

## **2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

**Mission:** To support the mission and goals of the Service Department by maintaining safe rights-of-way over roads and sidewalks and providing other services to residents. We strive to continually improve the esthetic qualities of the City by planting and maintaining trees, shrubs, turf and flowers. We also work closely with the Building Department in project planning and to implement provisions of the Master Tree Plan.

**Staff:** Charles Owen, Jim Kasmarcak, Don Maund and four seasonal employees. Service Department staff provides help as needed. We support Service projects as needed.

**Tree Work:** Planted 168 trees, pruned 885 trees and removed 190 trees. Newly planted trees are mulched, watered, fertilized, and pruned in their first year. Established street trees are trimmed on a five year rotation. About 1500 tubes installed in fall and removed in spring to protect against deer rubbing. Maintain street tree inventory. Chip all Christmas trees for first time. Also initiated a community-wide brush pick-up program in April. All wood chips used to mulch landscaped areas.

**Emerald Ash Borer Program:** Bug is now well-established. Continue implementation of existing plans to reduce the impact of this invasive pest. Continue pre-emptive removals along undeveloped rights-of-way. Continue to monitor and scout throughout city. Treat 641 trees with soil injector. Consult on treatment options with many residents. Write Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant request to fund 126 additional removals and replacements.

**Horticulture Maintenance:** Plant and maintain 101 containers and 45 annual beds containing almost 15,000 annual and tropical plants. Maintain 157 other beds (total of about 2.2 acres) of trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. Monitor for insect and disease damage – treat as necessary. Maintain accurate records of all plantings.

**Lawn Care:** Supervise contractor providing fertilization and weed control on about 30 acres of City-owned property, including athletic fields.

**Respond to Residents' Needs:** 63 meetings, 259 other phone calls. Take care of major incidents of storm damage in May, June, July, Sept. and Nov. Planting projects include: five spruce for Salvatore on Edgerton Rd., 11 pine and spruce for two residents on Riverview, two maples for Dr. Shah on Timber Tr., and 21 large shrubs and five trees for Nemetz on Fitzwater. Extensive consultation and provide written plan for Gallo on Whitacre Cir. Assist in placing memorial stone at the Community Pond with Mrs. Klein.

**Landscape Improvement Projects:** Planted 30 evergreens and 45 shrubs leftover from downtown container renovation into two beds at Blossom and two areas at Highland Cemetery. Designed, prepped and planted at two new landscape beds: 31 shrubs and two trees at the Edgerton Road stormbasin (about 850 square feet), and 37 shrubs, seven trees and ten perennials at the corner of Oakes & Barr Rds. (about 700 square feet). Moved four flowering trees from median island at Katherine Blvd. to Blossom. Spray cat-tails in Community Pond. Re-plant around renovated war memorial on the Square. Plant 20 variegated yuccas on hill at Human Services to replace deer-ravaged shrubs.

**Building Department and Engineering Projects:** Develop and write 4 Tree Savings Plans for residential construction projects. Review proposal and inspect site for development of extension of Rivercrest Dr. Commercial projects include former Pilgrim Inn site; proposed re-development for True North headquarters and gas station, both on Brecksville Rd.; Cleveland Clinic building and CEI substation on Katherine Blvd.; Cascade Creek (in Independence) recommendations; and drainage improvement recommendations for St. Basil's. Review landscape and site plans for AT&T expansion box on Arlington. Make plant recommendations for pump station on Snowville Rd. and for Riverview sanitary project.

**Tree City USA:** Achieved recognition for sixteenth year and applied for recertification for next year. All staff attended awards meeting in Hudson.

**Work with Contractors and Vendors:** Direct tree contractors for removals. Blow mulch into landscape beds before Memorial Day parade. Collaborate with professional designers for color displays in annual beds. Visit tree nurseries to select specimen plants and visit greenhouses to maintain quality control of annual plants. Supervise turf care operations.

**Other Community Involvement:** Participated in Memorial Day and Home Days events. Develop and distribute list of annual plants in city beds. Maintain department web site. Help decorate for holidays by providing cut greens. Continue participation in hybrid tulip tree evaluation program with Holden Arboretum. Continue active participation in Beautification Committee, including a field trip to Draime Estate Gardens in Warren. Provide study material and help Montessori students prepare for the Elementary Science Olympiad. Donate used pots to Vo-Ed school and host a student work day. Consult with Destination Hudson Committee and Nordonia Beautification Committee about establishing horticulture programs. Host the Richfield Garden Club for a tour of our gardens. Meet with Civil War re-enactment group as part of Bicentennial preparation.

**Staff Continuing Education:** Charles to Urban Forestry Conference at Lakeland College. All staff attended NEORSD Housekeeping and Safety seminars. Charles continued to maintain arborist and municipal specialist licenses. Jim and Charles maintain pesticide applicator's licenses, Don newly licensed this year. Other seminars include Emerald Ash Borer workshop, Ohio Tree Care Conference, chainsaw maintenance, Why Trees Matter and mosquito control.

**Involvement in Professional Organization:** Charles's final year as Ohio Chapter liaison with the International Society of Arboriculture's TREE Fund (Tree Research, Education and Endowment Fund) to help raise funds for tree research. He also wrote six articles for Ohio Chapter ISA newsletter and attended three board meetings.