

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AVON LAKE TREE COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Avon Lake Tree Commission Strategic Plan (Plan) was recommended by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and initiated by the Avon Lake Tree Commission to formulate sustainable management of the urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to promote the health and safety of all trees in the urban forest on public land; achieve a fully stocked, healthy, and resilient urban forest; and educate the residents of the importance of maintaining and improving the urban forest; and

WHEREAS, Avon Lake Tree Commission developed and reviewed the Plan and confirmed that the Plan is in alignment with the City's visions and the direction the City is pursuing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF AVON LAKE, STATE OF OHIO:

Section No. 1: That the Avon Lake Tree Commission Strategic Plan is hereby adopted, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Section No. 2: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees, which resulted in such formal actions, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section No. 3: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

1st reading: 3/24/2025

2nd reading: 4/14/2025

3rd reading:

PASSED: 4/28/2025

/s/ Jennifer G. Fenderbosch
Council President

POSTED: 5/2/2025

APPROVED: 4/29/2025

ATTEST: */s/ Valerie E. Rosmarin*
Clerk of Council

/s/ Mark A. Spetzel
Mayor

City of Avon Lake Tree Commission Strategic Plan

Adopted: _____

Vision

Avon Lake is a model forest city community with healthy, safe and appropriate community trees.

Mission Statement

Foster a community that is committed to the sustainable management of the urban forest.

Goals

1. Promote the health and safety of all trees in the urban forest on public lands.
2. Achieve a fully stocked, healthy, and resilient urban forest.
3. Educate Avon Lake's citizens on the importance of maintaining and improving the urban forest.

Objectives

1. Promote the health and safety of the existing urban tree population.
2. Support the management of all municipal trees.
3. Work with city staff to ensure annual Tree City USA recognition and Growth Award attainment.
4. Educate the community's residents, elected officials, employees and volunteers about the value and need for a sustainable urban forest.
5. Advise the City of Avon Lake and its residents regarding arboricultural and urban forestry best management practices.
6. Provide recommendations for tree planting on public lands and in new developments.

Annual Review

The Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives shall be read and reviewed at the first Tree Commission meeting of each year. Changes or amendments shall be documented and reported to the Avon Lake City Council and Mayor for adoption.

Actions

- Action 1:** The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Director of Public Works to support the Urban Forester to ensure high quality tree management and tree planting programs in Avon Lake by adopting ordinances, contract and bidding procedures, and other tree management procedures as defined by the Ohio Division of Forestry, American Public Works Association (APWA), International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- Action 2:** The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Urban Forester to update preferred tree species lists for public land considering planting sites, diversity, invasiveness, and adaptiveness to a changing climate.
- Action 3:** The Tree Commission shall disseminate news and information regarding the selection, planting, and maintenance of trees within Avon Lake.
- Action 4:** The Tree Commission shall operate a well-managed Tree Commission.
- Action 5:** The Tree Commission shall plan, publicize, and participate in public outreach educational events such as Arbor Day.
- Action 6:** The Tree Commission shall investigate topics regarding public trees brought to the Tree Commission's attention.
- Action 7:** The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Director of Public Works to assist the Urban Forester, city administration and other stakeholders with the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan.

Implementation

- Action 1:** The Tree Commission shall provide support to the Urban Forester to ensure high quality tree management and tree planting programs in Avon Lake by updating ordinances, policies, contract and bidding procedures, municipal tree data, and other tree management procedures based on tree inventories.
- A. Review Avon Lake tree ordinances annually.
- Action 2:** The Public Works Director shall collaborate with the Urban Forester to update lists of trees for planting on public land considering planting sites, diversity, invasiveness, and adaptiveness to a changing climate.
- A. Assist in the updates of the Street Tree Master Planting Design.
 - B. Develop, maintain, and update the recommended tree lists for parks and other public properties.
 - C. Develop, maintain, and update a list of undesirable trees.
- Action 3:** The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Public Works Director and the Urban Forester to disseminate news and information regarding the selection, planting, and maintenance of trees within Avon Lake.

- A. Publish tree-related news and information on the Avon Lake website (www.avonlake.org).
- B. Utilize print and news media to publicize events and important notices.
- C. Provide tree-related information at publicly accessible sites. (See Action 5)

Action 4: The Tree Commission shall operate a well-managed tree commission.

- A. Ensure that Tree Commissioners are well educated regarding the management and benefits of urban forests.
- B. Hold regular and special meetings at which the subject of trees insofar as it relates to the city is discussed by the Tree Commissioners.
- C. Support the Municipal Tree Ordinance (Chapter 1018) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Avon Lake, Ohio
- D. Collaborate with the Urban Forester and staff on annual Tree City USA recognition and Tree City Growth Award applications.
- E. Develop and maintain a Tree Commissioner Notebook containing job descriptions for tree commissioners and officers, contact information, and other materials as needed.

Action 5: The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Public Works Director and the Urban Forester to plan, publicize, and participate in tree related public outreach educational events.

- A. Host Annual Arbor Day and fall planting events.
- B. Develop an award to recognize city residents or businesses who contribute significantly to the improvement of Avon Lake's urban forest.
- C. Develop workshops and seminars including collaborations with the Avon Lake Environmental Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB) and Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club.

Action 6: The Tree Commission shall investigate topics regarding public trees brought to the attention of the Tree Commission.

Action 7: The Tree Commission shall collaborate with the Public Works Director to assist the Urban Forester, city administration and other stakeholders with development of an Urban Forest Management Plan to provide a shared vision for Avon Lake's tree canopy to guide future annual work plans and budgets.