



# **TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**Adopted February 20, 2025**

**Anderson Township Board of Trustees**

Lexi Lausten

Joshua S. Gerth

R. Dee Stone

**Fiscal Officer**

Brian M. Johnson

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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### **TREE COMMITTEE**

Bruce Berno  
John Halpin  
Carol King  
Timothy Kloppenborg  
Jim Rombke  
Ron Trenkamp  
Rick Voss  
Joe Willging  
Chris Pfetzer  
Jon Butcher  
Scott Beuerlein

### **TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Paul Drury, AICP (P&Z Director)  
Sarah Donovan, AICP (P&Z Assistant Director)  
Eli Davies (Planner I)  
Stephen Springsteen (Planner I)  
Suzanne Clingman (Greenspace Inspector)  
Logan Vaughn (Co-Op)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Vicky Earhart (Township Administrator)  
Steve Sievers (Assistant Township Administrator for Operations)  
Suzanne Parker (Assistant Township Administrator for Human Resources)



## PREFACE

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The Anderson Township Tree Committee promotes and manages healthy, safe, and effective trees along streets and on public grounds to enhance the quality of life in the Township.

A vibrant tree planting program complements the Township's Greenspace efforts, enhances the environment by promoting clean air and water, increases property values, reduces erosion and stormwater runoff, provides wildlife habitat, moderates temperature, lessens energy demands, and beautifies the community.

The Committee considers, investigates, makes findings, and reports and recommends upon any special matter or question regarding the Township's tree planting programs.

## OVERVIEW

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The Tree Management Plan is a proactive approach to tree care for the protection and longevity of township trees. The plan helps protect and leverage the township's investment by advocating tree care and installation best practices to enhance the inherent aesthetic and environmental benefits trees provide. The recommendations herein align with contemporary arboriculture techniques and act as a model for the community to perpetuate a culture of responsible tree stewards.

The Anderson Township Tree Committee and Tree Management Plan shall endeavor to enable Anderson Township to qualify as a "Tree City USA" by complying with standards created by the Arbor Day Foundation.

## ANDERSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMITTEE

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*To meet and maintain the standards of a "Tree City USA" as defined by the Arbor Day Foundation, Anderson Township must have a Tree Committee. The expertise of the Tree Committee will guide tree selection to minimize maintenance. Planning and planting the right tree in the right place reduces the need for excessive pruning and maintenance. The Committee will also periodically review the Tree Inventory and interpret, prioritize, and record tree assessment data for the allocation of resources. The committee will also seek opportunities to educate the township residents. The Tree Committee will present an Annual Report to the Board of Trustees.*



## **EDUCATION**

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The Tree Management Plan includes educating the community through action and in coordination with enacted township tree programs. Tree giveaways and community plantings include educational brochures and mailers. Educational programs are provided to Township residents via brochures, mailings and publications in “Anderson Insights” newsletter and on social media. Education is key to building a strong and resilient urban forestry program.

## **REGIONAL CONTEXT**

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The Tree Management Plan recognizes the importance of our local environment to provide recommendations based on our unique climate and geologic conditions. The deciduous and coniferous trees of the Cincinnati region experience rainy springs, hot humid summers, and cold winters. The alkaline soils are predominantly clay and fragmented limestone.

## **PRIORITY ZONES**

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Anderson Township maintains thousands of trees on public grounds and in township right-of-way (ROW). The Tree Management Plan will give resource priority to trees in the highly visible zones that shape the greater perception of the Township. Township trees outside the priority zones will be on a rotation guided by the tree inventory. All trees in the township should be assessed every 5 years. Highly visible zones include the Five Mile corridor, Five Mile / I-275 Interchange, Kellogg / 52 / I-275 Interchanges, Downtown Anderson, Towne Center Way, and the Clough Business District which should be monitored more frequently. **See Appendix A - Priority Zones Map**

## **PLANTING IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY**

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**See Appendix B - Trustee Resolution No. 25-0220-05**

## **WATERING NEW TREE PLANTINGS**

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The Tree Management Plan recommends allocating resources for watering newly planted Township trees. New tree plantings require consistent care to become established. Trees will be watered weekly using slow-release watering bags to saturate the soil around the root ball during dry conditions. Watering will be phased out after the second year. All new public trees will be added to the tree inventory and adhere to the young tree pruning regiment.



## **STANDARDS**

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The Tree Management Plan follows recommended tree care procedures of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards. All contracted work will abide by these standards.

The Tree Management Plan outlines a three-branched approach to tree care with an overarching goal of utilizing education to ensure success.

### **Categories of Tree Management include:**

- Spring Cleanup
- Routine Assessment
- Structural Pruning

## **1. SPRING CLEANUP**

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The Tree Management Plan includes this 'baseline' spring cleanup for all township trees. In the late winter and early spring, as trees awake from dormancy, tree beds will be cleaned of weeds and tree beds mulched. This most basic step builds soil structure, prevents disease, and helps retain soil moisture in the hot summer months.

## **2. ROUTINE ASSESSMENT**

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The Tree Management Plan uses frequent observations and tree health assessments to minimize risk. Identifying problems as they arise is often the difference between tree survival or replacement. Tree professionals will observe township trees routinely throughout the year. Suspect tree health will be recorded and corrective action taken as necessary.

### **\*Noted Observations on Township Planted Trees:**

Confirm tree stake removal, confirm proper tree supports provided, ensure proper mulching, trunk flare exposed and protected, no girdling roots, appropriately sized deer guards secured, no pests, diseases, or water stress present. Identify dead branches or other tree hazards.



### **3. PRUNING**

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The Tree Management Plan prescribes a pruning regiment for all township trees. Young trees, defined as 15 years old or younger, will be pruned routinely to enhance growth and guide structure. All new trees will be added to the tree inventory and adhere to the young tree pruning regiment.

Mature trees will be pruned on an as-needed basis to ensure safety and to provide necessary clearances. All pruning will adhere to accepted industry standards. Tree pruning will be performed in the spring and fall to avoid extreme cold, heat, and drought to minimize stress, except in hazardous tree situations.

#### **a. Young Tree Structure Pruning**

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The Tree Management Plan prescribes a young tree structure pruning regiment to all township trees outlines by Ohio Division of Forestry (ODNR) below:

Year 3 - 1st Structure Pruning
Year 6 - 2nd Structure Pruning
Year 9 - 3rd Structure Pruning
Year 12 - 4th Structure Pruning
Year 15 - 5th Structure Pruning

Township trees will be pruned regularly during the first 15 years after being planted to manage tree size, shape, canopy, and root structure. Trees will be pruned to provide clearance, prevent risk, and manage tree health. Properly culturing young trees promotes tree health and is more economical than addressing problems after years of neglect. Young tree structural pruning builds the foundation for safe and effective mature trees. Educational materials will be provided to owners of trees planted on private property.

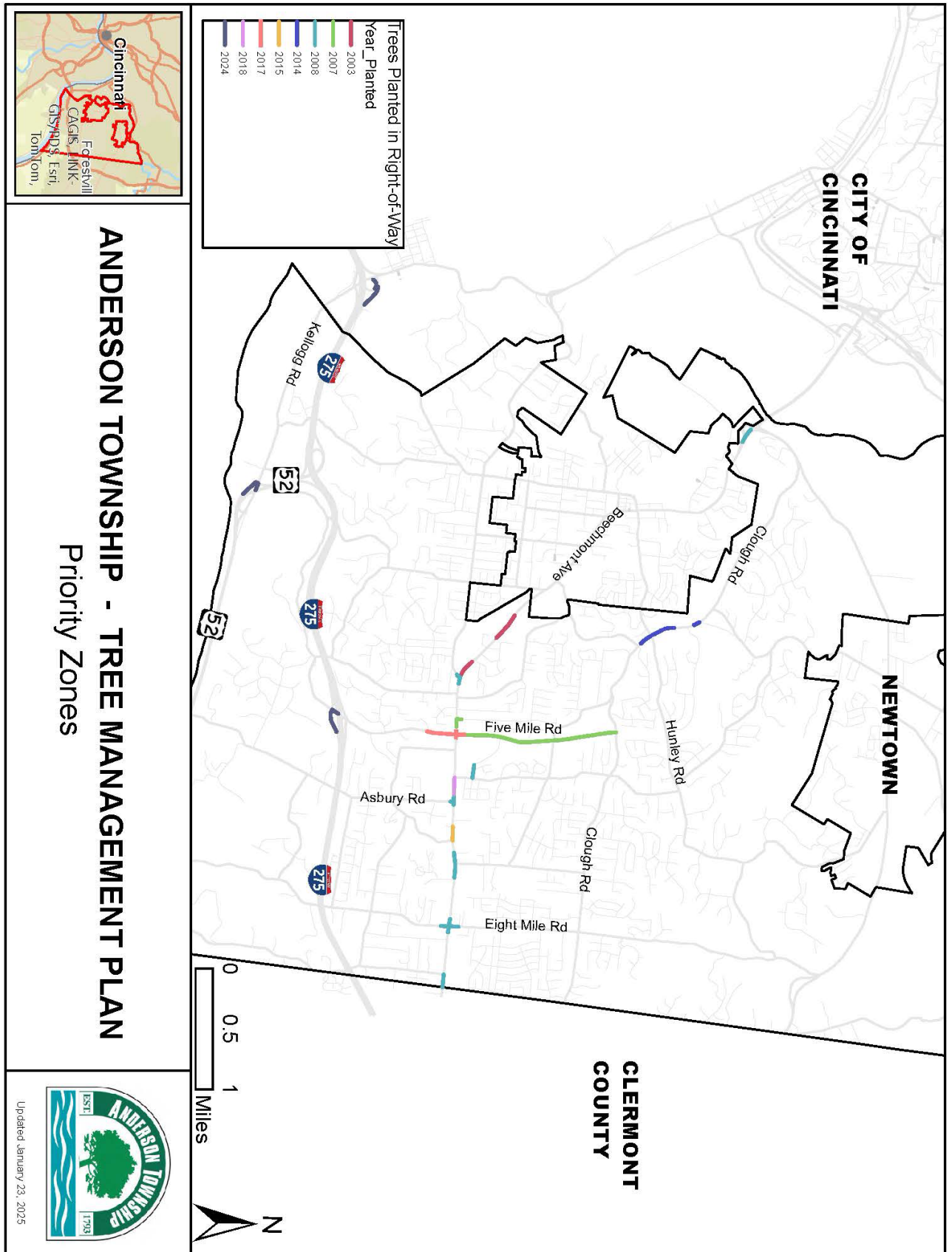
#### **b. Mature Tree Pruning**

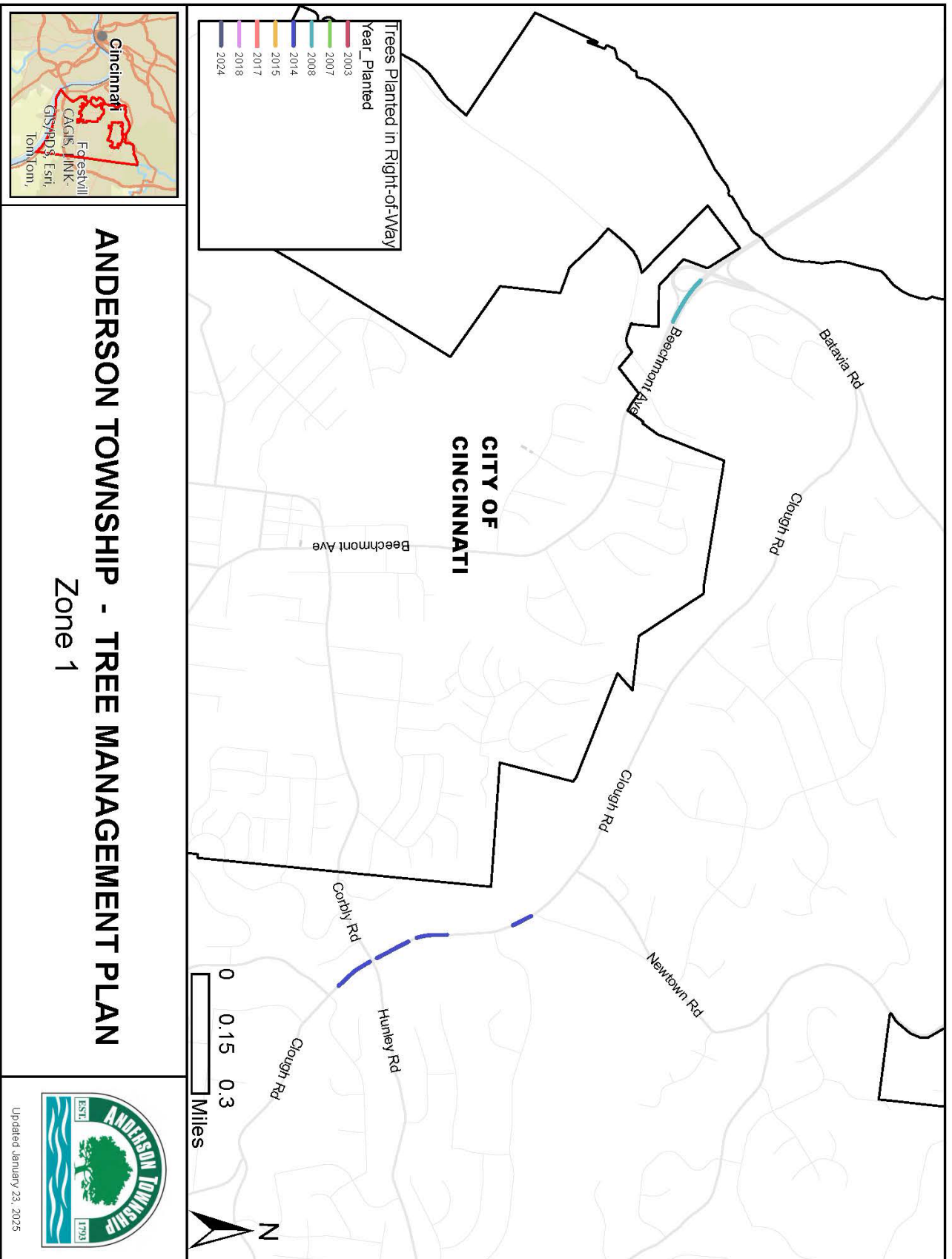
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The Tree Management Plan recommends allocating resources to prune mature trees on an as needed basis. The purpose of mature tree pruning must be clearly defined to ensure an outcome that promotes tree health and longevity. The 'topping' of any township tree is prohibited. Topping is a poor pruning practice that involves excessive canopy removal that can ruin the structure and health of a tree.

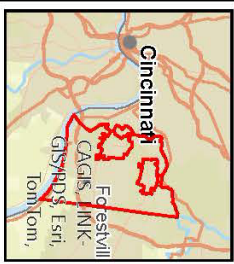


## APPENDIX A: PRIORITY ZONE MAPS





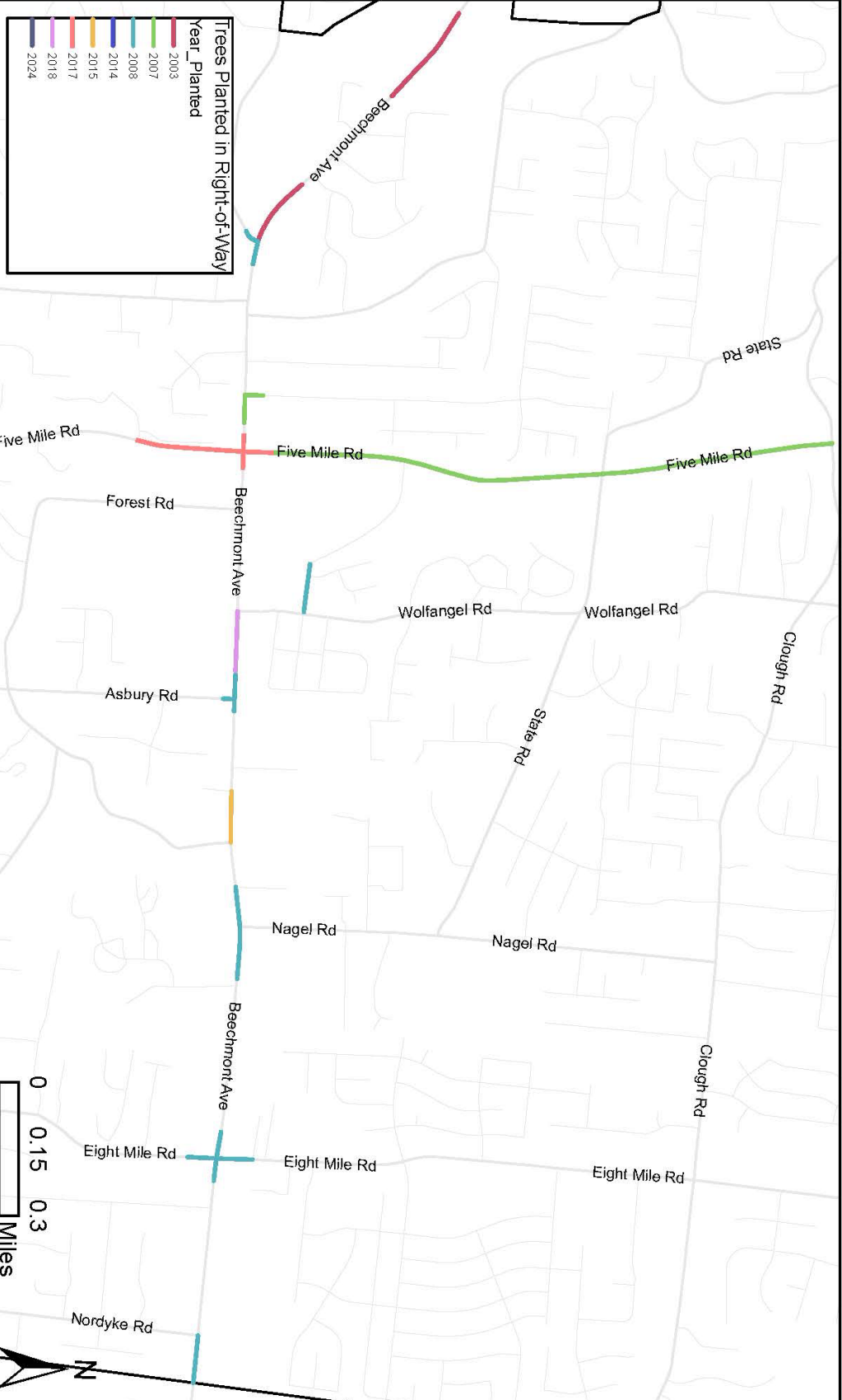




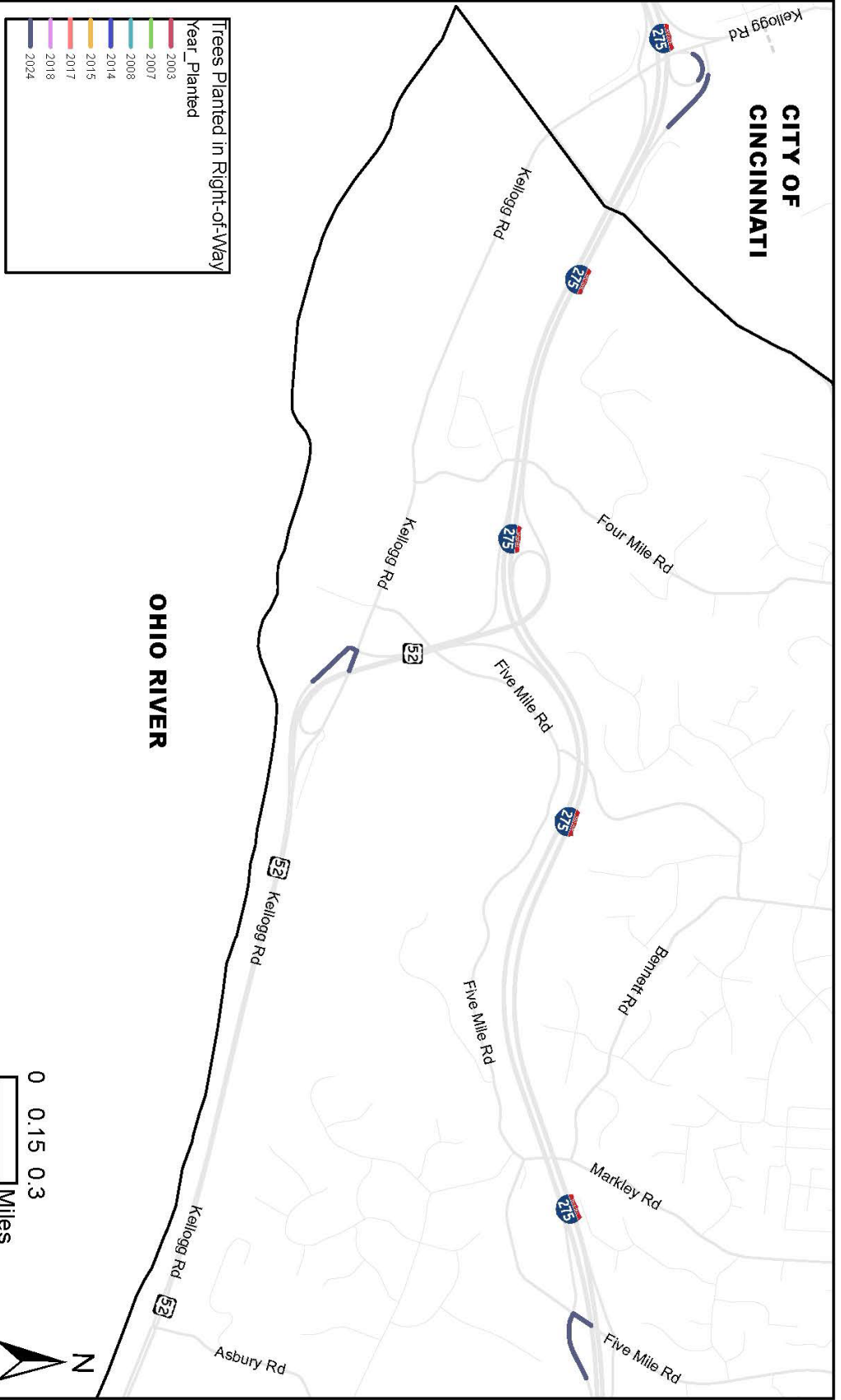
# ANDERSON TOWNSHIP - TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN Zone 2



Updated January 23, 2025



# CITY OF CINCINNATI



## ANDERSON TOWNSHIP - TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN Zone 3



Updated January 23, 2025



## **APPENDIX B: TRUSTEE RESOLUTION NO. 25-0220-05**

### **BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES ANDERSON TOWNSHIP HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

The Board of Township Trustees met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, with the following members present:

Lexi Lausten  
Joshua S. Gerth  
R. Dee Stone

Mr. Gerth introduced the following resolution and **moved its passage:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-0220-05 ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR ANDERSON TOWNSHIP (2025 UPDATE)**

WHEREAS, this Board of Township Trustees ("Board"), desires to develop a program for the purpose of replacing, maintaining and/or protecting public trees within Anderson Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township, with the aid of urban foresters has conducted and catalogued a survey of street trees to identify their species, size, location and condition in order to begin a systemic program for maintaining and protecting public trees; and

WHEREAS, such trees enhance the quality of life in the Township and help to complement the Township's Greenspace efforts, promote clean air and water, increase property values, reduce erosion or stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitats, moderate temperature, lessen energy demands, beautify the community and business districts, and preserve the beauty of the public rights-of-way through appropriate landscaping and streetscaping; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the beautification and environmental quality of the Township to establish a means of planting, maintaining and preserving trees in the public rights-of-way and on all Township properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Township Trustees of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio ("Board"), as follows:



## SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

1. "Person" means any person; firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.
2. "Street or Highway" means the entire width of every public way, easement of right-of-way when any part thereof is open to the public, as a matter of right, for the purposes of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and shall include alleys.
3. "Public Places" shall include all other grounds owned by Anderson Township.
4. "Property Line" means the outer edge of a street or highway
5. "Tree lawn" means that part of a street or highway, lying between the boundary of the right-of-way and that portion of the street or highway usually used for vehicular traffic.
6. "Property Owner" means the person owning such property as shown by the County Auditor's Plat of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, including the executor, administrator; or beneficiary of the estate of a deceased owner.
7. "Tree" means a tall growing woody plant with one of more perennial main stems or trunk which develops branches from the aerial section of the stem rather than from the base; capable of being pruned to at least six feet of clear branchless trunk below the crown within five years of planting.
8. "Shrub" means a low growing woody plant with one or more several perennial main stems producing branches, shoots, or multiple stems from or near the base of the plant and incapable of being pruned to provide at least six feet of clear branchless trunk within five years of planting.
9. "Public Trees" shall include all shade and ornamental trees now or hereafter growing on any public places.
10. "Right-of-Way" means any portion of the public way, street, alley, or sidewalk.



11. "Tree Topping" means the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs of three (3) inches or more in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

## SECTION 2. TOWNSHIP MAY REMOVE

1. The Public Works Director may remove or cause or order to be removed, any trees or part thereof which by reason of its nature is injurious to existing sewers, electric power lines; gas lines, water lines; or other public improvements. Trees, shrubs and other vegetation may be removed to provide for proper sight distance.

2. The Public Works Director shall examine or cause to be examined every tree within the public right of way every 5 years; which the Township owns or retains an easement, and if found dangerous or causing damage or obstruction of sewer, drain, manhole or public utility line; the obstruction may be allowed to be removed.

## SECTION 3. TOWNSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

1. Whenever it is necessary for the Township to remove a tree from Township right-of-way, the Township shall remove such trees including the stump, and offer to replace or re-plant, an equal number of trees in the front yard area outside the right-of-way.

2. No person or property owner shall remove a tree from any Township-owned property or Township right-of-way for any reason without recommendation and approval by the Public Works Director. If approval was not given for the removal, the person may be required to replant or replace an equal number of trees at the landowner's cost or make monetary restitution to be determined by the Township, if replanting is not practical. The tree replacement should equal the total diameter of the removed trees, measured at 54 inches above the ground level, using approximately two-inch caliper to three inch diameter trees.



For example, if a 10 inch diameter tree is removed, 5 trees of 2 inch would need to be planted or a lesser number of replacement trees if approved by the Public Works Director. The Public Works Director will recommend either the replacement, replanting or restitution of trees. Failure to plant replacements shall result in replacement by the Township and the actual cost to the Township shall be billed to the property owner which shall be repaid to the Township within 45 days or assessed to the property owner's property taxes.

#### SECTION 4. TREES PERMITTED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

1. The Public Works Director shall approve all tree species, their size and location, planted on public property or in the public right-of-way prior to planting.

2. Whenever any tree or shrub shall be planted or set out in conflict with the provisions of the Resolution, the Public Works Director may cause removal of the same without obligating the Township to replace the illegally planted tree(s).

#### SECTION 5. ABUSE OR MUTILATION OF PUBLIC TREES

1. Unless specifically recommended by the Public Works Director and with approval by the Public Works Director, no person shall intentionally damage, cut, carve, top, transplant, or remove any tree; attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising posters, squirrel/bird feeder, or other contrivance to any tree or shrub; allow any gaseous, liquid, or solid substance to come in contact with them; set fire or permit fire to burn when the fire or heat thereof shall injure any portion of any tree or shrub.

2. No person shall excavate any ditches, tunnels, trenches, or alley or drive within a radius of ten feet or five times the diameter of the tree measured at 54 inches above ground level, whichever number is greater must be used, from any public tree alley or drive within a radius of ten feet or five times the diameter of the tree measured at 54 inches above ground level, whichever number is greater must be used, from any public tree or shrub without obtaining approval from the Public Works Director.



3. In the event of damage caused by a motorized vehicle, Anderson Township shall determine the value of the tree(s) involved based upon the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, Guide For Plant Appraisal and seek restitution from the responsible party or his or her insurer for the value of the tree.

#### SECTION 6. PLACING MATERIALS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

No person shall deposit, place, store, or maintain upon any public place of the Township, any stone, brick, sand, concrete, or other materials which may impede the free passage of water, air, or fertilizer to the roots of any tree growing therein, except by approval of the Public Works Director.

#### SECTION 7. PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF TREELAWNS

No person shall plant, prune brace, cable, spray, or otherwise perform work on a tree in a tree lawn or other public place without first obtaining the prior consent of the Public Works Director. The person obtaining consent shall abide by the standards as set forth in this Resolution.

#### SECTION 8. TREES IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

The Township Tree Committee shall endure the tree plan for any newly developed Township tree lawns with approval by the Public Works Director required.

#### SECTION 9. TREE SPACING

The spacing of public trees will be in accordance with the three (3) species size classes and no trees may be planted closer together than the following:

Small Trees	twenty (20) feet
Medium Trees	thirty (30) feet
Large Trees	forty (40) feet

except in special plantings designed or recommended and approved by the Public Works Director.



#### SECTION 10. DISTANCE FROM CURB AND SIDEWALK

The distance public trees may be planted from curbs or curblines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the following:

Small trees: 1.5 feet (minimum of a 3.0 foot wide tree lawn)

Medium trees: 2.5 feet (minimum of a 5.0 foot wide tree lawn)

Large trees: 3.5 feet (minimum of a 7.0 foot wide tree lawn)

except in special plantings designed or recommended by the Tree Committee and approval by the Public Works Director.

#### SECTION 11. DISTANCE FROM THE STREET CORNERS AND FIRE HYDRANTS

No public tree shall be planted closer than thirty-five (35) feet from any street corner, measured from the point nearest the intersecting curbs or curb lines. No public tree shall be planted closer than ten (10) feet to any hydrant.

#### SECTION 12. UTILITIES

No public trees other than those species referred to as Small Trees may be planted under or within twenty five (25) lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

#### SECTION 13. ADOPTION OF RULES

The Public Works Director or Township Administrator, with the approval of Township Trustees, may adopt rules consistent with this Resolution, which shall provide detailed guidelines for the administration of this Resolution.

#### SECTION 14. PENALTY

Any person violating or failing to comply with any provision of this Resolution shall be subject to any required restitution for damages incurred by the Township or any special assessments levied as provided for herein.





SECTION That this Board hereby finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including (without implied limitation) Revised Code Section 121.22, except as otherwise permitted thereby.

Mrs. Stone seconded the motion, and the roll being called upon the question of passage, the vote resulted as follows:

Mrs. Lausten YES Mr. Gerth YES Mrs. Stone YES

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, duly elected and acting Fiscal Officer of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly passed at a regular meeting of the Board of Township Trustees of said Township on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, together with a true record of the roll call vote thereon, and that said Resolution has been duly entered upon the Journal of said Township

This 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.



Brian Johnson  
Fiscal Officer

