Agenda

i. Call to Order
ii. Roll Call
iii. Chair's Welcome / Remarks – Samira Malone
iv. Approval of Minutes – Sarah O'Keeffe
v. Unfinished Business
   i. Draft Rules and Regulations Discussion & Approval
   ii. Comments and Edits received
   iii. Approval

vi. New Business
   i. Urban Forestry Department - Urban Forestry 101 – Jennifer Kipp
   ii. Tree Commission Academy Report Out – Dan Leamon

vii. Announcements
   i. Arbor Day
   ii. Tree City USA
   iii. Decarbonization Summit
   iv. Youth Appointee

viii. Public Comment
ix. Closing Remarks – Samira Malone
x. Adjourn
Urban Forestry 101
Operations and Management of Cleveland’s Urban Forest

CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb
Agenda

01 Organizational Structure
02 Meet the Team
03 Our Services
04 Trees We Manage
05 Who Does the Work
Our Mission

Promote trees as critical green infrastructure essential for the wellbeing of our citizens and planet.

Protect existing trees and establish young trees to ensure their future contribution to positive health outcomes in our city.

Reduce risk in the urban forest through pruning and removal operations.
Organizational Structure

- Mayor
- Chief of Operations
- Director of Public Works
- Commissioner of Park Maintenance and Properties
- Urban Forestry Manager
The Urban Forestry Team

- Urban Forestry Manager
  - Assistant
  - Westside Field Operations Foresters
    - Arborist II
    - Arborist I
  - Eastside Field Operations Foresters
    - Arborist II
    - Arborist I
Our Services

• Primarily Reactive
• Remove trees
• Prune trees
• Grind stumps
• Grind roots for sidewalks
• Plant & establish new trees
• Tree and site assessments
• 24/7 Emergency response
The Trees We Manage

• 90,000 street trees
• Vacant property trees (city-owned)
• Parks, cemeteries
• Recreation centers, City Hall, police & fire stations, etc.

In short…
• If the tree is on city property, we are responsible for the maintenance
• We also identify & mitigate risk to the right-of-way (ORC 723.01)
Who Does the Tree Work

• Field Operations Foresters
  • Rotate on call 24/7/365
  • **First responders**
    • Clear rights-of-way when able
    • Assess trees and potential planting sites

• In-house crews
  • 17 tree workers
  • Supervised by Field Ops Foresters

• Contractors
  • VanCuren Services
  • Zscape LLC
  • All permit holders
In-House Tree Work

- 5-6 crews of arborists deployed daily
- Prune 2,400 trees per year
  - Road, sidewalk, house clearance
  - Dead, hanging limbs >= 4” diameter
  - Oak season Nov-March
  - Young Tree Training
- Remove 1,200 trees per year
  - Dead, dying or structurally compromised
- Storm response and clean-up
Contractor Tree Work

- Volume of work varies annually
- Pruning – esp. around wires
- Removals that need a crane or special equipment
- Stump grinding
- Tree planting
- Dept. of Aging CTAPS Program
- Dept. of Community Development land bank tree emergencies
We Also…

- Prioritize safety
- Manage tree programs for other Departments
- Review/comment on construction plans & TPPs
- TRAQ assessments
- Site visits to assess potential tree damage ahead of/during construction
- Issue tree permits

- Run project team for 50/50 sidewalk program
- Write specifications; manage contracts
- Address resident, Council concerns
- Advocate daily for the preservation of trees
- Educate, collaborate, connect, partner!
Summary

• 1 Urban Forestry Manager
  • Coordinates planning & logistics
  • Optimizes operational efficiency
  • Establishes productivity metrics
  • Process development & implementation
  • Subject matter expert

• 4 Field Operations Foresters
  • Identify & prioritize work for crews
  • Supervise crews
  • Tree assessments (12k in 2022)

• 17 Union Arborists
  • Tree work 12 months/year
  • Integral part of team success!

• Contractors
  • Critical supplemental assistance
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