

Butler City Shade Tree Commission – An Overview of our Mission

The Shade Tree Commission consists of seven appointed board members. There is also a council liaison, and a volunteer arborist as available. The Shade Tree Commission is committed to the beautification of the City through the installation and maintenance of appropriate shade trees in public areas. The Commission also seeks to educate the public on the value and proper care of trees, support the government and residents of Butler in their efforts to be good stewards of their tree resources, and protect the loss of this resource. The Shade Tree Commission also seeks to provide informed recommendations to City Council concerning tree planting, maintenance and removal of trees deemed “public” trees within the city’s right of ways and public areas.

Background:

The **Economic** impact of a vibrant and healthy shade tree inventory has been shown to increase property values, increase marketability for potential investors and enhance the appeal to the consumer as a livable community.

The **Environmental** impact of a vibrant and healthy shade tree inventory has been shown to reduce carbon monoxide levels and other harmful car emissions, decrease ambient noise, reduce temperatures caused by urban heat islands of concrete, brick and mortar as well as help contain storm water runoff and filter unhealthy particles thereby improving water quality by strong root systems.

The **Social** impact of a vibrant and healthy shade tree inventory has been shown to increase the quality of life by reducing stress levels, promote higher levels of community and social cohesion and build the perception of commitment to community.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Shade Tree Commission has identified three areas as priorities to achieve a “vibrant and healthy” shade tree inventory: Education, Support, and Protection.

Educate:

The Shade Tree Commission will seek to promote their work by way of traditional and social media. They will reach out to the residents of Butler City as well as interested groups, corporations, social and civil organizations, and school groups to raise public awareness and seek areas of support and cooperation. We will strive to provide merited and timely information to all interested parties who endeavor to assist us in the development of a healthy tree inventory for the benefit of all those who live and work in Butler City.

Support:

The Shade Tree Commission will seek to support the residents of Butler City, City Council and City Departments by providing alternatives or recommendations in any situation where tree planting, maintenance and removal is indicated within Public Areas. This will include, but not be limited to,

collaborating with residents, business owners, developers, contractors, and government entities to develop strategies which will have the least impact possible to the existing tree inventory.

Protect:

The Shade Tree Commission will seek to assist the Council and Citizens of Butler to maintain and further develop the vibrant and healthy shade inventory by making recommendations for desirable policies and legislation concerning the tree program and development within the City. This will include, but not be limited to, actions and/or acts of nature which can threaten the health and viability of the trees.

The Shade Tree Commission will seek to further define the scope of each of these priorities and establish an implementation plan for each.