Protect, Plant, and Care for Trees
Goal
See the trees
Community Assets

Community Trees Program
Green Infrastructure
Trees give back

Sociological benefits

Community Trees Program
Trees give back!

Environmental

Community Trees Program
Benefits of Trees

Economic

Community Trees Program
Dollars matter
Proactive management

Plan
1
2
3
4
5

GRANT

1. Establish
2. Gather
3. Analyze
4. Develop
Be creative
Community Trees Program

Big Trees - Celebrate

The Morton Arboretum
More than an add-on
Benefits of inventories

• Know location, species and condition of trees
• Know locations of plantable space
• Planning, budget, and advocacy tool
Establish a Value for the Community’s Trees.

Example: There are 20 trees in the park. They are each about 15 inches in diameter. Together they have a cumulative diameter of 300 inches. If you had to replace these trees, you would plant only 2.5” dbh.

300”/2.5”=120 trees @ $250 each = $30,000

(REMEMBER: THE LARGER THE TREE THE MORE VALUE – ENVIRONMENTALLY, AESTHETICALLY AND FINANCIALLY)
Definition

- Snapshot in time
- An accounting of what, where, condition and how many
Value of knowledge

- Can’t manage what you don’t know you have
- For planning annual & emergency pruning
- EAB recovery – where to plant? with what?
Value of knowledge

- Know locations of plantable space
- Long term budget
- Identifying risk
Diversity

Diversity of species
Diversity of age
One size does not fit all

- Windshield
- Complete
- Representative
Complete/Comprehensive Inventories

- Species: Scientific & common
- DBH
- Location: Address or GIS
- Canopy Spread - height
- Condition Rating
- Risk/Defect Identification
- Width of Planting Area
- Groundcover type
Sample Inventories

Estimated numbers based on a sampling system for large data populations.

- Stratified
- Clustered
- Systematic
- Random
- Grid

Figure 1. Example of a city partitioned into three different zone types
Managing data

- Paper to computer
- Excel
Resources

- Homegrown and commercial tools
- Apps for mobile collection and updating
- Data analysis: i-tree http://www.itreetools.org/
- Local sources of assistance
- Piggybacking & pooling
Trifecta

- Inventory
- Management Plan
- Ordinances

- Bulk of program goes here
- Code enforcement by whom?
Everyone benefits
Did you ever hear someone say –

• **I WISH** I had a plan but I don’t have the money

• **I DON’T** have a plan so I can’t get money

• I only have limited funds and I **CAN’T** afford to spend what I have on a plan
What's inside?

Enjoy Aurora's Beautiful Parks and Land!

The city is working hard to open up some of our properties for public use. Spring Hill Farm, on E. Pioneer Trail, has a new path around the lake and we are recalling the buildings there so in the near future you will be able to hike and fish. Newly acquired Hartman Farm, on Townline Road, consists of about 125 acres and will be ideal for new playing fields as we need them. In addition, the rear of the property contains a new and working sugar house, which supplied maple syrup this year for auction at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, thanks to Michael Armour and his family who made the syrup. The Moebius Nature Center on E. Mennonite Road is truly a showpiece through the hard work of a core of volunteers who maintain the beautiful Aurora Service Department Meets Snow and Flood Challenges

This past winter was challenging on many levels, but the Aurora Service Department crews worked tirelessly to keep roads plowed and potholes repaired. Through it all, Service Director Jim Thielen also closely monitored spending on salt and overtime, and spent $14,000 less in 2014 for more salt than in 2013. Since the May 12, 2014 major storm, the city has stepped up efforts to monitor and clean culverts.

Six Month Accomplishments...

- A budget with overtime reductions and cost savings in health insurance.
- A new business-friendly sign code that also includes District Historical requirements.
- Passage of Issue 11 creating the Greats Lake Economic Development District and new opportunities.
- New Law Director, Planning, Zoning and Building Director and Police Chief.
- New Assistant Director of Planning to add depth and flexibility to our department.
- Sixteen Charter change recommendations from the Charter Review Committee.
- Commencement of the river restoration work at the Aurora golf course.
- A plan for downtown improvements at Kewanee Moore Park.
- New gas aggregation plan with Constellation for 17-month rate of $4.65/Mtd.
- Action on storm water issues, including close monitoring and clearing of drains and retention basins, meeting with many residents in affected areas, and improving drainage in city rights of way.

Ball Field Facts

Aurora manages 16 ball fields, not all of which are on city property. While the city maintains all the fields (trough dirt, bare bases, mowing grass, painting foul lines and setting bases), the city is not responsible for capital improvements on the school-owned fields. Facilities, fields, and 11 (12 including backstop, dugout). Teams do not use all 16 fields, and it is a good use of taxpayer dollars to maintain all 16 fields when only 14 fields are needed. Therefore, the small t-ball field, Field 3, was scheduled to be closed in 2015. Other field is available for new ball fields in the future as the city needs them. So, this administration proposed and Planning Commission and Council approved, a plan to improve the center of town with enhancements at Kewanee Moore Park:

- A new, larger and improved ball field, Field 4, replacing the t-ball field;
- A dedicated pathway to the ball fields and businesses along 43; and
- Expanded, landscaped parking.

This plan was developed with much thought and consideration, taking into account the Master Plan recommendations to improve the Town Center, the Planning Commission's and Planning Department's parking concerns, baseball needs, recreational usage and city resources. This project efficiently uses funds dedicated for land acquisition and improvements, NOT connectivity or field maintenance money.

Department Highlight

The end of June, Police Chief Seth Newbold ended a 35-year career with Aurora Police Department, to date the longest serving police officer in the city. We wish him well! David Frisoni has been named the new Police Chief. Expect to begin the end of August. Dave is currently the Executive Director of the Lake County Narcotics Agency in Plainfield and served the Chief of Police in Canal Fulton from 2005 to 2011. He began his police career with the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department in 1985. A veteran of the United States Army Reserve. Dave received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Akron and also completed training at the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. In 2007, Bob Haggett will serve as interim Chief until Dave begins.
Set goals
Talk to people
Gather knowledge
Implementation

Community Trees Program
Budget time
Ordinances

Governance

HOW → WHO → WHAT
Ordinance templates

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold
Common ordinance items

- Tree selection, planting, and care
- Qualifications of staff
- Establishment of tree board
- Construction and building activity
- Development requirements
Ordinance items

- Issuing permits
  - Cutting, trimming, planting, removal, etc.
- Dealing with non-compliance
- Regulating specific activities
  - Cutting and destruction of trees
  - Unauthorized plantings
  - Construction activities
  - Root severing
  - Age class and species diversity
Guaranteeing Compliance

• Working with developers or contractors
  – Provide tree care information
  – Establish clear expectations
  – Fines
  – Permitting
  – Approving actions in advance
  – Stop work orders
  – Tax breaks
  – Awards/publicity
  – Tree assessments/eval period after work is done
Evaluations and Revisions

• Feedback of current conditions
  – Inventories, safety concerns, planting opportunities, etc.
• Keep pace with changing needs and challenges
• Monitoring trees is necessary, but commonly overlooked
• Revisit goals and review community vision
Bottom Line

• Ordinances are a tool for your benefit
• Easily understood and consistent
• Research and adapt to what your community needs
• Make ordinances work for you
Questions?

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