

# Village of Payne, Ohio Urban Forest Plan

## Executive Summary

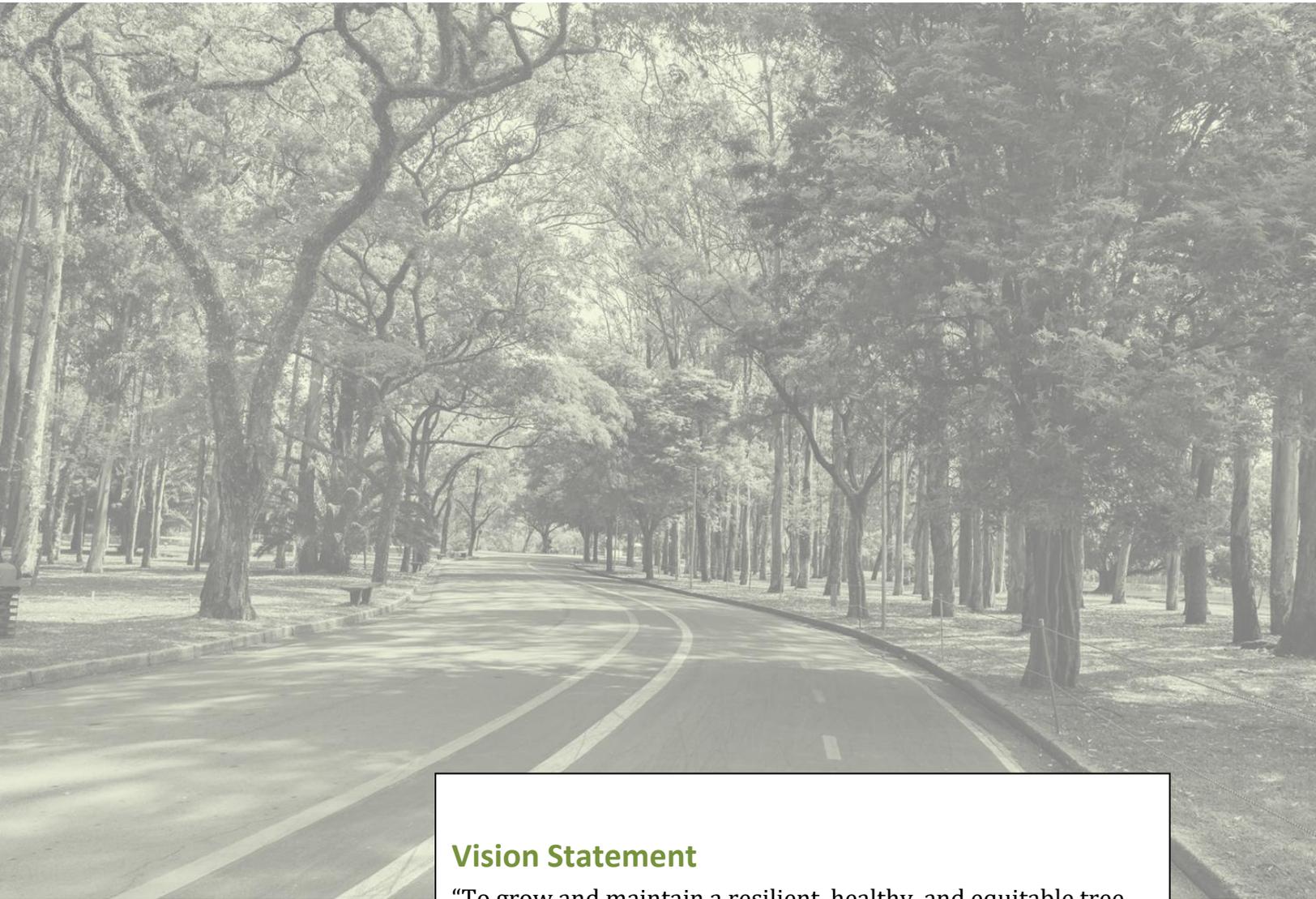
The Village of Payne, Ohio, recognizes the essential role trees play in supporting community health, environmental resilience, and quality of life. This Urban Forest Plan provides a framework for protecting, maintaining, and expanding the village's tree canopy.

Led by Councilman Bradley Bohland (Project Lead), with Mayor Lora Lyons and Councilwoman Priscilla Kadolph serving on the Tree Committee, this plan reflects Payne's commitment to sustainable growth and environmental stewardship.

All hazard tree removals proposed under this grant were identified and prioritized using the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) methodology. A TRAQ-qualified assessor evaluated each tree for likelihood of failure, likelihood of impact to targets, and consequences of failure. Based on this assessment, trees were assigned Priority 1 (immediate action), Priority 2 (high risk, next phase), or Priority 3 (moderate risk, routine removal). This ensures that grant-funded removals are targeted to the highest-risk trees that pose the greatest safety threats to residents, infrastructure, and public spaces.

All pruning, removals, and other tree care activities funded through this grant will comply with OSHA regulations and the ANSI Z133 Arboricultural Operations Safety Requirements, in addition to ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards, ANSI Z60.1 Nursery Stock Standards, and ISA Best Management Practices. All contractors will provide proof of liability insurance and Workers' Compensation coverage prior to notice-to-proceed.

The plan establishes a baseline inventory, sets canopy expansion goals, and provides strategies for tree planting, maintenance, and preservation. By pursuing a 25% canopy goal by 2035, Payne will reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, lower energy costs, and enhance community well-being.



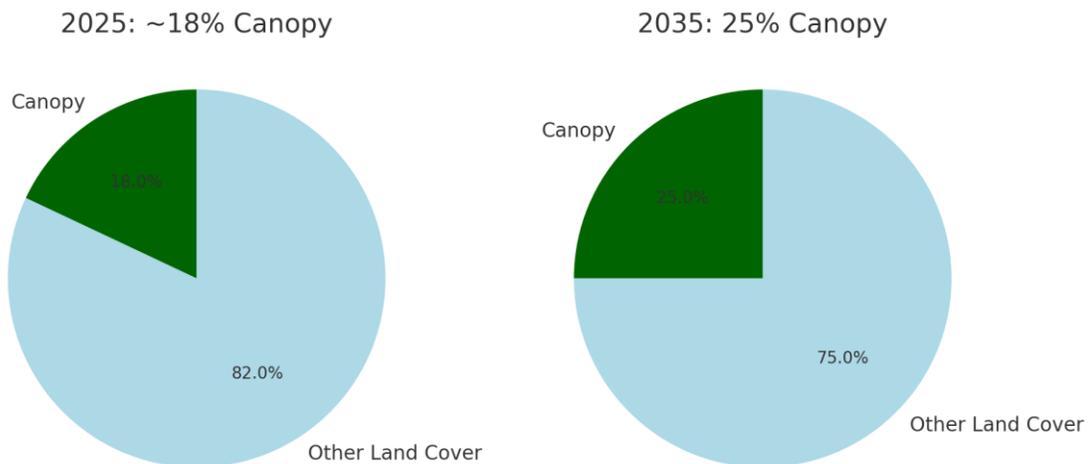
### **Vision Statement**

“To grow and maintain a resilient, healthy, and equitable tree canopy that improves quality of life, protects natural resources, and enhances the character of Payne for future generations.”

## Goals & Objectives

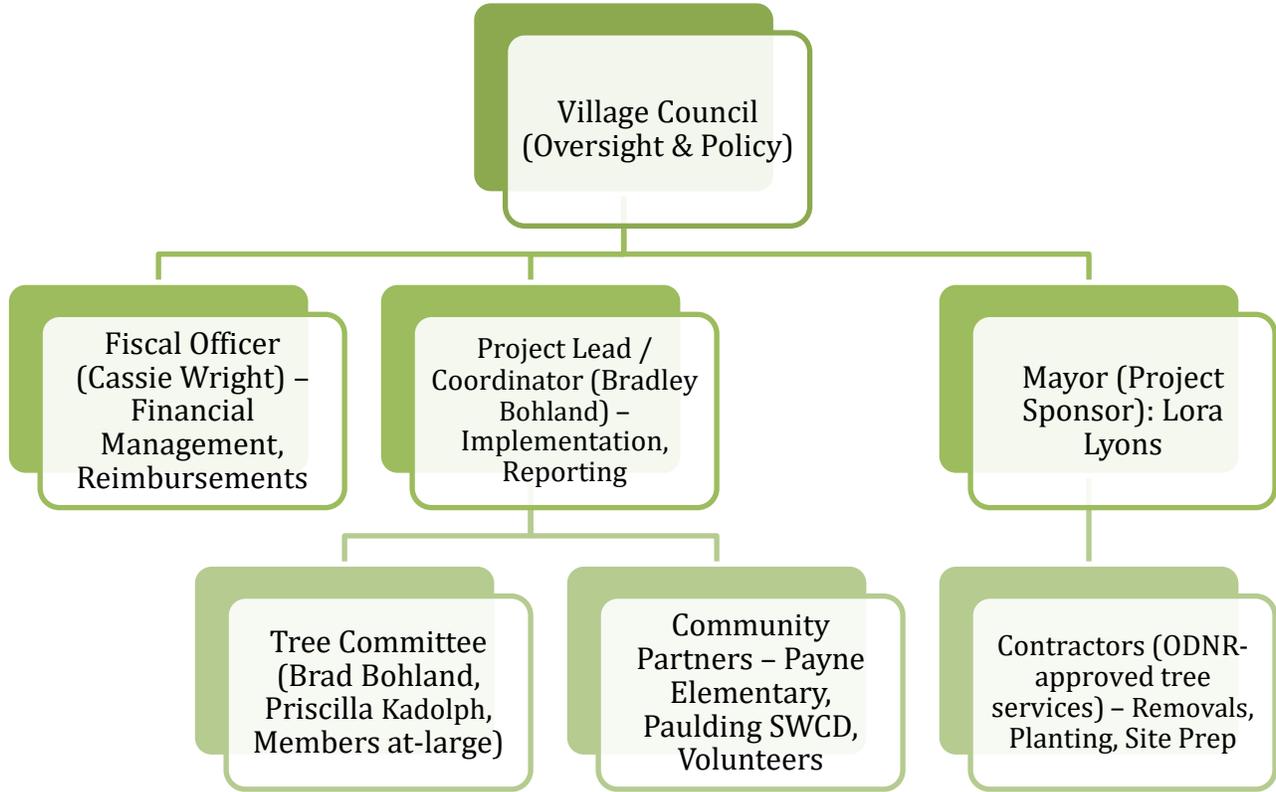
Goal	Objective
🌳 Canopy Expansion	Increase canopy from ~18% to 25% by 2035
🌱 Planting Milestone	Plant 150 new trees in public spaces by 2030
🏠 Equity in Access	Adopt the 3-30-300 Rule for all residents
👤 Governance	Formalize Tree Committee by 2026; adopt preservation ordinance by 2027
🏆 Recognition	Achieve Tree City USA designation by 2027

### Village of Payne Canopy Expansion: 2025 vs 2035



## Village of Payne – Urban Forestry Grant Organization Chart

The following chart identifies project leadership, oversight, and implementation roles:



## Village of Payne – i-Tree Landscape Summary

This page provides a snapshot of Payne’s urban forest baseline and projected benefits, based on canopy analysis and i-Tree Landscape methodology.

### Baseline (2025)

- Existing Tree Canopy: ~18% (below Midwest small-town avg. 25–30%)
- Total Trees: ~650 public trees inventoried
- Canopy Deficits: School zones, heat-exposed residential blocks, downtown corridors

### Goals

- 25% canopy by 2035; 35% canopy by 2040 (long-term)
- 150 new public trees by 2030 (focus on native shade species)
- Tree Equity: Ensure every resident is within 300m of green space (3-30-300 Rule)

### Modeled Benefits

- Stormwater: Each 10% canopy gain reduces runoff by ~2% (Village-wide savings in infrastructure costs)
- Heat Island Reduction: 5–10°F lower surface temps in planted priority zones by 2035
- Air Quality: Annual removal of ~3 tons CO<sub>2</sub>, ~120 lbs ozone/particulates at 25% canopy
- Property Value: Trees add ~\$500–\$2,000 per property in shaded neighborhoods

# Implementation Strategies

## Priority:

All project activities, including planting, pruning, and removals, will comply with ANSI A300 tree care standards, ANSI Z60.1 nursery stock standards, and ISA Best Management Practices (BMPs). By adhering to these nationally recognized standards, the Village of Payne ensures that grant funds will be applied to high-quality, industry-standard urban forestry practices that maximize tree survival, promote safety, and safeguard long-term community investment.

## Tree Planting Strategy:

- Prioritize downtown streetscapes, schoolyards, and parks.
- Focus on areas with limited canopy or vulnerable populations.
- Plant diverse, climate-resilient native species.

## Tree Preservation & Ordinances:

- Draft new ordinance requiring replacement or mitigation for removal of mature or heritage trees.
- Protect trees during construction through permitting and monitoring.

## Maintenance Programs:

- Establish a pruning cycle and inspection program.
- Monitor for pests and diseases.
- Train village staff in tree care best practices.

## Community Engagement:

- Partner with Payne Elementary for Arbor Day activities.
- Create 'Adopt-a-Tree' sponsorship opportunities.
- Host volunteer planting days twice per year.

## Implementation Timeline

Phase	Years	Key Actions
Phase 1	2025–2027	Tree inventory, adopt preservation ordinance, establish Tree Committee
Phase 2	2027–2030	High-visibility plantings, neighborhood canopy infill, Tree City USA designation
Phase 3	2030–2035	Expand canopy in underserved areas, scale maintenance programs, evaluate progress

## Village of Payne – Proposed Planting Design (2026–2027)

Trees will be planted in three phases (Spring 2026, Fall 2026, Spring 2027). Priority streets and sites were identified through canopy analysis, risk removals, and resident feedback.

Street / Location	Proposed Number of Trees	Species (from Appendix C list)
N Main St (downtown corridor)	8	Red Maple, Tulip Poplar, White Oak
S Main St (residential stretch near Payne Elementary)	6	Sugar Maple, Pin Oak
Maple St (adjacent to senior housing)	4	American Beech, Black Maple
Laura St (heat-exposed neighborhood block)	4	Chinkapin Oak, Sweetgum
Townline Rd (park perimeter and walking path)	5	Tuliptree, Red Oak
Veterans Park & Memorial area	3	White Oak, American Beech

Total Trees: 30 (10 each season). Final sites may adjust slightly based on utility clearance, soil conditions, and resident input during engagement sessions.

# Village of Payne Urban Forestry Grant – Project Timeline

(October 2025 – June 2027)

Task / Phase	Oct-Dec 2025	Spring 2026	Summer-Fall 2026	Spring 2027	June-July 2027
Planning & Outreach	■■■■■■■■				
Finalize planting design, notify residents, prepare risk tree removals	■■■■■■■■				
Hazard Tree Removals (10 trees)	■■■■■■■■				
First Planting (10 trees)		■■■■■■■■			
Purchase hand tools, begin staff training		■■■■■			
Second Planting (10 trees)			■■■■■■■■		
Draft Tree Ordinance			■■■■■■■■		
Final Planting (10 trees)				■■■■■■■■	
Finalize Commission Ordinance				■■■■■■■■	
Community Engagement Workshops (schools, volunteers, Adopt-a-Tree)	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	
Staff Training (TCA + Conference)		■■■	■■■	■■■	
Reporting & Grant Closeout					■■■■■■■■
Final report, update tree inventory					■■■■■■■■

## Village of Payne Urban Forestry Grant – Budget Table (Grant Format)

This budget table is presented in the required grant application format, aligning budget items with funding requests, leveraged funds, and explanatory details.

Budget Items	Funding Request (\$)	Leveraged Funds (\$)	Budget Detail / Source of Leverage
Personnel	6,750	In-kind (staff coordination, council oversight)	Project management, documentation, communications
Fringe			
Supplies	1,500		Hand tools (\$500), community education materials (\$1,000)
Contractual	20,000 16,500		Hazard tree removals (\$20,000) + Tree planting (30 trees, \$16,500)
Travel	0	Covered by staff/volunteer contributions	Training travel costs absorbed by village/volunteers
Volunteer	0	Volunteer time (Adopt-a-Tree, school programs)	Community members supporting planting/maintenance
Other	0	ODNR technical assistance (in-kind)	Ordinance development and staff support
Indirect	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,000</b>		

The Village will submit quarterly reimbursement requests with narrative progress reports and meet quarterly with the ODNR Regional Urban Forester as required.

## Appendices

Appendix A: Tree Inventory Results

Appendix B: Canopy Analysis Maps

Appendix C: Species Recommendations & Planting List

Appendix D: Funding Sources & Grant Programs

Appendix E: Sample Tree Ordinance Language

Appendix F: Authorizing Resolution

Appendix G: Mayoral Maintenance Statement

Appendix H: Mayor & Council Letter of Support

Appendix I: Tree Committee Letter of Support

Appendix J: ODNR Letter of Support

# Appendix A: Tree Inventory Results

## SECTION I: Priority Breakdown

### **Priority 1 Removals (Immediate Action)**

Objective: Remove trees that pose the highest safety or property risk.

Total: 13 trees

Action Plan:

1. Schedule certified arborist and removal crew within the next 2–3 weeks.
2. Coordinate with utility company where noted to ensure safe removal near power lines.
3. Notify property owners before removals.
4. Implement traffic control & safety measures for public streets.
5. Conduct debris disposal & stump grinding immediately after removal.

### **Priority 2 Removals (High Risk, Next Phase)**

Objective: Address trees with significant decline or structural weakness.

Total: 11 trees

Action Plan:

1. Schedule removals within 2–3 months after Priority 1 is complete.
2. Bundle removals by street segment to reduce costs.
3. Evaluate wood salvage or mulching options.
4. Coordinate with landowners for access and liability.

### **Priority 2 Prune**

Objective: Reduce hazards without full removal.

Total: 1 tree

Action Plan:

- Schedule alongside Priority 2 removals.
- Focus on deadwood pruning and structural trimming to extend tree life.

### **Priority 3 Removals (Routine, Lower Risk)**

Objective: Address routine removals for trees with moderate issues.

Total: 5 trees

Action Plan:

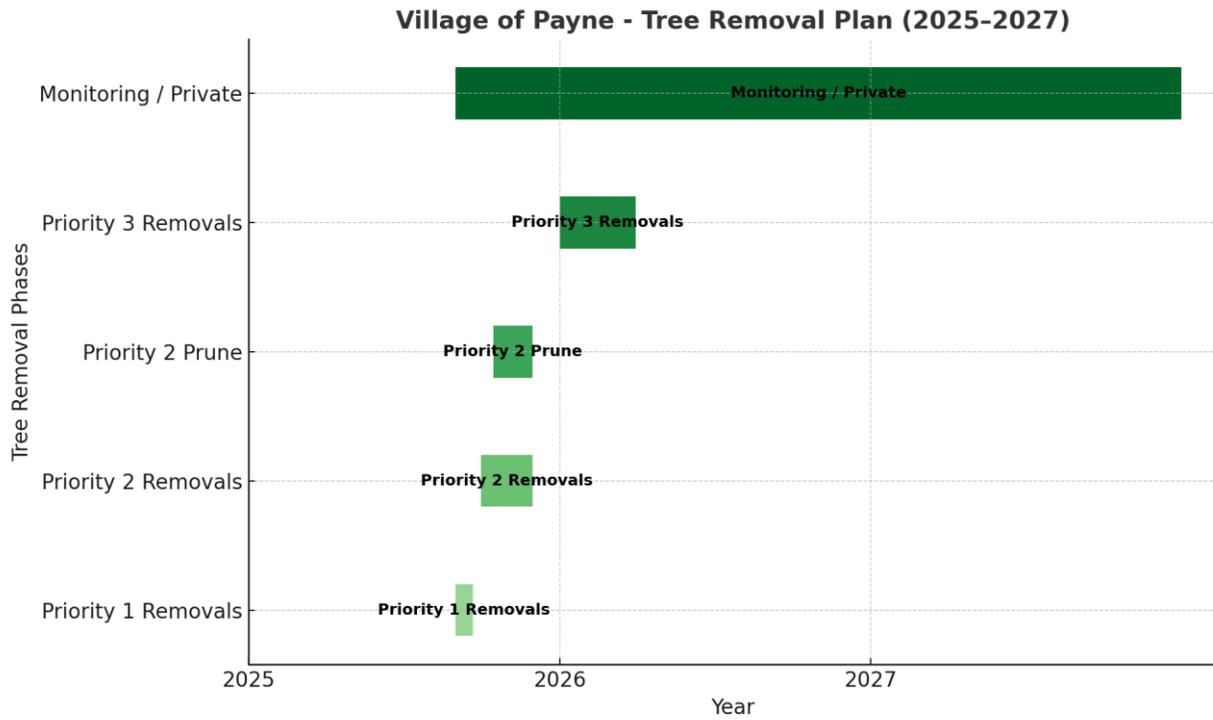
1. Schedule after Priority 2 phase (6–12 months).
2. Bundle with street maintenance projects or perform during low workload seasons.

### **Other Trees of Note / Monitoring**

- Monitor 404 N Main annually.
- Routine removals at 410 N Maple and 423 N Laura.
- Private removals at 215 W Townline and 409 S Main.
- Ongoing reassessments for potential risks.

# Appendix A: Tree Inventory Results

## SECTION II: Timeline Breakdown Gantt Chart



## Appendix B: Canopy Analysis Maps

### Canopy Baseline & 2040 Path

#### Current Baseline (2023)

- Existing Tree Canopy (ETC): 18% of Payne’s land area (calculated from NLCD 2023 Tree Canopy Cover dataset)
- Comparison: Well below the 25–30% typical for small Midwest towns.
- Drivers of loss:
  - Risk removals (aging silver maples with structural issues)
  - Past topping and utility root cuts (ODNR 2025 assessment)
  - Limited replanting on treelawns in prior decades

#### 2040 Canopy Target

- Goal: Increase canopy to 35% by 2040
- Why 35%?
  - Achievable given Payne’s open space and plantable yards
  - Aligns with ODNR & USFS benchmarks for small communities
  - Provides measurable stormwater, heat-reduction, and property value benefits

#### The Path Forward

##### 1. Near-Term (2025–2027)

- Complete Priority-1 removals & pruning per ODNR’s risk list
  - Plant 50–75 new public ROW trees per year (large shade species where space allows)
  - Establish Tree Commission + routine 5-year pruning cycle

##### 2. Medium-Term (2028–2035)

- Plant to fill all viable treelawn and park spaces (≈10–15% of village land)
  - Expand private-land planting with Paulding SWCD Tree Assistance rebate
  - Target school zones, senior housing, and heat-exposed neighborhoods (Tree Equity)

##### 3. Long-Term (2036–2040)

- Sustain replacement planting (~30–40 trees annually)
  - Monitor canopy with NLCD Tree Canopy Cover updates every 2–3 years
  - Reach 35% canopy village-wide by 2040

#### Projected Impact

- Shade & Heat Relief: Reduce summer surface temps by 5–10°F in priority zones
  - Stormwater: Each 10% canopy gain reduces runoff ~2%
  - Equity: Better canopy near schools, sidewalks, and senior residences

#### Funding & Partners

- ODNR Urban Canopy Restoration Grants – support large-stature trees
  - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban Forestry Funds – no-match competitive funding
  - Paulding SWCD Programs – rebates for private tree planting

## Appendix C: Species Recommendations & Planting List

Good Large Trees	Good Medium Trees	Good Small Trees
Black maple ( <i>Acer nigrum</i> )	Striped maple ( <i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i> )	Japanese angelica tree ( <i>Aralia elata</i> )
Red maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	Sycamore maple ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Pagoda dogwood ( <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> )
Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	Three-flower maple ( <i>Acer triflorim</i> )	White flowering dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )
American beech ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> )	Yellow birch ( <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> )	Japanese cornelian cherry ( <i>Cornus officianalis</i> )
European/common beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> )	Heartleaf hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus cordata</i> )	Sweetbay magnolia ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> )
White oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )	Japanese hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus japonica</i> )	Fringe tree ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> )
Chinkapin/chinquapin oak ( <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> )	American musclewood ( <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> )	American red plum ( <i>Prunus americana</i> )
Pin oak ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )	Giant dogwood ( <i>Cornus controversa</i> )	Cherry plum ( <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> )
Chestnut oak ( <i>Quercus prinus</i> )	Persian ironwood ( <i>Parrotia persica</i> )	Manchu/Nanking cherry ( <i>Prunus tomentosa</i> )
Red oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	Umbrella magnolia ( <i>Magnolia tripetala</i> )	Bladdernut ( <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> )
Sweetgum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )	Sweet cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )	
Tuliptree/tulip poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	Amur chokecherry ( <i>Prunus maackii</i> )	
Cucumbertree magnolia ( <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> )	Paperbark cherry ( <i>Prunus serrulata</i> )	
Blackgum/sourgum ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> )	Common chokecherry ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )	
Canadian hemlock ( <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> )	Bradford pear ( <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> )	
Carolina hemlock ( <i>Tsuga caroliniana</i> )	European mountain ash ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> )	
	Sargent cherry ( <i>Prunus sargentii</i> )	
	Korean mountain ash ( <i>Sorbus alnifolia</i> )	

## Appendix C: Species Recommendations & Planting List

### Urban Forest Enhancements – Before & After

The following visual comparisons highlight the transformation possible through Payne’s urban forest initiatives.



## Appendix D: Funding Sources & Grant Programs

### Section I: Funding Source

The **Village of Payne, Ohio**, is applying for **\$46,000** through **Ohio's Urban Forestry Grant Program**, funded by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service** under **Federal Grant ID: 23-DG-11094200-363**.

This funding is administered by the **Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Forestry**, and supports local governments and nonprofit organizations in strengthening and expanding urban forestry programs.

- **Funding Range:** \$15,000 – \$100,000 per award
- **Grant Program Goals:** Increase urban canopy cover, restore community tree health, mitigate stormwater runoff and urban heat, and build long-term forestry capacity.
- **Acknowledgment Requirement:** The Village of Payne will acknowledge the USDA Forest Service as the funding source in all project communications, outreach, and any required signage.

On behalf of the Village of Payne, the \$46,000 request will support:

- Removal of hazardous trees to improve public safety
- Planting and establishment of 30 native shade trees
- Training for staff and commissioners through the Tree Commission Academy and Urban Forestry Conference
- Community education, workshops, and outreach materials
- Support for ordinance development in partnership with ODNR
- Project management and administrative oversight

### Section II: Other Potential Funding Sources

In addition to this application, the Village of Payne is exploring complementary funding sources to strengthen and expand its urban forestry work:

#### 1. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban Forestry Grant — ODNR

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is administering **\$9 million in federal funding** through the IRA, representing the largest forestry pass-through grant in Ohio history. These grants range from **\$50,000 to \$1,000,000** and support canopy expansion, planning, risk mitigation, training, and urban forestry programs in underserved communities. In 2024, **36 Ohio projects received \$5.5 million** in IRA funding, setting a precedent for transformative urban forestry investments.

#### 2. HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Small Cities Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides CDBG funding to support community development, infrastructure, and environmental improvements. Small municipalities like Payne may be eligible under the **Small Cities CDBG program**, which prioritizes projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. Forestry-related activities can be eligible when tied to improving neighborhood livability, stormwater management, and public health outcomes.

## Appendix E: Sample Tree Ordinance Language

### Village of Payne, Ohio Urban Forestry Ordinance *Under Review with Solicitor*

#### ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS

1. Person – Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.
2. Street or Highway – The full width of any public way, right-of-way, easement, or thoroughfare used for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, including alleys.
3. Public Places – All land or property owned, leased, or maintained by the Village of Payne, including streets, sidewalks, parks, and rights-of-way.
4. Property Line – The boundary between private property and public right-of-way.
5. Mayor or Their Agent – The Mayor of Payne or an authorized staff member or contractor designated by the Mayor to oversee tree-related activities.
6. Treelawn – The strip of land between the curb and the sidewalk, or between the property line and street pavement, often used for tree planting.
7. Property Owner – The legal owner of a parcel of land, including authorized representatives, as recorded by the Paulding County Auditor.
8. Tree – A woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk, capable of being maintained with a minimum of six (6) feet of clear stem within five (5) years of planting.
9. Shrub – A woody plant with multiple stems originating near the base, not capable of being pruned to provide six (6) feet of clear trunk.
10. Public Tree – Any tree located on Village-owned land or within the public right-of-way.
11. Right-of-Way – Land owned or controlled by the Village, including the area between private property lines and public streets, sidewalks, or alleys.
12. Tree Topping – The indiscriminate cutting back of tree limbs to stubs larger than three (3) inches in diameter, removing the tree’s natural canopy.
13. DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) – The diameter of a tree measured at 4.5 feet above ground level.

#### ARTICLE II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

1. Pruning for Clearance
  1. Property owners shall prune trees or shrubs on their property that obstruct or shade streetlights, traffic signs, sidewalks, or streets.
2. Hazardous Trees and Shrubs
3. Trees or shrubs identified by the Mayor or their Agent as dead, dying, diseased, or hazardous must be removed or pruned by the property owner.
4. Notice and Non-Compliance
  - a) A written notice will be issued by the Village for any pruning or removal required.
  - b) Property owners will have 30 days to comply.
  - c) Failure to act allows the Village to conduct the work and assess triple the actual cost to the property taxes if unpaid after 30 days.

#### ARTICLE III. VILLAGE AUTHORITY FOR TREE REMOVAL

1. The Mayor or their Agent may remove any tree that threatens public infrastructure (e.g., utilities, sewers, sidewalks, etc.).
2. If a tree within 100 feet of public utilities is deemed hazardous or damaging, the Village will notify the property owner in writing, requiring removal within **45 days**.

#### **ARTICLE IV. PUBLIC TREES – MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION**

1. Village Removal and Replacement
2. When the Village removes a public tree, it will replant an equal number of suitable trees, as approved by the Mayor or their Agent.
3. Unauthorized Tree Removal
4. No person shall remove a tree from the public right-of-way without written approval. If approved, the property owner shall pay a replanting fee as defined in the Village’s Urban Forestry Management Plan.
5. Improper Plantings
6. Trees planted in violation of this ordinance or Village specifications may be removed without replanting obligation by the Village.

#### **ARTICLE V. TREE PLANTING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

1. All tree planting shall comply with the Village’s Master Street Tree Plan and Tree Planting Specifications, which shall be maintained by the Tree Commission and Village Administrator.
2. Large canopy trees are preferred where space permits to improve long-term tree equity and canopy coverage.

#### **ARTICLE VI. TREE PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

1. Tree Abuse or Mutilation  
Without authorization, no person shall:
  - Cut, carve, top, or damage any public tree
  - Attach signs, nails, ropes, or feeders
  - Place soil, mulch, or other materials against the trunk/root collar
  - Burn or permit open flame that may damage public trees
2. Excavation Near Public Trees
  - a) No excavation within 10 feet of trees 0.5–10” DBH
  - b) No excavation within 20 feet of trees greater than 10” DBH
  - c) Prior approval is required for all work within these zones.

#### **ARTICLE VII. MATERIALS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

No person shall store or place materials (e.g., mulch, stone, soil, concrete) on public spaces that could restrict water or air to the root zone of trees without written permission from the Village.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. TREE WORK PERMITS**

1. A permit must be obtained from the Mayor or their Agent to:
  - Plant
  - Prune
  - Cable or brace
  - Spray or treat
  - Remove trees in any public space

2. All permitted work must follow standards set by the Village’s urban forestry specifications and policies.

**ARTICLE IX. DEVELOPMENT AND TREESCAPE DESIGN**

1. New Subdivisions - All street trees in new subdivisions must align with the Master Street Tree Planting Design and be approved by the Mayor or their Agent.
2. Treelawn Design - The Village shall aim to design treelawns that accommodate Large Trees, considering soil volume, utilities, and street width.
3. Downtown and Commercial Districts - Urban tree infrastructure in commercial areas must support long-term canopy development and be reviewed by the Mayor or their Agent.

**ARTICLE X. TREE SPACING AND PLANTING DISTANCES**

**1. Tree Spacing by Size Class**

- Small Trees: minimum 15 feet apart
- Medium Trees: minimum 25 feet apart
- Large Trees: minimum 35 feet apart

**2. Distance from Curbs/Sidewalks**

- Small Trees: minimum 2 feet (min. 4 ft treelawn)
- Medium Trees: minimum 3 feet (min. 6 ft treelawn)
- Large Trees: minimum 4 feet (min. 8 ft treelawn)

**3. Proximity Limits**

- Street corners: 35 feet
- Driveways/alleys: 10 feet
- Fire hydrants: 10 feet
- Overhead wires: only Small Trees within 25 feet
- Underground lines: 10 feet (small trees), 15 feet (medium/large)

**ARTICLE XI. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

The Mayor or their Agent, with Council approval, may establish additional rules, standards, or administrative policies necessary to enforce this ordinance and protect the Village’s tree canopy.

**ARTICLE XII. PENALTIES**

Any person found violating this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and up to \$10,000 per violation, and may be responsible for restitution and special assessments if Village property is damaged or unauthorized removals occur.

**Adopted this [Insert Date] by the Council of the Village of Payne.**

**Signed:**

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**Mayor Lora Lyons**  
**Village of Payne**

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**Cassie Wright**  
**Fiscal Officer**

# Village of Payne, Ohio

Council Resolution No. **Under Review with Solicitor**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE OHIO URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM AND COMMITTING TO THE RESPONSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH SAID GRANT.**

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**WHEREAS,**

the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, is administering the Ohio Urban Forestry Grant Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Federal Grant ID: 23-DG-11094200-363); and

**WHEREAS,**

the Village of Payne recognizes the critical importance of protecting, maintaining, and expanding its urban forest to promote public health, environmental quality, and the overall well-being of the community; and

**WHEREAS,**

the Village of Payne has prepared and adopted an Urban Forest Plan that establishes goals for canopy expansion, hazard tree risk mitigation, tree planting, and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS,**

the Village of Payne desires to submit an application for grant funding in the amount of **\$46,000** to support hazard tree removal, tree planting, staff training, community outreach, and ordinance development in accordance with program requirements; and

**WHEREAS,**

the Village of Payne, if awarded grant funds, agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements, including USDA Forest Service Eastern Region Tree Planting Guidelines, ANSI Z60.1 Nursery Stock Standards, ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards, and ISA Best Management Practices; and

**WHEREAS,**

the Village of Payne agrees to provide proper ongoing maintenance and stewardship of all trees planted or cared for under the grant to ensure long-term public benefit;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PAYNE, OHIO:**

1. **Authorization:** The Mayor and/or Village Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to submit a grant application to the Ohio Urban Forestry Grant Program in the amount of \$46,000 on behalf of the Village of Payne.
2. **Commitment to Maintenance:** The Village of Payne accepts full responsibility for the long-term maintenance and care of all trees planted or maintained under this grant, as certified by the Mayor's statement accompanying the application.
3. **Implementation:** The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Council are authorized to take any additional actions necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution, including execution of agreements, budget adjustments, and compliance with state and federal grant requirements.
4. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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**Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 by the Council of the Village of Payne, Ohio.**

**Vote on Passage:**

- Ayes: \_\_\_
- Nays: \_\_\_

**SIGNED:**

**Mayor Lora Lyons**

**Cassie Wright, Fiscal Officer**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Council President**

# Village of Payne

119 N. Main Street / PO Box 58, Payne, OH 45880  
TELEPHONE: 419-263-2514 | Fax: 419-263-2974  
website: [www.villageofpayne.com](http://www.villageofpayne.com)

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**Date:** 08/23/2025

**To Whom It May Concern:**

As Mayor of the Village of Payne, I hereby certify that the Village accepts full responsibility for the maintenance, care, and protection of all trees planted through the Ohio Urban Forestry Grant Program (Federal Grant ID: 23-DG-11094200-363).

The Village commits to:

- Ensuring that all trees are planted, watered, mulched, pruned, and maintained in accordance with the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region Tree Planting Guidelines, ANSI Z60.1 Nursery Stock Standards, ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards, and ISA Best Management Practices.
- Providing necessary staff, volunteers, and/or contractors to perform ongoing maintenance and replacement of trees as needed.
- Protecting public investments in tree canopy expansion to ensure long-term community benefits, including stormwater reduction, improved air quality, and enhanced neighborhood livability.

This certification will remain in effect for the duration of the project and the life of the trees planted with this grant.

Sincerely,



**Mayor Lora Lyons**  
Village of Payne, Ohio

# Village of Payne

119 N. Main Street / PO Box 58, Payne, OH 45880  
TELEPHONE: 419-263-2514 | Fax: 419-263-2974  
website: [www.villageofpayne.com](http://www.villageofpayne.com)

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August 23, 2025

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
Urban Forestry Grant Program  
[urban.forestry@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:urban.forestry@dnr.ohio.gov)

RE: Urban Forestry Grant Proposal – Village of Payne, Ohio  
Federal Grant ID: 23-DG-11094200-363

Dear Urban Forestry Grant Review Team,

On behalf of the Village of Payne, we are pleased to submit our proposal for the 2025 Urban Forestry Grant Program. This application represents the culmination of recent technical collaboration with your Division and a strong commitment from our village to build a sustainable, equitable urban forestry program.

With the guidance of your urban forester, we conducted a tree risk assessment and identified priority removals, along with strategies for new planting, maintenance, and long-term community engagement. Our request includes support for tree removals, new plantings, staff training, community outreach, and the development of a local tree commission and urban forestry ordinance.

While Payne does not appear on the program’s official eligibility map, we ask for your consideration based on our high poverty rate (21.5%), rural designation, Title I school status, and economic hardship. These conditions reflect the kind of community the USDA Forest Service and ODNR aim to uplift through this critical funding opportunity.

We appreciate your continued guidance and support. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Village of Payne Council & Mayor

**Bradley Bohland**  
*Council President*

**Priscilla Kadolph**  
*Councilwoman*

**Allen Wobler**  
*Councilman*

**Lora Lyons**  
*Mayor*

**Jason Hower**  
*Councilman*

**Nancy Speice**  
*Councilwoman*

**Jennifer Zartman**  
*Councilwoman*

## Appendix I: Tree Committee Letter of Support

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# Village of Payne

119 N. Main Street / PO Box 58, Payne, OH 45880

TELEPHONE: 419-263-2514 | Fax: 419-263-2974

website: [www.villageofpayne.com](http://www.villageofpayne.com)

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**Date:** 08/23/2025

### **To Whom It May Concern:**

As members of the Village of Payne Tree Committee, we are pleased to express our strong support for the Village's application to the Ohio Urban Forestry Grant Program (Federal Grant ID: 23-DG-11094200-363).

The Payne Tree Committee is committed to advancing the goals outlined in the 2025 Urban Forest Plan, including:

- Removing hazardous trees identified through the TRAQ-based risk assessment;
- Expanding Payne's urban tree canopy by planting 30 large-stature, native shade trees in public spaces and neighborhoods;
- Promoting community engagement through workshops, school partnerships, and volunteer planting days; and
- Establishing long-term governance through a Tree Commission and adoption of a comprehensive Tree Ordinance.

Our committee will assist with public outreach, volunteer coordination, and tree planting events, and will help integrate citizen feedback into planting site selection and program design. We recognize that this grant is an important investment in the health, safety, and sustainability of our community.

We fully endorse the Village's application and look forward to partnering with ODNR and our residents to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Village of Payne - Tree Committee

**Bradley Bohland**

*Council President-Project Lead*

**Priscilla Kadolph**

*Councilwoman*

**Lora Lyons**

*Mayor*

# Appendix J: ODNR Letter of Support



Steph Miller, Western Ohio Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Division of Forestry  
forestry.ohiodnr.gov  
August 25, 2025

Mike DeWine, *Governor*  
Jim Tressel, *Lt. Governor*  
Mary Mertz, *Director*

952-B Lima Ave.  
Findlay, OH 45840  
(419) 429-8313  
stephanie.miller@dnr.ohio.gov

The Honorable Lora Lyons  
Mayor of Payne  
119 N Main St.  
PO Box 58  
Payne, OH 45880

Dear Mayor Lyons,

I appreciate your patience and apologize for the delay again. I wanted to get this to you in time to include in your Inflation Reduction Act grant application due Thursday. Included in this set of recommendations is a list of trees for each color on your planting design map and what it takes to have a successful planting. I'm rooting for you.

## Process

The Street Tree Planting Design process starts by doing a field analysis of all the treelawns in the village. By measuring eight simple things, we are able to identify the quality of the soil along the street and give it what we call an Urban Site Index score. Match the USI with the space, and we are able to give each village block (or so) one of ten site categories. Between our April 9<sup>th</sup> field work and Haley Belisle's visit on May 13<sup>th</sup>, we were able to score the entire village. Unfortunately, one page of data disappeared, so we'll finish that in the near future. No worries.

You and Haley mapped the village based on the 10 site categories. Typically, villages assign a species to each colored segment, but Payne wanted to have a little more flexibility. After our discussion you opted for utilizing a list with species count limits so that you will be able to work with the neighboring residents to select the species in the village treelawn. The limits help prevent you from planting too much of a single species. This works perfectly fine, it just needs a little bit of record keeping on your part.

I put together a spreadsheet of trees for each category. You have your key, so I colored the tab that corresponds with the category color you assigned on May 13<sup>th</sup>. For the large site trees, each has a partner medium and small species to go with it. The medium and small partner trees are for those areas where the primary side of the street has an 8+ ft wide treelawn and no overhead primary electric for large trees (secondary and other utilities are fine with trees,) but the other side of the street has either a narrow treelawn &/or primary electric overhead. The planting focus of the grant is large trees because they are the ones we get the most benefit from, they're easier to manage, and turnover is lower.



## Department of Natural Resources

[ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov)

Steph Miller, Western Ohio Urban Forestry Coordinator

Division of Forestry

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[stephanie.miller@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:stephanie.miller@dnr.ohio.gov)

### Where to Start

Because you'll reap the benefits and maintenance ease with large-growing species, a good urban forestry practice is to fill your large spaces first. Since you have and will lose trees in the part of town where the recent construction activity focused, that area makes sense too.

Haley and/or I will work with you to site the trees in the correct spots. So many trees throughout town were spaced apart from each other with little to no concern for other infrastructure. It's important that we let the hardscape and other infrastructure guide us to where the appropriate planting spots are. It helps ensure we won't have issues in the future with gas/water/sewer underground or driver/sight issues at intersections and driveways. One of the keys is to get the greatest amount of canopy with the fewest trees to manage. Biggest bang for your buck.

### Planting

A lot has changed in how we plant trees. Since the late 1990s, we've known that landscape tree stock is problematic with most planted too deeply in the rootball or container. Therefore, if we want trees to survive and pay us back we need to adjust trees at planting time. Read [this article](#) for more details.

We can head off several issues by purchasing trees from a reputable nursery. If you purchase in Ohio, one that's a member of the Ohio Green Industry Association (OGIA) is a good start. Since you're so close to Indiana, you may find an Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association member. Most landscape stock comes as balled & burlapped or in containers. If you need assistance selecting stock, we'll go to the nursery with you to pick out trees. Purchasing 1.5-2-inch caliper trees also helps. Any bigger and you have a lot more to fix at planting time. Some places may offer you a great deal for bigger stuff, but it's not.

You can stretch your funds by purchasing some species as conservation stock. Conservation stock is grown for reforestation efforts, but they work very well as street and park trees. The trees highlighted in green on the tree list are ones you'll do fine purchasing 7- or 15-gallon conservation stock.

Whichever stock you get, properly planting it is critical. Because we are in a buyer beware industry, all tree care specifications must come from the municipality. The Division of Forestry in partnership with other industry/agency leaders recently updated our 1999 planting specifications to what we're calling [Ohio's Endorsed Planting Specifications](#). They are used word-for-word in our [full sample planting specs](#) so that contractors and customers alike



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get accustomed to the same language and terminology. There's also a [great video](#) we produced together.

I promise that you will get pushback from some vendors on this. Even though modern planting techniques have been in play since 2000, many still won't do it unless held in contract. It can be very scary too because they are removing roots, scraping off soil, and sometimes planting a tree that's lost a good bunch of the soil from its rootball.

You're not alone in this challenge either. One of the very best ways we've found to win over the contractors and get them to plant correctly is for your reps and us to meet them on the first day of planting to get them going right. That way they're not losing production time and they learn that we've all got their back. Schedule the time with Haley. It'll save you a lot of head and heartache.

### Planting Aftercare

1. [Mulch](#) 3-4 inches wide, at least 3 feet all around the tree. If you can square the mulch up with the sidewalk and curb, even better. Neighbors love it because there's not an awkward wedge of turf to mow. It dresses things up and does something psychologically that dissuades people from piling mulch around the trunk (volcano mulching.)
2. [Water](#). Water. Water. Trees need 5 gallons of water/caliper inch PLUS 5 gallons weekly. Water for two years. Watering bags are terrific. Fill once a week and there you go.
3. Young tree training is a must. Just like with kids and puppies, if we don't train them they'll be a mess in maturity. Plan to send some folks to one of our free young tree training classes. We can come and do one there once you have trees in the ground for a year. You'll get a free class and a bunch of your first round of training done.

You need to plan on doing young tree training every two or three years until the tree's been in 15 years. This heads off so many mature tree issues like what you're dealing with today. It's THE most cost-effective piece to any urban forestry program.

4. Protect the trees. This goes to your tree ordinance so that folks don't chop them up, pile stuff around them, hit them with mowers/weed whips, or drive them over. It also helps with bunnies and deer. If you think that there will be issues, we recommend 4 ft wire fence and cheap garden stake from any farm store. It works really great, is subtle, affordable, and reusable.





**Department of  
Natural Resources**

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### **Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant**

As I mentioned in the tree risk assessment summary, we have a grant that I think Payne should apply for. Again, make the case that your village has a financial need. You know the statistics even if the federal maps don't show them. Write it down and include it in your application.

As for the grant language, utilize the recommendations and language in this letter and the tree risk assessment letter for your grant. Attach both summaries, sample specifications, data, and maps to your application also showing that you're working with Haley and me to get all this going. You may even note that you're still waiting on me for formal recommendations for your park if you'd like to do some planting there as part of the grant. Include a satellite photo showing there is definitely a need for trees. You'll show the need and illustrate that you're working with professionals to get quality advice. I've been the slow poke on that one.

Whether you receive the grant or not, it doesn't influence our services for you or the recommendations thus far. It would certainly help kickstart things financially on your end, but we'll be here through thick and thin. If you didn't see in my last email announcement, I will be scaling back my field visits as we transition Haley into her new role in Paulding and neighboring counties. If you and others haven't already, please make sure to [sign up to get my email announcements](#). We have a lot going on this year.

Good luck on the grant application. I sooo want you to have this.

Sincerely,

Steph Miller  
Western Ohio Urban Forestry Coordinator  
ISA Certified Arborist, Urban Forestry Professional  
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

# Village of Payne Urban Forest Plan – Resident Summary

Category	Highlights
 <b>Canopy Growth</b>	<b>Increase canopy from 18% (2025) to 25% (2035)</b>
 <b>Tree Planting</b>	<b>150 new public trees by 2030</b>
 <b>Equity</b>	<b>Every resident within 300m of green space (3-30-300 Rule)</b>
 <b>Governance</b>	<b>Formal Tree Committee by 2026; Tree Ordinance by 2027</b>
 <b>Recognition</b>	<b>Tree City USA designation by 2027</b>
 <b>Together, we are growing a greener, healthier, and more vibrant Payne!</b>	

## Vision Statement

“To grow and maintain a resilient, healthy, and equitable tree canopy that improves quality of life, protects natural resources, and enhances the character of Payne for future generations.”