



Amanda Ortiz Byrnes, a member of Regional Urban Foresters from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Terry Robison, and Michael Thain

Regional Urban Foresters from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry spent a day training members of Avon Lake's Tree Commission on how to develop a Master Tree Planting Design. The team evaluated existing tree's characteristics and potential planting sites in a sample of tree lawns to eventually develop a plan for tree planting and replacement. Among the characteristics considered are the quality of the planting site, the available space above and below ground, and insect and disease resistance. It is also important to consider tree species diversity to avoid losing large numbers of trees to a new outbreak such as occurred in the past with Dutch elm disease and Emerald Ash Borer. This exercise is part of the Tree Commission Academy training program given by the Division of Forestry. The goal is to allow Tree Commissioners from cities and towns around the state to become more aware of what it takes to properly manage the public urban forest in their communities. This in turn allows the Tree Commissioners, who are volunteers, to give better advice to their city administrators and tree maintenance staff to develop more comprehensive management plans for tree establishment and maintenance. Properly planned and managed urban forests result in longer lived trees needing less overall management because they were correctly planted and cared for early in their lives. Like roads and utilities, our city's trees are part of the city's infrastructure, and properly cared for, they are the only one that increases in value over time providing numerous benefits to our residents.