie until March. She encourages us to seek her help in all aspects of urban forestry.

Elliot Tramer reviewed the background of the Whitehouse Tree Commission which has earned Growth Awards for 15 out of our 16 years as a Commission. He expressed his appreciation for all the support our Village Council and Administration has given the Tree Commission.

Old Business

America In Bloom: James Forrest and Laurie Mauro recounted what the visit by the America In Bloom committee entailed. James took the committee members on a tour of Whitehouse neighborhoods and public spaces, the Ohio Compost facility, Oak Openings, and Blue Creek Metroparks. The committee members liked the diversity of trees in our community, the Callery Pear Removal and replacement plans, and other future plans. Laurie was impressed by the committee's willingness to be helpful to us. One suggestion by the committee is that Whitehouse might consider striving to be a Botanical destination. Eventually our community will receive a 60-80 page report about our community plantings and perhaps awards based on specific criteria. Karen Gerhardinger with the Mirror newspaper wrote an insightful article about the America In Bloom visit. Elliot Tramer mentioned how Karen, through her articles, has been an excellent advocate for the Tree Commission.

Planting Design Update: Our current Planting Design needs to be modified because one of the suggested trees is the Sassafras which is difficult to procure. Stephanie Miller suggested that we use White-Shield Osage Orange, instead. This tree is more tolerant of poor soils (typical in tree lawns) and has a male-only cultivar that lacks fruit balls and thorns. This type of tree can easily be inserted into our Planting Design because it is in a family of trees that is not typically planted, so it will not interfere with the Commission's mission to diversify our Urban Forest.

Updating the Tree Inventory: Two groups of Commissioners (Elliot Tramer/Christine Manzey and Diane DeYonker/Laurie Mauro) have been busy walking the neighborhoods and measuring all street trees. A discussion was held about filling out the current inventory sheets. The updated data sheets are being sent to the new hire who is entering data into a GIS program for the community. Diane and Laurie noted

that volcano mulching (sometimes using stone with plastic liners) is being used and an effort should be made to educate residents about proper mulching techniques.

Tree Inventory: James Forrest reported that his crew is currently involved in Young Tree Training and that there have been no removals so far this month.

FaceBook Ideas: Elliot Tramer suggested that information from the Tree Commission's newly created Tri-Fold Information Board could be parsed out in FB segments. On the topic of communication, Christine Manzey mentioned that the Tree Commission website on the Community website needs updating. Laurie Mauro suggested that doorhangers could be created for residents who need feedback about proper mulching techniques. James Forrest reported that a Whitehouse Tree Commission logo has been created and is awaiting approval.

Whitehouse Library: Laurie Mauro would like to present the idea of displaying the Tree Commission's new Tri-Fold Information Board at the Whitehouse Library at an upcoming Staff meeting which will be held on the first Tuesday of August. Elliot Tramer and Christine Manzey are willing to accompany Laurie and explain how the community could benefit from the information the Tree Commission would provide not only on the Tri-Fold but also with a series of handouts about proper tree care and insect pests.

Forms and Docs: no new forms to enter.

New Business

New Park Design: James Forrest showed a landscape architect's sketch of a possible re-design of the entry to our downtown park. The Village Council would like the Tree Commission's input as to types of trees to be used for both new plantings and replacements for aging Silver Maples. Stephanie Miller suggested that Haley Belisle could perform a Risk Assessment on the current Silver Maples to determine a timeline about replacements. Stephanie also suggested that new trees should not be greater than 3 inches in diameter because the smaller trees would have a better chance of survival and would need less initial maintenance. James Forrest mentioned the 100% success of tree plantings at Sandra Park using small diameter tree stock.

Tree City: Despite applications not being due until December, Elliot Tramer mentioned that our Tree Commission had to begin the process of applying for renewal of our Tree City status and optional Growth Awards. Stephanie Miller emphasized that our Commission should follow directions given by the Ohio Division of Forestry rather than those given by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Thanking Stephanie Miller: Elliot Tramer, as Chairman of the Whitehouse Tree Commission, expressed gratitude for the years of service that Stephanie has devoted to being our region's Urban Forester. She has enthusiastically supported our ideas, given us invaluable information, been an advocate for some of our suggestions, and even appeared before our Village Council to explain the value of new technology such as the use of Silva Cells.

Meeting Adjourned: Diane DeYonker moved for adjournment at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Manzey

Registration

2025 NW OH Urban Forestry Conference
October 23, 2025
Register by October 14, 2025

Town/Company _____
Contact Person _____
Phone _____
Email _____

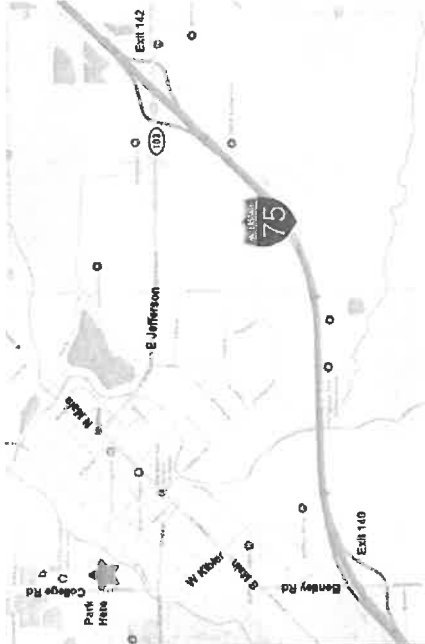
\$35/Person (Postmarked by Oct 14)
Checks payable to OIAA
Ohio Independent Arborist Association
Tax ID number: 82-1850897
To pay by CREDIT CARD, register online at
<http://ohioarborist.org/calendar/>
(\$5 admin fee/person)

Attendee Names & Title

Total # Attending _____
Mail this registration with payment to
OIAA
c/o Steph Miller
952-B Lima Ave
Findlay, OH 45840

Directions

Yoder Recital Hall
Bluffton University
College Rd
Bluffton, OH 45817



Questions?

Steph Miller (NW Ohio)
stephanie.miller@dnr.ohio.gov
Western Ohio Urban Forestry Coordinator
Ohio DNR, Division of Forestry



2025 NORTHWEST OHIO URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE



October 23, 2025
9:00-3:00
Bluffton University
Register by October 14th

Attend if you're a...

- Tree Commissioner
- Public Forester/Arborist
- Mayor, Administrator, Manager
- Safety-Service Director
- Township Trustee
- County Commissioner
- Green industry friend
- Involved in public tree management

Agenda

8:30 Doors Open, Social Time, and Refreshments

9:00 *Welcome*

Steph Miller
Ohio DNR, Division of Forestry

9:10 *Beneficial Insects & Trees*

Dr. Sam Ward, PhD
Assistant Professor Forest Entomology
Ohio State University

10:00 *Toxic & Invasive Plants*

Carrie Morrow
Urban Forestry Administrator
Ohio DNR, Division of Forestry

11:00 Lunch

12:00 *Novel Solutions for Tough*

Issues

Adrien Lowien-Kirian
Urban Forester
Bowling Green, Ohio

1:15 *Urban Deer Management*

Scott Butterworth
Wildlife District 2 Manager
Ohio DNR, Division of Wildlife

1:45 *More Novel Solutions for*

Tough Issues

Brandon Burner
Public Works Superintendent
Tiffin, Ohio

2:45 Evaluation & Conclusion

Have a safe trip home!

Hello friends,

I'm so delighted to bring you this year's conference lineup. There's something for everyone. Please plan to join us for a day of learning and building new relationships together.

We're going to hear about how Bowling Green is managing its invasive pests while exploring a variety of ways to protect trees. Tiffin will share their recent management steps and their treelawn restoration work. Of course we have some pests to discuss, but more importantly some insects to celebrate.

Thank you to our new Regional Urban Foresters in training (Haley, Kathryn, and Maggie) for helping to plan this program. 2025 is the last NW Ohio Urban Forestry Conference with all 19 counties together. It will be bittersweet, but the start of a new chapter of us better assisting Ohio's communities.

I'm excited to see you.

~ Steph

All registrants must prepay
No walk-ins please

Your registration fee includes the program, refreshments, lunch, ISA CEUs, and SAF CFEs.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Steph Miller by October 20th if you require special accommodations.



Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.

~ Vincent Van Gogh

