

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2026
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: 706 South Glover Avenue Urbana, IL 61802

AGENDA

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. Changes to the Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. December 3, 2025 meeting minutes

D. Public Input

Natalie Leavenworth

704 E. Oregon Street

Expressed concern over multiple tree removals in her neighborhood. Most removals remained from major storm in July 2024. Major structure damage.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits – Kevin Sanderson

F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees

1. City Arborist – Vince Gustafson
2. 2026 Spring Planting Sites – Kevin Sanderson
3. 2026 Donation Planting Sites – Kevin Sanderson

G. New Business

1. 50th Tree City Arbor Foundation Recognition

H. Announcements

1. Arbor Day April 24th, at Victory Park on East Green Street

I. Future Topics

J. Adjournment

PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner. Public

Input will be taken in the following ways:

Email Input

In order to be incorporated into the record, emailed public comments must be received prior to 5:00 pm on the day preceding the meeting and sent following email address: michelle.higar@urbanail.gov .

The subject line of the email should include "PUBLIC INPUT", the board/commission name, and the meeting date. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted.

Written Input

Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

Verbal Input

Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable. Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than two (2) hours, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting. The presiding officer may give priority to those persons who indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item upon which a vote will be taken. The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only. In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under "Verbal Input". Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker's microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

Accommodation

If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City at least 48 hours in advance using one of the following methods:

Phone: 217.384.2455

Email: hro@urbanaillinois.us

DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: 706 South Glover Avenue Urbana, IL 61802

MINUTES - UNAPPROVED

Members Present: Carol Augspurger, Stewart Berlocher, Paul D'Agostino, Scott Dossett, Alex Julius, Justin Vozzo

Members Absent: Elise Doody-Jones

Others Present: Kevin Sanderson

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Carol Augspurger called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Roll call was taken. A Quorum of Members was present.

B. Changes to the Agenda

none

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. June 4, 2025 meeting minutes

Scott Dossett motioned to approve the minutes, Justin Vozzo seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

D. Public Input

none

E. Unfinished Business

1. Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits – Kevin Sanderson

Kevin had no further update on this, other than he is still working with Engineering on it.

Paul said that when he worked for the City of Evanston, they had their permits online like we are going towards. He suggested that Kevin look at the City of Evanston website and look at their setup and options for permits.

F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees

1. 2025-2026 Contractor Removal list – Kevin Sanderson

Bids were opened last week and Trees 'R Us won the bid. They just need to pass the EEO certification paperwork; once that is done the bid can be awarded. This is for 28 trees & stumps to be removed. Kevin pointed out that he added Observations to the list per Paul's suggestion.

2. 2025 Fall Replacement Sites – Kevin Sanderson

There were 61 replacement trees planted. These were completed in early November.

3. 2026 Spring Donation Planting – Kevin Sanderson

This was originally for Fall 2025 but moved it to Spring 2026 because there were 70 letters mailed out and only received 7 responses. Kevin is hoping that more will come in with pushing the plantings to Spring 2026.

G. New Business

1. New website form to request a Street Tree

Kevin said there is a new form on the City website to Request a Street Tree. Right now it's under Infrastructure Assets, then under Urban Forestry. Kevin is trying to get them to move Forestry under Public Works so it is easier to find. 5 or 6 people have already submitted requests through the new form. It was suggested to maybe put it under the "How Do I" section.

2. 2026 meeting dates

The 2026 meeting dates were looked over (March 4th, June 3rd, September 2nd, & December 2nd). Scott Dossett motioned to approve the 2026 meeting dates, Paul D'Agostino seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

H. Announcements

1. 50th Tree City Arbor Foundation story

Kevin said that we will receive our 50th Arbor Day Foundation award in April. He is currently working on the Tree City application. The Arbor Day Foundation is wanting to do a story on the City of Urbana because we are one of the original Tree City USA's. There are 16 original communities.

I. Future Topics

Alex Julius will give her presentation on Risk Assessment Tools

Stewart Berlocher is still working on his Big Grove talk. He keeps finding things to add to it.

J. Adjournment

Scott Dossett motioned to adjourn the meeting, Paul D'Agostino seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.



CITY ARBORIST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Department: Public Works	Division: Administration
Work Location: Urbana Public Works	Percent Time: 100%
Job Type: Civil Service	FLSA Status: Exempt
Reports To: Public Works Director	Union: Non-Union

JOB SUMMARY

Under general direction of the Public Works Director, the City Arborist oversees capital projects and administrative programs related to public arbor, horticulture, and landscape recycling; administers the City's Tree Ordinance; serves as the City's public consultant and primary point of contact for assigned areas of responsibility; manages and oversees business operations of the City's Landscape Recycling Center; provides subject matter expertise and administers arboriculture, horticulture, and business management best practices in the performance of assigned duties. This position requires broad, comprehensive knowledge of assigned areas, sound independent judgment, superior interpersonal skills and a strong commitment to municipal arboriculture and public service.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Actively supports and upholds the City's mission and values.
- Serves as the City's public consultant and primary point of contact for community trees and landscapes; responds to related citizen concerns and complaints; resolves tree ownership/jurisdiction concerns.
- Assists in planning, coordinating, and facilitating annual Arbor Day event and other special events as necessary.
- Administers and enforces the City's Tree Ordinance; provides technical assistance to City staff related to other ordinances (e.g., vegetation ordinance).
- Assists with reviewing and overseeing contractual and permitted work authorized by the City that impacts arbor and landscape assets, assists with enforcement when work violates city codes and regulations related to area(s) of responsibility.
- Monitors activities of utility companies, contractors, and private citizens as required in relation to arbor and landscape work being performed on City property.
- Reviews construction plans for residential and commercial developments to ensure compliance with applicable City ordinances, codes, rules, and regulations.
- Coordinates and/or manages capital projects related to arbor and landscape assets.

City Arborist
City of Urbana

- Administers and coordinates City tree planting programs (Cooperative, Legacy, etc.).
- Coordinates with governmental and partner agencies to promote public interest and participation in tree planting and protection.
- Develops and administers efforts related to public promotion of landscape recycling, arboriculture, and horticulture; serves as subject matter expert for inquiries related to areas of responsibility and oversight.
- Develops recommendations to policies and procedures pertaining to arbor and landscape asset best management practices; presents recommendations to department head; implements approved policy recommendations as needed.
- Reviews and amends the City's arboricultural specifications manual as necessary.
- Serves as lead staff on the City's Tree Commission.
- Manages business operations of the City's Landscape Recycling Center (LRC), including, but not limited to budgeting, marketing and providing public information; assessing market supply and demand; establishing product pricing adjustments; establishing and maintaining business procedures; administration of related contracts and agreements, including intergovernmental agreement; and collaborating with Operations management staff on staffing and logistical operations of the site.
- Provides supervision, training, and guidance to regular, non-bargaining Landscape Recycling Center staff; may assist in supervising other LRC staff as needed.
- Participates in monthly, quarterly, and annual Public Works planning and coordination at the departmental and divisional levels with focus on assigned areas of responsibility.
- Assists in the development and monitoring of the department's annual budget with relation to assigned areas of responsibility.
- Manages the purchasing, procurement, and contracting of goods and services in accordance with established policy and processes.
- Performs grant research, application, and administration related to areas of assigned responsibility.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

This information is intended to be descriptive of the key responsibilities of the position. These examples do not identify all duties performed by any single incumbent.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Education & Experience

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

- Completion of an associate's degree in forestry, horticulture, landscape architecture, or relevant biological or environmental science.
- Three (3) years of professional tree/urban forestry management experience or professional experience in a closely related field that would provide the requisite knowledge. Five (5) years of related experience may substitute for the degree requirement.
- At least three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in business or project management, including planning, coordinating, overseeing, and/or supervising projects, operations, and/or staff.

Knowledge of

- Demonstrated knowledge of landscape design and construction.
- Demonstrated knowledge of plant and tree anatomy and physiology.
- Demonstrated knowledge of plant and tree plant diseases, pests, and appropriate control measures including chemical application.
- Plant ecology as related to site selection for individual tree species.
- Materials, methods, and techniques required for arboriculture.
- Knowledge, skill, and use of standard tools and equipment required for arboriculture.
- Occupational hazards and safety precautions necessary in arboriculture and landscape.
- Demonstrated knowledge of irrigation systems and their components.
- Demonstrated knowledge of landscape construction.
- Landscape bed preparation and planting techniques for a variety of plant material.
- Knowledge of the City of Urbana's Tree Ordinance and standards, or the ability to learn and apply these.
- Knowledge of other relevant city ordinances, codes, rules, and policies, or the ability to learn.
- Demonstrated knowledge of ANSI 300 and ANSI Z133 standards for arboricultural practices.

Skills

- Trigonometry, algebra, business math, and accounting skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Project planning and management skills.
- Supervisory and performance management skills.

- Skill in interpreting, applying, explaining, and presenting rules, policies, regulations, and procedures.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs and the ability to learn other software as needed.

Ability to

- Monitor and oversee arbor and landscape work performed by others.
- Read and understand construction drawings and specifications.
- Comply with safety and arboricultural standards and codes accepted by the City.
- Safely operate City vehicles and equipment as required.
- Read and interpret work assigned through written and verbal instructions.
- Perform tasks under adverse weather conditions.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with City staff and the general public.
- Exercise sound judgment in decision-making and the performance of work.
- Maintain maximum confidentiality of sensitive information encountered in the performance of work.

LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS REQUIRED

- Must possess or obtain within fifteen (15) days of employment a valid State of Illinois driver's license and maintain a safe driving record.
- Must possess International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist designation or obtain within six (6) months of hire.
- Must possess ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) or obtain within eighteen (18) months of hire.
- State of Illinois Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with Air Brake endorsement is preferred.
- Landscape Industry Certified Technician — Exterior (formerly CLT-E) or training/education with similar content and coursework is preferred.

Job Dimensions

SECURITY LEVEL

- Level LIC: Essential functions require the employee to possess a license, credential, or other certification in order to meet minimum job qualifications and/or qualify for continued employment in a particular occupation or position.
- Level PHYS: Must demonstrate the ability to perform essential functions that require physical agility as noted in the job description, with or without reasonable accommodations.
- Level MVR: essential functions require frequent and safe operation of City vehicles.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- The incumbent has considerable ongoing responsibility for public safety, as characterized by regularly scheduled duties including: 1) dealing with emergencies that directly affect the safety of the public, and 2) operating or overseeing the operation of equipment or machines for which the consequences of operator error include significant property damage and/or threaten serious injury to self or others.

CONTACTS

- Frequent contact with general public, other public works departments, and other City departments.
- Regular contact with manufacturers and local suppliers to discuss and obtain materials for construction projects.
- Regular contact with other private or government organizations, contractors, utilities, and vendors.

Supervision received

- This position works under the direction of the Public Works Director

Level and complexity of supervision exercised

- This position is responsible for supervising the work of regular, non-bargaining LRC staff.

Supplemental Information

Physical Demands and Working Conditions

Work takes place in a typical office setting and outdoors. Outdoor work may require physical exertion such as climbing ladders, lifting of objects up to 50 pounds, crawling or crouching in restricted areas. Occasional maneuvering of heavy objects weighing up to 100 pounds may be required with or without reasonable accommodations. The work environment and physical demands may include: making precise arm-hand positioning movements; lifting arms above shoulder level; climbing ladders or steps to reach work areas; remaining in a sitting or standing position for extended periods of time; working outside year-round in a variety of weather conditions with exposure to the outdoor elements; traveling across rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; exposure to heat, cold, dampness, dust, pollen, odors, fumes, etc.; exposure to hazards of falls, noise, equipment operation, etc.; may require working extended hours (employees may be called for emergencies).

Vision: See in the normal visual range with or without correction; vision sufficient to read computer screens and printed documents; visually inspect work in progress.

Hearing: Hear in the normal audio range with or without correction.

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described herein are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

Class Specification History

New class: December 3, 2025

For HR/Finance Use

Job Class Code	Pay Grade 112
EEO Category	LVL

2026 Planting Sites

Address	Street	Side	Site	Site ID	Replacement Species	Planting Season	Tree Trail
410	Abbey Rd	FRONT	3	38	oak, chinkapin (Quercus muehlenbergii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
410	Abbey Rd	FRONT	4	39	Yellow Buckeye (Aesculus flava)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1319	Abercorn St	FRONT	1	5261	Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1604	Abercorn St	FRONT	1	3394	Kentucky coffeetree (Gymnocladus dioicus)	Spring	Replacement Tree
705	Anderson St S	FRONT	1	10840	American Hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana)	Spring	Replacement Tree
708	Anderson St S	FRONT	1	7378	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2108	Barnes St	FRONT	1	20656	Blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2024	Boudreau Dr	SIDE TO	1	12750	Hackberry occ. (Celtis occidentalis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2407	Brookens Cir	FRONT	1	6826	Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1105	Busey Ave S	FRONT	1	5482	Hornbeam, American (Carpinus caroliniana)	Spring	Replacement Tree
807	Clark St	FRONT	1	10833	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
807	Clark St	FRONT	2	10834	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
811	Clark St	FRONT	1	11301	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
813	Clark St	FRONT	2	12063	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1012	Clark St	SIDE AWAY	1	12640	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	Spring	Replacement Tree
203	Coler Ave N	FRONT	2	5401	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave	SIDE TO	12	20253	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave	SIDE TO	14	20254	Hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave	SIDE TO	16	20255	elm, Valley Forge American (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')	Spring	Replacement Tree
2012	Cureton Dr	FRONT	1	11771	oak, swamp white (Quercus bicolor)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2208	Delaware Ave E	FRONT	2	9439	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
402	Elm St E	FRONT	1	9964	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	Spring	Replacement Tree
809	Fairlawn Dr E	FRONT	1	10678	catalpa, northern (Catalpa speciosa)	Spring	Replacement Tree
910	Fairlawn Dr E	FRONT	1	2374	Ohio Buckeye (Aesculus glabra)	Spring	Replacement Tree
401	Grove St	SIDE TO	2	4649	Carolina Silverbell (Halesia carolina)	Spring	Replacement Tree

Address	Street	Side	Site	Site ID	Replacement Species	Planting Season	Tree Trail
107	Hartle Ave	FRONT	2	20724	oak, swamp white (Quercus bicolor)	Spring	Replacement Tree
713	Iowa St W	FRONT	1	5429	Blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)	Spring	Replacement Tree
100	Main St W	SIDE TO	2	1487	oak, Columnar English (Quercus rubra 'Columnar')	Spring	Replacement Tree
702	Main St W	FRONT	1	6808	Legacy Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum 'Legacy')	Spring	Replacement Tree
911	Main St W	SIDE TO	2	18877	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1004	Main St W	SIDE TO	4	12590	Hackberry occ. (Celtis occidentalis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
404	Maple St S	FRONT	1	18587	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
114	McHenry St W	FRONT	1	12492	American Hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana)	Spring	Replacement Tree
114	McHenry St W	FRONT	2	10905	American Hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana)	Spring	Replacement Tree
902	Michigan Ave E	FRONT	1	7554	Hackberry occ. (Celtis occidentalis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
803	Michigan Ave W	FRONT	2	18796	Yellow Buckeye (Aesculus flava)	Spring	Replacement Tree
811	Michigan Ave W	FRONT	1	11004	Blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)	Spring	Replacement Tree
411	Mumford Dr E	FRONT	1	11704	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
808	Oregon St W	FRONT	1	8714	Hornbeam, American (Carpinus caroliniana)	Spring	Replacement Tree
400	Parking Lot 22	FRONT	22	9420	oak, Columnar English (Quercus rubra 'Columnar')	Spring	Replacement Tree
806	Pennsylvania Ave W	FRONT	1	3928	Wedding Bells Silverbell (Halesia carolina)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2011	Philo Rd	FRONT	1	10972	Crabapple Coral Spear (Malus 'Coral Spear')	Spring	Replacement Tree
2015	Philo Rd S	FRONT	3	11570	Crabapple Coral Spear (Malus 'Coral Spear')	Spring	Replacement Tree

Address	Street	Side	Site	Site ID	Replacement Species	Planting Season	Tree Trail
2108	Race St S	FRONT	2	19436	oak, swamp chestnut (Quercus michauxii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
503	Shurts St	FRONT	1	17868	oak, chinkapin (Quercus muehlenbergii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
509	Shurts St	FRONT	1	17880	Tuliptree Columnar (Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum')	Spring	Replacement Tree
1302	Silver St	FRONT	2	8277	Tuliptree Columnar (Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum')	Spring	Replacement Tree
1700	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	2	18558	elm, Princeton (Ulmus americana 'Princeton')	Spring	Replacement Tree
2223	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	5	17822	Ohio Buckeye (Aesculus glabra)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2839	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	3	7916	oak, scarlet (Quercus coccinea)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2909	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	1	7895	Sugarberry (Celtis laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2909	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	2	18704	Sugarberry (Celtis laevigata)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2922	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	1	13368	Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum 'Bailsta')	Spring	Replacement Tree
2930	Stone Creek Blvd E	MEDIAN	1	13226	oak, scarlet (Quercus coccinea)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2120	Stone Creek Blvd S	MEDIAN	3	10541	Kentucky coffeetree (Gymnocladus dioicus)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2403	Stone Creek Blvd S	MEDIAN	6	3410	oak, swamp chestnut (Quercus michauxii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2602	Stone Creek Blvd S	MEDIAN	14	10866	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	Spring	Replacement Tree
607	Stoughton St W	FRONT	1	1525	oak, chinkapin (Quercus muehlenbergii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
1808	Summit Dr	FRONT	1	6625	oak, chinkapin (Quercus muehlenbergii)	Spring	Replacement Tree
205	Vermont Ave W	FRONT	1	17535	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Replacement Tree
2209	Vine St S	FRONT	1	10893	Oak, columnar English (Quercus robur 'Fastigiata')	Spring	Replacement Tree
2304	Vine St S	FRONT	1	17949	oak, bur (Quercus macrocarpa)	Spring	Replacement Tree
918	Water St E	FRONT	1	2495	Stellar Pink Dogwood (Cornus x 'Stellar Pink')	Spring	Replacement Tree
806	Wright St N	FRONT	1	13349	Yellow Buckeye (Aesculus flava)	Spring	Replacement Tree

Address	Street	Side	Site	Site ID	Replacement Species	Planting Season	Tree Trail
1714	Bohn Cir S	FRONT	2	20889	Apollo Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum 'Barrett Cole')	Spring	COOP Tree Planting
1708	Hillshire Dr	FRONT	1	20895	dogwood, Cherokee Princess (Cornus florida, Cherokee Princess)	Spring	COOP Tree Planting
1708	Hillshire Dr	FRONT	2	20896	Hornbeam, American (Carpinus caroliniana)	Spring	COOP Tree Planting
305	Race St N	SIDE AWAY	1	20897	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Engineering Planting
305	Race St N	SIDE AWAY	2	20898	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Engineering Planting
305	Race St N	SIDE AWAY	3	20899	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Engineering Planting

2026 Donation Planting Sites

Address	Street	Side	Site	Site ID	Replacement Species	Planting Season	Tree Trail
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	1	20248	elm, Valley Forge American (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')	Spring	Donation New Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	3	20246	elm, Valley Forge American (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')	Spring	Donation New Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	4	20245	oak, northern red (Quercus rubra)	Spring	Donation New Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	5	19626	elm, Valley Forge American (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')	Spring	Donation New Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	6	19625	oak, northern red (Quercus rubra)	Spring	Donation New Tree
1303	Cunningham Ave (Childrens Home)	SIDE TO	7	19624	elm, Valley Forge American (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge')	Spring	Donation New Tree
209	Washington St W	FRONT	1	20823	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Donation Web Request New Tree
2113	Zupke Dr	FRONT	1	13127	Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	Spring	Donation Web Request New Tree

Long answers to Tree City USA 50th + Urbana

1. How long has your community been part of the Tree City USA program and what motivated you to join?

Our community has been part of the Tree City USA program for 49 years. We were motivated to join because the program provides a strong framework for responsible urban forest management and long-term planning. Tree City USA designation demonstrates our community's commitment to caring for our city trees and canopy while recognizing the environmental and economic benefits a healthy urban forest provides. Maintaining this designation also brings a strong sense of accomplishment, reflecting years of sustained effort and stewardship by the city and its residents.

2. What has your tree program been able to accomplish because of Tree City USA recognition or its standards? (Projects launched, funding secured, volunteers mobilized, policy changes, etc.)

Through Tree City USA recognition and adherence to its standards, our tree program has made significant progress in strengthening and expanding urban forestry efforts city-wide. The program has supported the development and implementation of city-wide policies that guide tree preservation, planting, and long-term canopy management. Tree City USA standards have also informed planting projects associated with new development, ensuring trees are integrated into growth in a thoughtful and sustainable way.

Education and community engagement have been enhanced through annual Arbor Day celebrations and tree plantings, which help raise awareness about the importance of trees and environmental stewardship. Residents actively participate in planting programs, tree conservation efforts, and service on the City's Tree Commission board, reinforcing shared responsibility for our urban forest.

In addition, the Legacy Tree Program was established to recognize significant trees throughout the city on both public and private property. Currently, the program includes 10 City right-of-way trees and one notable private tree—a 48.5-inch Bur Oak dating back to approximately 1890—highlighting the community's commitment to preserving its natural and historical heritage.

3. What recent achievements or milestones are you most proud of? (plantings, canopy growth, partnerships, awards, etc.)

Long answers to Tree City USA 50th + Urbana

One of our most significant recent achievements is maintaining an upward 2-to-1 ratio of tree replacements to removals over the past 10 years, reflecting a strong commitment to expanding and sustaining our urban canopy. This milestone demonstrates long-term planning, responsible stewardship, and consistent investment in the health of our community's trees.

We are also especially proud to be celebrating our 50th year as a Tree City USA community, marking an important inaugural milestone that honors decades of dedication to urban forestry, environmental care, and community engagement.

4. How have trees helped your city adapt to current challenges – such as extreme heat, flooding, storm recovery, or air quality?

Trees have played a vital role in helping our city adapt to current environmental challenges, including extreme heat and ecosystem impacts. Ongoing reforestation efforts help restore and strengthen our local ecosystem by increasing carbon capture through replanting more trees than are removed, while continued tree pruning supports healthy, resilient canopies.

In addition, mature, full tree canopies in denser neighborhoods have provided critical relief during periods of extreme heat, helping reduce temperatures and improve comfort for residents during this past summer's conditions.

5. What changes have you seen in community engagement or public perception since becoming a Tree City USA community?

Since becoming a Tree City USA community, we have seen a noticeable increase in community engagement and a positive shift in public perception regarding the value of trees. Residents demonstrate greater respect for large tree canopy cover and a growing understanding of the role public trees play in environmental health, neighborhood character, and overall quality of life.

6. Are there specific neighborhoods, parks, or projects that best illustrate the impact of your forestry work?

Several recent projects strongly illustrate the impact of our forestry work across neighborhoods and public spaces. In 2021, an anonymous \$100,000 donation supported new tree plantings in low-income residential areas, resulting in 211 newly planted trees in previously vacant sites. This investment helped address canopy equity and improve neighborhood environmental conditions.

In addition, a 2020 grant from The Morton Arboretum funded the planting of 64 tree sites impacted by the 2019 tornado, along with 25 additional new planting locations.

Long answers to Tree City USA 50th + Urbana

Together, these projects demonstrate how targeted funding and partnerships have strengthened recovery efforts, expanded canopy coverage, and enhanced community resilience.

7. Looking ahead, what goals or needs are top-of-mind for your urban forestry program?

Looking ahead, our urban forestry program is focused on strengthening staffing, resources, and equipment to better serve the community. We plan to create a separate Arbor Supervisor position to complement the City Arborist, allowing the City Arborist to dedicate more time and resources to division programs, departmental coordination, and responding to resident concerns and requests.

In addition, we are investing in updated forestry equipment, including the addition of a second aerial lift truck. A new aerial lift is scheduled for build in 2026 with a projected arrival in 2027, which will enhance our capacity to maintain healthy trees and manage our growing urban canopy safely and efficiently.

8. Do you have any standout stories – a memorable volunteer, a community moment, or a resident whose life was impacted by trees?

One standout moment for our community came in the aftermath of the 2019 tornado, which resulted in the loss of 64 trees and serious damage to 89 more, requiring extensive repair pruning. Our forestry team, with the support of volunteers, dedicated over 2,600 labor hours to restore the urban canopy, demonstrating the community's resilience and commitment to its trees.

Another memorable story comes from our Resident Cooperative Tree Planting program, which has empowered residents to take an active role in growing our urban forest. Since 2000, the program has led to nearly 150 newly planted tree sites, currently totaling 148, reflecting decades of community participation and the lasting impact that trees have on both neighborhoods and individual residents' lives.

9. As we approach the 50th anniversary of Tree City USA, what does this milestone mean to you – and to the community you work with?

Reaching the 50th anniversary of Tree City USA is a significant milestone for both our city and the community we serve. It reflects Urbana's City Council's unwavering commitment to the urban forest program over the past 49 years, demonstrating

Long answers to Tree City USA 50th + Urbana

sustained support for tree preservation, planting, and stewardship. This milestone is a celebration of decades of dedication by city staff, residents, and volunteers who have worked together to maintain and enhance our urban canopy for the benefit of current and future generations.

10. Anything else you'd like to share as we prepare to celebrate 50 years of Tree City USA?

As we prepare to celebrate 50 years of Tree City USA, it's important to recognize that trees in Urbana are more than just part of our city's plant life—they have become an integral part of Urbana's identity. Our urban forest shapes the character of our neighborhoods, provides gathering spaces for residents, and reflects our community's values of stewardship, sustainability, and care for the environment. From historic Bur Oaks to new plantings in every corner of the city, trees serve as living symbols of resilience, growth, and connection, linking past, present, and future generations. They are not just scenery—they are a defining feature of who we are as a community.