



Village of Homewood
T.R.E.E. Committee
2024 Annual Report

Landscape & Maintenance Building
18355 Pierce Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430

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
Robert Lynch	

3. **Accomplishments:**

- The Arbor Day Art Bag Program received a smaller response from local schools participating. The topic was “Tree Houses Rock”. We have begun discussions of changing or replacing the program.
- Three memorial tree plantings were organized for Todd Beale (son-in-law for long time committee member Regina Zohfeld, who passed from cancer), Glenn Merritt (serving on the Homewood Planning Commission for 10 years and District 153 Board of Education for 17 years, 14 as President), and Jim Wright (Serving on the Homewood Fire Department for 22 years, Village Board Trustee for 4 years and Homewood Historical Society since 1983). Additionally, Jim donated significantly to the Village’s reforestation effort.
- The Village was awarded Bird City Illinois status as a result of collaborative efforts of the Tree Committee, Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve and Thorn Creek Audubon Society. The second event celebrating World Migratory Bird Day was held in May.
- The Green Thumb Saturday program had many talented speakers, and it was well attended. The committee’s third and fourth tree tour was completed as part of the program, highlighting parkway tree plantings and diversity. An outline platform has been developed for self-guided tours of the highlighted trees as well as additional future tree tours. We are very please do have this resource available to showcase the Village’s urban forest diversity.
- The committee assisted with the Open Lands Tree Planting on September 14th.
- TreeShare and Arbor Day tree planting resumed after postponement due to the spring 2024 emergence of cicada brood XIII, to mitigate potential damage. We were at the Farmers Market and Public Works Open House providing public outreach regarding the cicada issue in the spring.
- The committee planted an oak tree at the Rail Park in celebration of Oaktober.
- Tree tags for the Homewood Arboretum tree inventory were adjusted to compensate for tree growth.
- The committee provided some assistance for spotted lanternfly surveying.