

CITY OF PROSPECT, KENTUCKY

2024-2025 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.

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 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 causing:

Planting of safe, vigorous and sustainable species of trees.

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

Removal of trees or portions of trees interfering with pedestrian or vehicle passage or with line of sight to traffic regulatory signs or signals and any other hazard threatening citizen's private property

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 City 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-native 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.

2023-24 Accomplishments

Planted 28 trees on City land, including memorial trees.

Continued the Canopy Tree program featuring city cost-sharing with residents to encourage the planting of shade trees.

Held our annual Arborfest including distribution of 50 flowering trees and had a professional arborist on hand to assist residents. Informative, illustrated handouts on available species and other tree related information were also provided.

Required the remediation/removal of dozens of hazardous trees.

Obtained Prospect's recertification as a Tree City USA for the 16th consecutive year, and also earned a 7th Growth Award, both from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Reviewed current Trees & Forestation Ordinance for definition, clarification and the recommendation of adding 2 addition board positions.

Prepared articles and e-blasts on tree issues for the city's electronic system.

Goals for 2024-2025

Develop resources to assist residents with new plantings following the April tornadoes with a focus on the neighborhoods most impacted.

Proposed an increased planting budget for Arborfest to provide more trees to help with replanting. Also consider offering larger trees. Historically, we have purchased 3 gallon containers for the event.

Promotion and Expansion of the Canopy Tree program.

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

Providing contractual watering as necessary for newly planted trees.

Work with Parks & Recreation to enhance the beauty of City parks.

Extend the tree ID signage program.

Initiate a Speakers program to help educate residents on tree issues.

Work with developers and Code Enforcement to review construction plans impacting trees.

Begin planning for an updated Tree Guide and a city-wide street tree inventory.

Finalize changes to the Tree and Forestation Ordinance.

PROSPECT FORESTATION BOARD

Chair Linda Knox Linda Knox

Member Connie Kuhn Connie Kuhn

Member Sylvia Quaye _____

Member Herb Shulhafer Herb Shulhafer

Member Lee Tucci Lee Tucci