



Village of Homewood  
T.R.E.E. Committee  
2023 Annual Report

Landscape & Maintenance Building  
18355 Pierce Avenue  
Homewood, IL 60430

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1. **Purpose:**

The Tree Committee provides educational outreach to residents and surrounding communities, develops stronger public relations, establishes award programs, expands and reinforces reforestation, helps develop viable resource management tools, and makes recommendations on urban forest issues affecting the Village that requires action by the Village Board.

2. **Membership:**

Jason Baldauf – Chairperson  
Deborah Baldauf  
Carolyn Bury  
Janet Hernandez  
Paul Kramer  
Karl Persons  
Regina Zohfeld  
Tony Greep

3. **Accomplishments:**

- The Arbor Day Art Bag Program was a success, with students from local schools participating. The topic was “There’s Something Shady About Trees.”
- Oak saplings donated by MWRD were handed out at our table at the Public Works Open House in May.
- The Tree Committee in conjunction with the Homewood Science Center, Thorn Creek Audubon, and Izaak Walton hosted the first event celebrating World Migratory Bird Day in May.
- The tree survey of tree species located in Crescent Basin was completed, with 88 trees identified.
- The Green Thumb Saturday program had many talented speakers, and it was well attended. The committee’s second tree tour was completed as part of the program, highlighting parkway tree plantings and diversity. An online platform has been developed for self-guided tours of the highlighted trees as well as additional future tree tours. This has been a long-standing wish list item for the Committee and we are excited to have it come to fruition.
- TreeShare and Arbor Day tree planting were postponed due to the spring 2024 emergence of cicada brood XIII, to mitigate potential damage. TreeShare will resume in fall 2024. The Committee was at the Farmers Market providing public outreach regarding the cicada issue in August.