



Introduction

The City of Westerville has made a commitment to improving and growing the urban forest canopy. There are over 1200 crabapple trees lining streets throughout the City. Many of these trees become infected with applescab annually and become defoliated 80% or more before the end of Summer. This creates an unsightly appearance of the trees which detracts from the value of the tree.

Chemical treatments are available, however, the application must be timed properly and requires multiple applications per year during any periods of moisture or high humidity to reduce the leaf disease. Performing this on such a high number of trees would be costly and very difficult.

The Parks and Recreation Department with the support of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has developed an approach with the Crabapple Management Plan.

Purpose

Implementing this management plan will help mitigate the unsightly appearance of our urban forest caused by the applescab disease defoliating crabapples lining our City streets. Taking a proactive approach with this plan will decrease resident dissatisfaction with the appearance of street trees in their neighborhoods.

Scope

This plan covers all crabapples that are currently growing within street right of ways throughout the City of Westerville. The crabapple must meet one of the following criteria: 1. The tree must exhibit significant applescab symptoms. 2. The crabapple must be in a location that will accommodate a larger species of tree. The Department's Urban Forestry Section will be responsible for the implementation of this plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

Action Statement

The urban forestry section will take requests for proactive removal of crabapples from residents. Requests may not be called in by one owner for an entire street but must come from individual homeowners. Crews will remove up to 100 crabapples annually as part of this plan to make sure resources are available for replacements. Replacement trees are required as part of this management plan if the City determines there is adequate spacing for a replacement tree. This plan is expected to continue until a majority of crabapples highly susceptible to applescab are removed. The tree inventory will be used to keep a dated record of each removal request.

- **Step one:** Receive requests and update the tree inventory accordingly.
- **Step two:** Remove up to 100 trees requested annually, which meet the criteria, on a first come first serve basis.
- **Step three:** Schedule stump removal and tree replacement.

Replacement Trees

All removed crabapple trees will be replaced, given there is adequate space, with the approved species, as listed in the Street Tree Master Plan. This will enhance the neighborhood, ensure the diversity and maintain or improve the general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with the Westerville Tree Planting Specifications. Plantings will be budgeted and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Urban Forest Manager. No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the **'10-20-30' tree species diversity rule**—no more than 10% of any kind of tree, 20% of any genera of tree, or 30% of any one family of tree.

Continuing Plan Evaluation

CITY OF WESTERVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE
CRABAPPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2018

The Crabapple Management Plan, with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, will be evaluated as needed for any necessary revisions.