

# 2018 Arborist Work Report



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## Status of Bowling Green’s Urban Forest

In 2015, the Arborist analyzed Bowling Green’s updated tree inventory using iTree Streets. At that time, Bowling Green’s city-owned trees provided \$630,000 in environmental benefits annually and intercepted 7.4 million gallons of stormwater. Every dollar spent on tree care returned \$2.87 in environmental benefits. The trees had a replacement value of \$6.7 million.

Currently, the City of Bowling Green has 7,668 city-owned trees. Over the last two years I used the City’s Tree Risk Management Plan to visually inspect every City-owned tree. In doing so I corrected errors in the City’s tree inventory errors and prioritized tree maintenance needs (**Table 1**).

**Table 1.** Tree maintenance needs of Bowling Green’s city-owned trees.

Required Maintenance Categories <sup>z</sup>	Number of trees
Removal 1	90
Prune 1	264
Removal 2	123
Prune 2	438
Routine Maintenance – Large Trees	3,433
Routine Maintenance – Small Trees	2,034
Training Young Trees	1,286

<sup>z</sup> Tree Risk Management Plan outlines work priorities: Removal 1 > Prune 1 > Removal 2 > Prune 2

## 2018 Tree Maintenance

### Electrical Line Clearance

Nelson Tree Service performed contracted electrical line clearance for Bowling Green’s Electric Division mainly in Ward 1. Including work by city crews, trees were pruned and/or removed to achieve adequate clearance from electric lines at 284 addresses.

### Right-of-Ways, Parks, and Cemetery

In 2018, on city property 168 trees were planted; 128 trees were removed; 1,003 trees were pruned; and 5,354 trees inspected (**Table 2**).

**Table 2.** Tree work in the city right-of-way, cemetery, parks, and other City property.

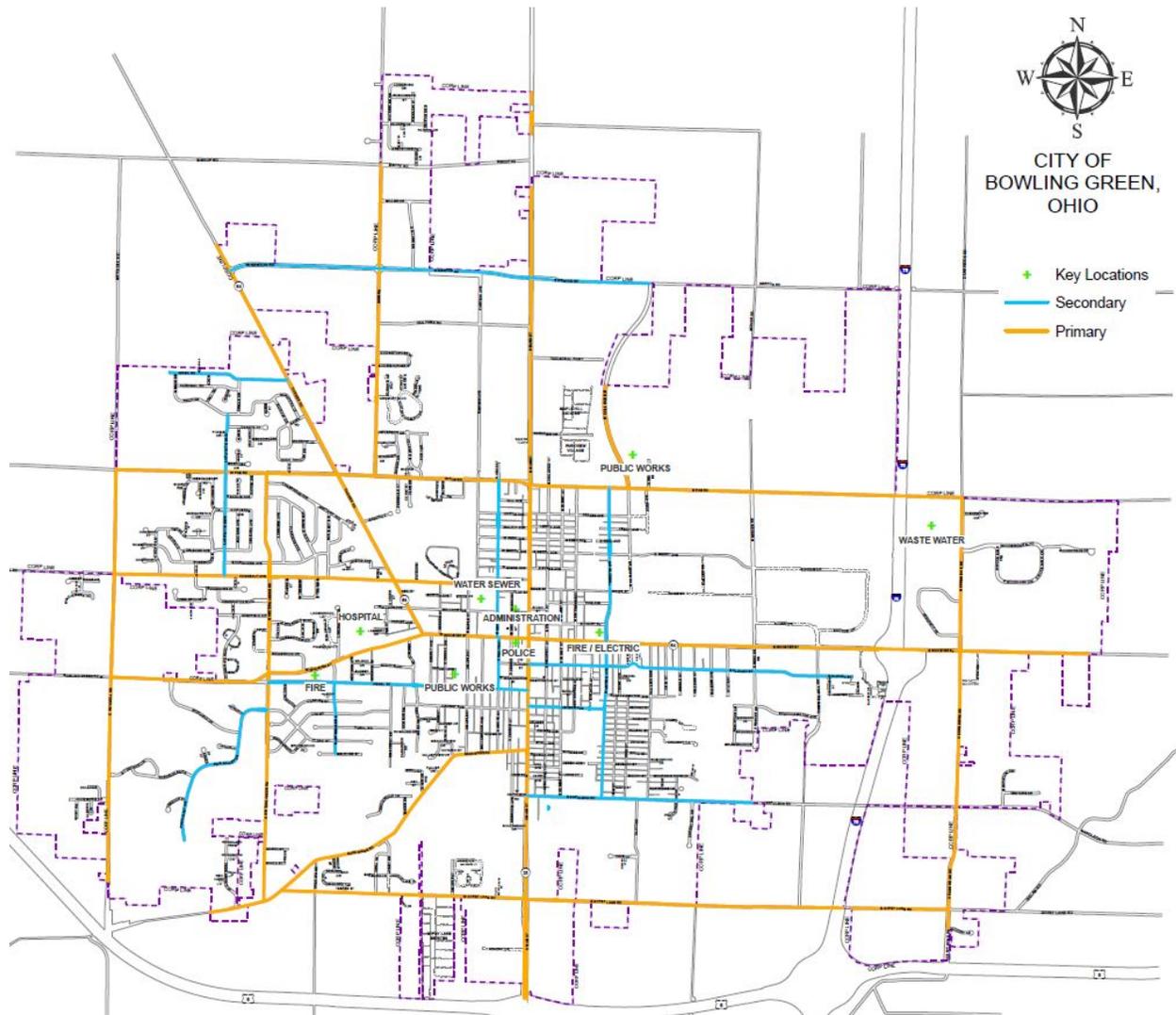
	Planted	Removed	Pruned	Inspected
# of Trees	168	128	1,003	5,354

## Policy and Management

### Urban Forest Storm Response Management Plan

The Urban Forest Storm Response Management Plan outlines the City’s response to tree damage following minor, major, and catastrophic storm events (**Figure 1**). It prioritizes how crews will respond if there are trees in the streets and on power lines after a storm. It contains phone numbers for key personnel and contractors that are involved with storm cleanup.

iTree Storm was used estimate clean-up costs for a catastrophic, city-wide storm event to be \$1.5 million. Survey protocols could quickly be repeated following a storm event to create revised clean-up cost estimates. Finally, the plan also includes worksheets to track post-storm tree work and debris disposal. This will help maximize FEMA reimbursement should Bowling Green be within a declared disaster area and financial assistance becomes available through FEMA.



**Figure 1.** Map showing primary and secondary roads and key locations that would be cleared first following a catastrophic storm.

### **Electrical Line Clearance Contract**

2018 was the last year for the City's current electrical line clearance contract. Bids were received and Pennline had the lowest and best bid. They will start pruning and removing trees near the City's electric lines in 2019. The contract can be extended annually through 2022.

## Public Relations

### Photo Contest

The Tree Commission held their inaugural photo contest in 2018. They asked Bowling Green residents to submit photos of trees found within the city limits (**Photo 1**). Twenty-five photos were submitted. Commissioners selected the top photos and the public voted for their favorite by “liking” their favorite photo for each season on the City’s Facebook page. In total there were 480 “likes.” The contest will continue in 2019.



**Photo 1.** City Park trees in winter. Submitted by Rob Holley.

### Tree City USA and Growth Award

On April 18 Bowling Green received the Tree City USA Award for the 38<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In addition, the city also received their 24<sup>th</sup> Growth Award for growing their tree program. This is the most Growth Awards of any community in Ohio.

### Tree Inventory

Our tree inventory provider updated their software in 2018 which now includes a public page for the City’s tree inventory. This link was posted on the Arborist webpage and residents can use it to find the tree in front of their home or look at the environmental benefits the City’s trees provide.

## Arbor Day

On May 4 the Bowling Green Tree Commission celebrated Arbor Day at Kenwood Elementary with the Fifth-Grade class. Students created posters based upon the theme “My Favorite Tree in Bowling Green” (**Photo 2**). Thayer Family Dealerships donated Downtown Dollars that were awarded to the top three artists in the poster contest. A swamp white oak was planted near the school’s playground.



**Photo 2.** Fifth Grade student at Kenwood with one of the winning Arbor Day posters.

## Plans for 2019

Below are several key projects and goals we will focus on in 2019:

- We will remove several overmature silver maple trees in poor condition and replace them with appropriate tree species.
- We will clear trees from electrical lines in Ward 4 and along rural electric lines. This will help reduce electric outages caused by trees damaging electric lines.
- I will use canopy cover analysis from iTree Landscape to prioritize areas for future tree planting.
- The pear trees in the downtown area will begin to be replaced following utility work and road paving. Additionally, trees will be planted at the Greenspace this spring.
- Trees in City Park will be monitored during the new City Park Building’s construction and tree preservation steps will be implemented to maintain tree health.