

2021 Annual Shade Tree Report on Commission Goals

1. To keep our inventory updated

City tree inventory is updated and uploaded to the Pennsylvania Tree Map website. Adjustments are made as the Commission becomes aware of new plantings and removals. This is a requirement of the shade tree ordinance.

2. To alert the code office to any trees that present a public safety hazard

Code Enforcement and Shade Tree continue to work cooperatively on trees listed as: poor/dead and need to be removed. As Code Enforcement cites property owners with violations, Shade Tree is made aware and are able to answer procedural questions for the property owners.

3. To continue to inform city residents of the permit process and the benefit of using it

The Commission continue to post this on our Facebook page and Instagram. Much of the information available to them throughout the permit process will increase their chance of success as well as saving money.

4. To stay involved with the Main Street Streetscape project and make recommendations for tree plantings done in such a way that the trees will have the best chance at being a healthy addition to the urban canopy

Shade Tree members and its arborist have established new relationships with several local nurseries as well as the foresters at First Energy in the interests of planting the right trees in the best locations. This involves not only tree selection, but planting well sizes, preparation, and permeable top surfaces that are compliant with the grant specifications. We continue to research the best materials and tree availability and provide supportive research to the city engineer and PennDOT.

5. To continue with our Walks and Talks and other educational opportunities

In 2021 the Shade Tree Commission conducted monthly educational talks and on-site observations at Ritts Park, (the new conservancy plantings) Memorial Park, (tree selection and planting methods) and Father Marinaro Park (tree maintenance and pruning)

6. To continue to educate ourselves.

The Shade Tree Commission keeps a list of pdfs from Penn State Ext. as well as other reputable resources and are constantly adding to our material library so that we may email information to any resident with specific questions.

7. To set up a program whereby we begin to add new shade trees within the city *in addition* to those on the Main Street corridor.

The Commission's "Adopt a Tree" program kicked off this year along with our "Storm damage Replacement Assistance program. We aided residents this year with the selection, planting, and aftercare of 7 trees and have four more residents signed up to apply for next year's planting season.

8. To increase the Commission's social media presence with a goal of reaching new and younger residents who are not yet aware of the Shade Tree Commission and its mission to educate and offer advice and assistance.

We supply information on various subjects on our Facebook page and on Instagram. These range from invasive insects and invasive species, tree blights, and basic tree care. The Butler Eagle also did a story on our Adopt a Tree program.

9. Communicate with residents via our public shade tree email and google voice

The Commission uses butlercacityshadetree@gmail.com and phone number **724-209-8899** to field inquiries from the community. These have proven to be valuable tools for the residents to leave messages for us at any time and allows us to get back to them promptly.

10. First Energy Partnership

First Energy communicates with the chair and the arborist concerning tree work – maintenance and removals. They have assisted the Commission with clearing storm damaged trees when possible. The Commission continue to increase our relationship with other tree services also.

11. Pruning and light maintenance

The Commission has addressed several of the trees that were not going to be reworked in the Main Street Streetscape plan.

It is our plan for next year to continue with our mission of educating and assisting the residents of Butler on the care of their street trees. We also intend to work with the Main Street property owners and businesses to provide the proper care of the new trees that are planted as part of the Streetscape Project.

Submitted by 2021 members:

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