



Pear Management Plan revised 2018

Introduction

A number of years ago it had become apparent that *Pyrus calleryana* cultivars, had become an issue in the City of Westerville. Within about 20 years the pear reaches maturity and may become an issue. They may become structurally unstable and continued monitoring and storm cleanup costs may warrant removal of the tree.

Two to three decades ago the City planted several thousand pears. Nearly 1000 pears line our streets and many others are growing in parks, utility easements and public grounds. This number does not include private property trees.

The Parks and Recreation Department with the support of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has developed a systematic approach in the Pear Management Plan. The Department's Urban Forestry Section will systematically remove and replace pear trees as resources allow.

Purpose

Implementing this management plan will help mitigate the disruption to our urban forest caused by the potential failure of the pear. Taking a proactive approach with this plan will decrease continued monitoring and cleanup costs following storm events.

Scope

This plan covers all pears that are currently growing within street rights of way throughout the City of Westerville. The Department's Urban Forestry Section will be responsible for the implementation of this plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

Action Statement

The urban forestry crews will evaluate pear trees for removal based on owner requests. Only pear trees with less than desirable structure or health will be approved for removal. All removed pears will require replacement if it is determined there is adequate spacing. The tree inventory will be used to keep record of trees removed and replacement needs. Pears on public lands will be removed as necessary.

Step one: Evaluate the condition of trees requested for removal.

Step two: Prioritize trees based on their condition (poor structure, dead, dying, or diseased).

Step three: Notify homeowner of the plans to remove and replace the pear street tree.

Step four: Schedule removal and enter the replacement on the order list.

Replacement Trees

All removed public pear trees will be replaced with the approved species, as listed in the Street Tree Master Plan. This will enhance the neighborhood, ensure the diversity and maintain or improve the general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with the Westerville Tree Planting Specifications. Plantings will be budgeted, based, and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Urban Forest Manager. No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the '**10-20-30**' tree species diversity rule—no more than 10% of any kind of tree, 20% of any genera of tree, or 30% of any one family of tree.

Annual Plan Evaluation

CITY OF WESTERVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE
PEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Pear Management Plan, with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, will be evaluated as necessary for any revisions or updates needed.