



LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.

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July 27, 2020

City of Fairlawn

Ernie Staten, Deputy Service Director

3300 Fairlawn Service Dr.

Fairlawn, OH 44333

Dear Deputy Service Director Staten,

I read the July 23, 2020 article in the West Side Leader concerning Fairlawn's plan to update the trees on City property, "Fairlawn Working to Update Trees Throughout City." As we know a balanced ecosystem is comprised of a diverse array of flora and fauna. As an active participant with the City of Akron to revise their urban agriculture ordinances, outdated noxious weed ordinance, and create pollinator supportive ordinances, LEAD for Pollinators has also encouraged applicable tree plantings. Many cities across the US have adjusted their tree planting guidelines to include pollinator supportive trees, and most importantly native trees. (<https://www.recorder.com/FRCOG-works-with-towns-to-pollinate-34716844>; <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0235492>)

Please reconsider your selection of six trees that are not reflective of the diversity of native Ohio trees. The Japanese Tree Lilac, the Japanese zelkova, and Japanese snowbell are not native trees to Ohio. The hardy rubber tree was brought to the US in 1896, and is also not native to Ohio.

Research conducted at the University of Delaware and reported by the Audubon Society:

"Native plants are better for native birds than introduced flora. More specifically, because these trees and shrubs have evolved with the local wildlife, they harbor more insects or yield more berries and fruit than non-native plants, providing greater amounts of food for certain critters." (<https://www.audubon.org/news/new-research-further-proves-native-plants-offer-more-bugs-birds>)

As an advocate for a sustainable ecosystem for all living things including pollinators, LEAD for Pollinators encourages the City of Fairlawn to re-evaluate its tree "plan." Tree City USA lists trees supportive of pollinators. *"Trees' flowers are a critical source of forage for bees, providing nutrient-rich pollen and nectar that bees use for food and to make honey."*

Our mission is to provide leadership, education, action, and development to support the health and sustainability of honey bees, native pollinators, and the keepers of the ecosystem.

LEAD for Pollinators is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

(<https://www.arboday.org/trees/health/pests/article-trees-for-bees.cfm>)

Consider becoming a Bee City USA, as well as working towards your Tree City USA designation.

“ . . . just by planting a tree in an urban or suburban area, you could help lots of species of pollinators and birds, filter storm water runoff before it pollutes and floods streams, reduce the urban heat island effect, and mitigate climate change . . . America’s nearly 3600 species of native bees rely on pollen from flowers as their primary source of protein and nectar for their carbohydrates. About more than 25% of bee species specialize on specific plant families for their pollen source, many of them native trees. Many butterflies and moths lay their eggs in native trees, where their caterpillars feast on the leaves. According to Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home, native oaks (Quercus spp.) support 534 species of butterflies and moths, black cherries (Prunus spp.)–456, and willows (Salix spp.)–455.” (<https://www.beecityusa.org/blog-and-news/operation-trees-for-bees-plant-trees-this-fall-to-stem-climate-change-pollinator-decline>) Bee City USA has a list of native trees which support pollinators, can withstand salt roadway applications, are drought and fire tolerant, and are commercially available. Native trees support the next generation of birds, which help to control insect pests.

The Summit County Metro Parks also has information about the Ohio native trees to plant in our community for the benefit of the community and a sustainable ecosystem. As Ohio communities work toward sustainable, healthy communities, trees are vital to a diverse environment. LEAD for Pollinators, Inc. encourages the City of Fairlawn to reassess its proposed “tree plan” and create one that is supportive of pollinators and birds, plants only native Ohio trees, protects the soil, water, and air, promotes public health through the reduction of pest insects through the habitat support of birds, and reflects a sustainable ecosystem for all Fairlawn residents.

As Executive Director of LEAD for Pollinators I would be pleased to discuss these pollinator and tree concerns with you further, and work with you to gather community members to assist in developing a sustainable, pollinator and bird supportive native tree plan for Fairlawn.

Sincerely,

Michele Colopy
Executive Director

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