

What is a Tree Canopy and Why It's So Important

Basically, a tree canopy is the cover provided by the branches and leaves of a tree or a group of trees. It is measured by how much of the ground you can see when you look down from above – for example, the view of the ground you get from a drone: the less you can see of the ground because of tree branches and leaves, the better.

Why is this important? There are many reasons but the most immediate in an urban environment might be that trees absorb a large amount of water and help to control flooding. The denser the tree canopy, the less water reaches the ground.

Another reason relates directly to the first: homes and businesses that are free from flooding have higher values.

Add to that, the fact that trees are beautiful, offer shade, create the oxygen that we breathe, provide shelter to birds and other animals.....the list goes on and on. For an in-depth look at the benefits tree canopies provide click the link here: <https://www.coralgablesclub.org/stephen-pearson-canopy-what-it-is-and-why-its-important/>

City of Parma Heights Urban Canopy Enhancement Program

City of Parma Heights Tree Board

Chairperson – Joseph E. Sebes

Board Member – Robert P. Sepik

Board Member – Madison Bacci

Board Member – Renee Overstreet

Board Member – Richard Sidoti, Tree Advisor

Executive Secretary – Christine Hnat



The entirety of our community lies within the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern and in the Cleveland Metroparks Secondary Center Ecosite so attention to our tree canopy is vital not just to our city but to NE Ohio as well!

Parma Heights has always taken the care of our tree canopy seriously. As early as 1965 a citywide Master Tree Plan was adopted, and over the years, we have updated and added to our ordinances as needed. Our community has been a member of Tree City USA for over 33 years, and most recently, the city has been the recipient of a Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission in 2021, 2022 and again in 2023.

The 2023 Award of \$55,320 will provide for the planting of 60 trees in Nathan Hale Park and 40 trees along neighboring streets. In addition, as the city match, the city has commissioned Bur Oak, LLC to conduct a much-needed new Master Planting Design of the entire city which will begin with an Urban Site Index Inventory to assess the quality of street tree planting sites to provide a score for each block or segment of street in Parma Heights. This score will determine which species will be best suited to a particular site.

The overall goal is to have a tree canopy in Parma Heights that is resistant to disease, diverse and beautiful.