

CITY OF PROSPECT, KENTUCKY

2023-2024 CITY TREE PLAN

Objectives and Goals

The City of Prospect Forestation Board's objectives and goals are to enhance and improve the City tree canopy in Prospect and work to achieve and sustain forestation within the city which is safe, healthy, diverse, aesthetically pleasing, functional and supportive of birds and wildlife and which provide a locale where city residents and visitors may learn and obtain greater appreciation for the benefits of trees and forestation in the urban environment.

Goals and Methods

To achieve the stated objectives, the Forestation Board will be guided by the Forestation Ordinance of the City of Prospect enacted on December 10, 2007 and that ordinance as amended. Specific goals and methods will be identified and reassessed on an annual basis in an effort to assure that current arboricultural standards are applied within the city. Progress towards the specific goals will be reviewed each year and reported in the annual forestation plan. This report and subsequent annual reports will be presented to the Mayor and City Council in April of each year and will reflect priorities and recommendations to address forestation issues.

Monitoring

Regular monitoring by the consulting arborist and the Forestation Board shall be used to:

- Determine maintenance, pruning and planting needs and prioritize tree maintenance.

- Ensure diversity of trees.

Safety

The city's forestation shall be maintained for the safety of residents and visitors by:

- Planting of safe, vigorous and sustainable species of trees.

- Identification and removal from street and park areas (where hazards exist) of dead trees, dead or weakened portions of trees, roots, obstructions caused by roots such as heaved sidewalks, stumps and other safety hazards related to trees.

- Removal of trees or portions of trees interfering with pedestrian or vehicle passage or with line of sight to traffic regulatory signs or signals.

Health

The health of the city's trees shall be encouraged by:

Tree health management, including monitoring of, and treatment for, insect and disease infestation and general maintenance of tree vigor.

Selection and planting of diverse tree species resistant to insect, disease, and/or environmental damage and that are winter hardy for our area.

Timely pruning and treatment of trees to prevent adverse conditions.

The use of current planting and pruning techniques as outlined by International Society of Arboriculture.

Diversity

A desirable diversity in the genus, species, age, and size of trees within the forest will be encouraged by:

Publication of approved and unapproved tree lists for public area trees designating small, medium, and large trees as well as native and non tive species.

Planting of varying species and size classification with the goal of not more than 30% of any one class of tree, not more than 20% of any one genus and not more than 10% of any one species.

Aesthetics

Landscape design considerations will be incorporated into the planning of the city's forested areas both with regard to initial and restorative plantings and with regard to the removal of unattractive or inappropriate trees.

Functional Forestation

The Forestation Board shall work to provide functionality of purpose in selecting tree types and planting areas by promoting the use of trees for energy saving and cleaner air.

Wildlife

We will protect wildlife by planting trees favorable to birds and other wildlife.

Retention of dead trees and portions of trees for cavity nesting birds where such retention does not present an insect, disease, or safety hazard.

2022 Accomplishments

Planted 10 trees on City land and arranged for maintenance watering during drought periods.

Launched a new Canopy Tree program featuring city cost-sharing with residents to encourage the planting of shade trees. Four residents ordered trees for fall 2022 planting and five more trees were ordered for spring 2023 planting.

Held our annual Arborfest including distribution of 45 flowering trees together with species specific tree selection and care literature.

Required the remediation/removal of 25 hazardous trees.

Prepared seven articles on tree issues and care for the city's newsletter.

Obtained Prospect's recertification as a Tree City for the 15th consecutive year.

Goals for 2023-2024

Update and strengthen the city's primary ordinance governing tree issues.

Work with Parks to enhance the beauty of the city's parks with focus on Little Hunting Creek Park where 7 trees including two memorial trees will be planted.

Promote both the Canopy Tree and Memorial Tree programs as routes to resident participation in tree planting.

Continue planting of new trees with emphasis on older areas of the city where some trees have completed their life cycle.

Provide contractual watering as necessary for newly planted trees.

Continue the Arborfest tree distribution program.

Extend the tree ID signage program.

Explore the distribution of the Prospect Tree Guide thru the property tax system.

Request Code Enforcement to provide copies of the city's primary ordinance governing tree issues and the Prospect Tree Guide to all applicants seeking building permits.

PROSPECT FORESTATION BOARD

Chair Lee Tucci Lee Tucci

Member Linda Knox Linda Knox

Member Sylvia Quaye Sylvia Quaye

Member Herb Shulhafer Herb Shulhafer

Member Connie Kuhn Connie Kuhn