



# City of Berkley

TREE BOARD STATUS REPORT

Kathy Karlis, Chair | 2/4/2024



## 2023

### ❖ CITY TREE PROGRAM

- ❑ 20 new trees planted in the Spring and an additional 249 new trees were planted in the Fall
- ❑ 145 trees were removed, 869 trees trimmed in the last calendar year
- ❑ 20 different species were planted this year
- ❑ Applied for grants from DTE and to the DNR for Oxford Parks – we did not receive these grants this year but are hopeful for 2024 ( in the scoring system used by DNR points are added for applications where no grant money was received the prior year so in effect receiving the DTE grant in 2002 counted against us this year)

### ❖ TREE CITY USA

- ❑ City of Berkley received approval in 2023 from Arbor Day Foundation to be designated as a Tree City USA (33 Years)
- ❑ Also applied in December for the Growth Award which is presented to participating communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year
- ❑ Arbor Day Celebration occurred April 29th. Two trees were planted in the center boulevard of Cass, near 11 Mile Rd.

### ❖ CITY TREE ORDINANCE

- ❑ Dennis H. worked with Lawrence Sobson, DNR urban forester and partnership coordinator, to ensure that the City of Berkley ordinance meets Arbor Day requirements and to incorporate DNR recommendations – to be finalized in 2024

### ❖ INFORMATION SHARING REGARDING PESTS, TREE DISEASE, OR INVASIVE TREE SPECIES / CITY TREE ORDINANCE

- ❑ Mike L. first provided an update on the Spotted Lanternfly in January – this pest has been detected in Oakland County.

- ❑ Robert Miller from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provided another update in October. The Spotted lanternfly can feed on many plants or trees but prefer tree of heaven and grape vines. They travel primarily by laying egg masses on vehicles, outdoor equipment and firewood. As they eat, they release a sticky, sugary substance called honeydew that increases the growth of mold and attracts other pests. Although it will not directly kill most trees, it is a tree stressor
- ❑ Tree of Heaven were spotted in Oxford Park. DPW has plans to remove in 2024 and will most likely bring an arborist to address the tree(s) before removing .

#### ❖ COMMUNICATION

- ❑ Utilized Facebook to share news throughout the year
- ❑ Also used the City communication channels
- ❑ Provided residents information on how to care for new street trees via email and it seemed to work well this past year - other than when Marine City Nursery shifted planting time and delayed the planting in some city sections
- ❑ Developed Tri-fold brochure to communicate Tree Board Goals to residents
- ❑ The City paid for 500 tri-folds to be printed. A few were given out at Berkley Days. The rest were given to the Chamber to add to the welcome package of materials that are given to new residents

#### ❖ TREE INVENTORY

- ❑ DPW is continuing process to create a GIS compatible Street Tree Inventory ( 463 more trees documented in GIS in 2023 – now 1047 total). Should be able to document quite a few more in 2024 once HRC pushes out their update

#### ❖ HOLIDAY PARADE

- ❑ Holiday Parade – participation was better this year (Bob L., Mike L., Lisa F. and her husband Michael, & Kathy K.). Candy was passed out and the lighted tree wagon float was included

#### ❖ EVALUATE PERMEABLE PAVEMENT TEST

- ❑ In 2022, DPW initiated a permeable pavement test to evaluate if this would be worthwhile to support trees along Coolidge and 12 Mile Road
- ❑ This has worked well so far but it is a little pricey. Overall, it looks like it would be a good alternative to tree grates / mulch when we replant trees along Coolidge and 12 Mile Road

#### ❖ RESIDENTIAL TREE GIVEAWAY

- ❑ Tricia L did some research on programs in other cities and potential places where the board could obtain the trees
- ❑ A subcommittee was formed to discuss how to implement
- ❑ The Arbor Day Foundation “Community Canopy” program was discussed – it would allow residents to sign up for a tree from a list of available trees, the would be delivered directly to the resident, and would be first come first serve until all available trees are allocated
- ❑ A minimum order of 100 trees is required for this program – and the issue to fund these trees has not been resolved
- ❑ Lisa F. spoke with Fai Foen from the Greening of Detroit and this may be another viable source for tree for this program
- ❑ With input from the Tree Board, the Beautification Department created new door hanger tree flyers to inform residents how to care for newly planted trees. Tree care instructions were also updated to provide more detailed instructions (both were made available for the 2022 Fall Tree planting)

#### ❖ EVALUATE GATEWAYS / COMMON AREA TREES FOR COVERAGE AND CONSISTENCY

- ❑ S.Bard evaluate tree coverage at four boulevard entrances to the City and compared to the Cass Boulevard between Harvard and Cambridge which he used as a benchmark. He reported that there were approximately 1.5 trees per home in those areas and were comparable to Cass Boulevard
- ❑ For consistency, Steve advocated with the City to document criterion to be used in deploying the City’s tree resources so areas of higher usage,

entrances and other common areas) receive higher priority than areas with lower usage. This is still ongoing

#### ❖ MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

##### BERKLEY DAYS

- ❑ All members of the Tree Board supported Berkley Days, providing materials, manning the booth, and helping to set up or tear down
- ❑ We had many good interactions with residents regarding the Urban Tree Canopy and Tree Board goals
- ❑ Trees were raffled, but only \$173 collected. 3 trees were donated by Kathy K and Lisa F. was able to get another 11 younger trees at no cost from Greening of Detroit
- ❑ M. Leneway initiated a Big Tree Contest
- ❑ Although understood to be necessary, all were all were disappointed to see the event shut down early on Saturday and all day Sunday due to the disturbances on Saturday night

##### “SLOW ROLL” BIKE TOURS

- ❑ Using the old tree inventory and Google Maps -Street View, Kathy K. developed three street tree tours encompassing all the neighborhoods to explore the diversity of tree species found in Berkley
- ❑ Lisa F., Mike L. and Tricia L verified that these trees were still present or not. Kathy K. made necessary corrections to finalize these maps
- ❑ Steve B. and Kathy K. led the initial tours. The “Slow Roll” bike group plans to use these maps and revisit these trees throughout the year
- ❑ The tours were also made available to all Berkley residents on the City’s Tree Board website

##### LIBRARY PROGRAM

- ☐ Kathy K. arranged for Lawrence Sobson to provide a program to residents called “Where the Sidewalk Ends: Choosing Resilient Trees for Tomorrow’s Urban Environment” . This program is scheduled for February 6,2024 in the evening at the Berkley Public Library

#### ❖ VOLUNTEER HOURS

- ☐ Kathy K. started a spreadsheet to track volunteer hours that might be used to support dollar matching requirements for grant applications. Documented a total of 340 hours @ \$30.15 per hour - \$10,250

#### ❖ CLIMATE CHANGE

- ☐ Reviewed information on the impact of climate change when selecting city street trees
- ☐ Board reviewed resources provided by Tricia L. Larry Sobson discussed the 10/20/30 rule, i.e. having no more than 10% of one species, 20% of one genus and 30% of one family in the canopy

#### ❖ RECOMMENDATION TO DDA FOR STREET TREES

- ☐ The Tree Board provided recommendations to guide the DDA for selecting and caring for street trees in the Downtown District. The DDA welcomed the input and were supportive
- ☐ Shawn met with DDA Director Mike McGuinness and the DDA agreed to work closely with the DPW regarding care of existing trees / planting and selecting new trees in the District
- ☐ DDA is also open to possibly covering some cost for tree planting and maintenance in the District

## 2024 Ongoing Projects:

- ❖ CITY TREE PROGRAM
- ❖ TREE CITY USA
- ❖ INFORMATION SHARING REGARDING PESTS, TREE DISEASE, OR INVASIVE TREE SPECIES
- ❖ CITY TREE ORDINANCE (PROPOSED CHANGES, CONCERNS)
- ❖ COMMUNICATION

## 2024 Other Projects:

- ❖ RESIDENTIAL TREE GIVE AWAY PROGRAM
- ❖ HISTORICAL MUSEUM “ARBOR DAY” DISPLAY
- ❖ PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY EVENTS (TBD)  
AND HOST PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM (FEBRUARY)