

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
11004 Carpenter Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448
Monday, March 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the Board of Trustees work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following Trustees were present:

Rob Dauphinais
Melissa Fedora
Terry G. Germany
George Metanias



Absent: Debbie Engler, Terence Smith

Also, present were the following: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomaszski; Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson; Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig; Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck; Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa; Community Development Director Brent Cann; and Chief of Police Brian Benton

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa and Steve Lane presented the following item:



<h2>Urban Forestry Background</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Public Works submits for 50/50 Urban Forestry grant Fall of 2022 through Morton Arboretum▶ Grant awarded December 2022▶ RFQ awarded to Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management to complete tree survey and support grant March 13▶ Press release March 2023▶ Grant has 3 requirements for Board approval<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Complete tree survey of village right of ways▶ Use tree survey to complete an Urban Forestry Management Plan▶ Update Tree Ordinance and other related ordinances	 <p>Village of Mokena 11004 Carpenter Street Mokena, Illinois 60448 (708) 479-3906 Fax: (708) 479-4844 Email: administration@mokena.org Web Site: www.mokena.org</p> <p>Village President Frank A. Fleischer</p> <p>Village Clerk Melissa Martini</p> <p>Trustees Joseph E. Baidryn Rob Dauphinais Debbie Engler Melissa Fedora George J. Metanias James M. Richmond</p> <p>mokena</p>	<h3>Village of Mokena Awarded Urban Forestry Funding</h3> <p>Mokena, Illinois, March 23, 2023 — Village of Mokena was awarded a \$25,000 grant to complete tree inventories and develop a management plan for its urban forest.</p> <p>"The Village of Mokena has worked hard to enhance our tree infrastructure and to protect the environment. We understand the importance of preserving our trees and partnering with our residents to plant and nurture theirs," said Mayor Frank Fleischer. "We continue to invest in the Parkway Tree Program and this opportunity will enable us to take a more strategic approach in our efforts."</p> <p>The funds were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Urban and Community Forestry Partner Grant Program and administered by The Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI).</p> <p>"The Village of Mokena is honored to be awarded the grant for our village wide tree inventory in 2023. The Village will utilize the data later in the year to create a long-term urban forestry management plan", according to James Kulesa, the Village's Director of Public Works.</p> <p>The grants provide communities with a better understanding of the urban forest areas they're managing by revealing an estimated number of trees, their size, condition, and species. The inventories will also identify opportunities to increase planting and will inform the development of a comprehensive urban forest management plan.</p> <p>"Urban trees are critical infrastructure for a community, and this funding helps to protect one of its most important resources," said Lydia Scott, Director of CRTI. "Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding and heat, improve our mental and physical health, and provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife."</p> <p>James P. Kulesa Director of Public Works Village of Mokena P: (708) 479-3906 ext. 232 F: (708) 479-4844</p>  <p>Where Our Customers Come First!</p>
---	---	---

What is the Urban Forest?

- ▶ Trees planted and grown for the benefit of people - vs traditional forestry
- ▶ NOT because its in an “Urban Area”, necessarily!
- ▶ Publicly owned trees in the Right of Way / Terraces
- ▶ Parkway = Space between the Curb and Sidewalk
- ▶ Parks trees, municipal campus trees, etc.
- ▶ While your private trees contribute to the Urban Forest, they are not the subject of this plan
- ▶ We do want you to plant more trees, though!
- ▶ Mokena does not do work on privately owned trees
- ▶ Urban Forest is a resource for us all!




What Does This Village Service Provide Us?

- ▶ Shade
- ▶ Heating and cooling savings
- ▶ Stormwater uptake / flooding prevention
- ▶ Oxygen and cleaner air
- ▶ A good-looking community / curb appeal!
- ▶ Habitat for birds and wildlife
- ▶ CO2 uptake / Carbon Sequestration
- ▶ Wood products for Urban Wood Utilization
- ▶ More trees = lower crime rates
- ▶ More trees = Better perception of health

What is an Urban Forestry Management Plan?

- ▶ Long term comprehensive plan for how this Village Service will be managed over the coming 20 years.
- ▶ Growing tree species diversity
- ▶ Maintaining and enhancing public safety
- ▶ Managing removals, pruning, planting, watering, stump grinding, etc.
- ▶ Ensuring industry Best Management Practices are being followed
- ▶ Budgeting for long term change
- ▶ Being ADAPTIVELY MANAGED over time...
- ▶ Engaging the community/make sure its needs are met






How to Read This Plan

- ▶ Overview of all goals and programs takes place within the first 20 pages.
- ▶ If you want to get an overview, you can read these 20 pages and get a pretty good feel for the plan.
- ▶ Rest of document goes into very deep detail about many topics, pages numbers referenced in first 20
- ▶ There are very few absolutes, flexibility is key!
- ▶ When you see a budget number, remember it is NEVER a hard number, but rather a projection
- ▶ It is meant to dock with other documents, not replicate them, please remember this

Mission Statement

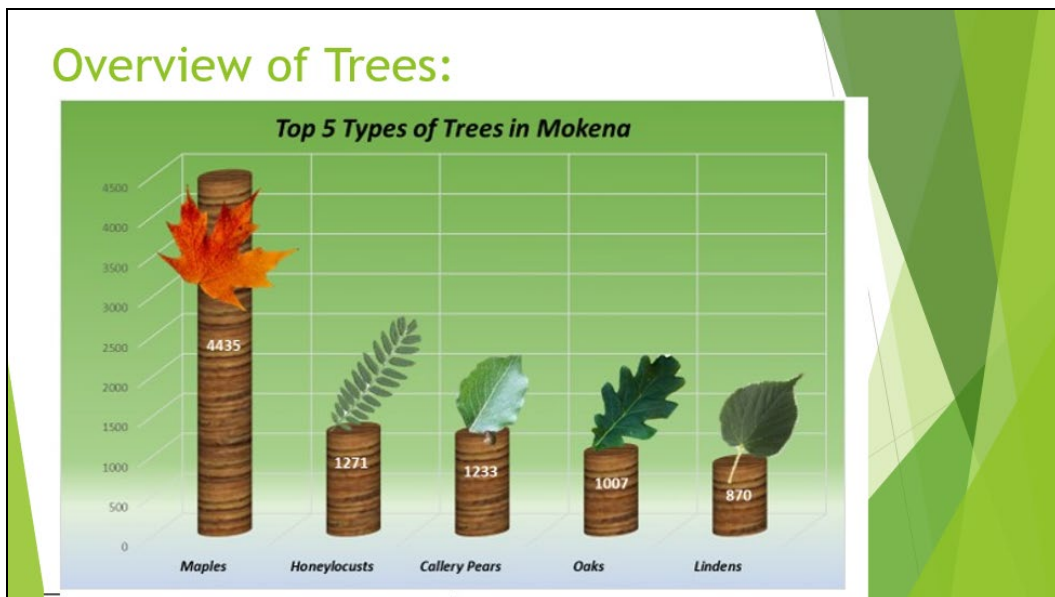
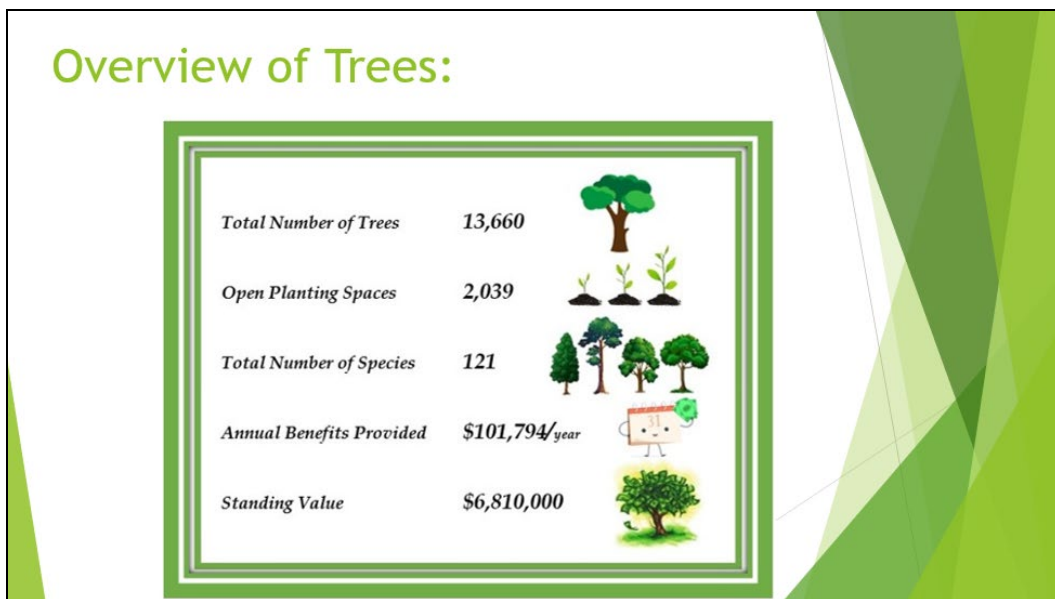
It will be the mission of this Urban Forest Management Plan to outline goals, budgets, and Arboricultural Best Management Practices for the management of the Urban Forest in the Village of Mokena, Illinois to increase canopy cover, maximize the benefits trees provide while minimizing cost, mitigate against climate change, and create a program to manage the Urban Forest Resource for the greatest public good in a manner that is both financially and programmatically sustainable, while maintaining flexibility for future adaptive management.



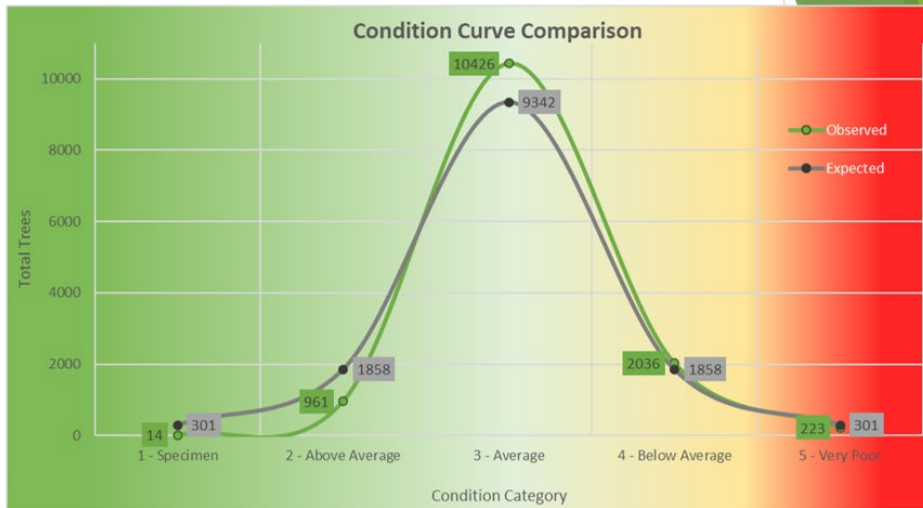
Overview of Goals

Create a Needs Analysis	Maintain Species List	New Tree Care Practices
Establish Goals	Manage Removals	Incorporate Industry BMPs
Update Village Ordinance	Create Cycle Pruning Program	Create a Tree Risk Policy
Increase Diversity Through Tree Planting	Maintain a Tree Inventory	Increase Overall Canopy Cover
Mitigate Climate Change	Define Trees as Infrastructure	Become a Municipal Arboretum
Make Tree Preservation Better	Manage Invasive Species	Increase Awareness of Urban Forest
Increase Stockign Density		Maintain a Cost Share Program

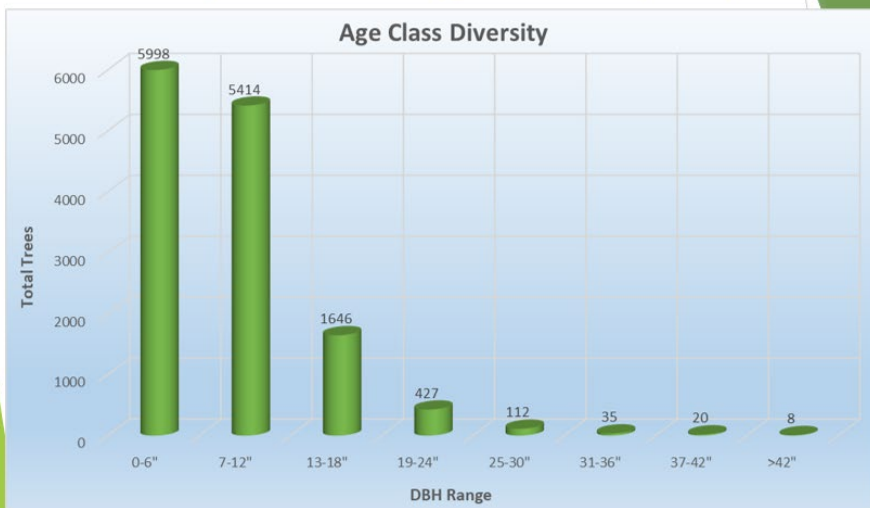




Inventory Results-Condition:

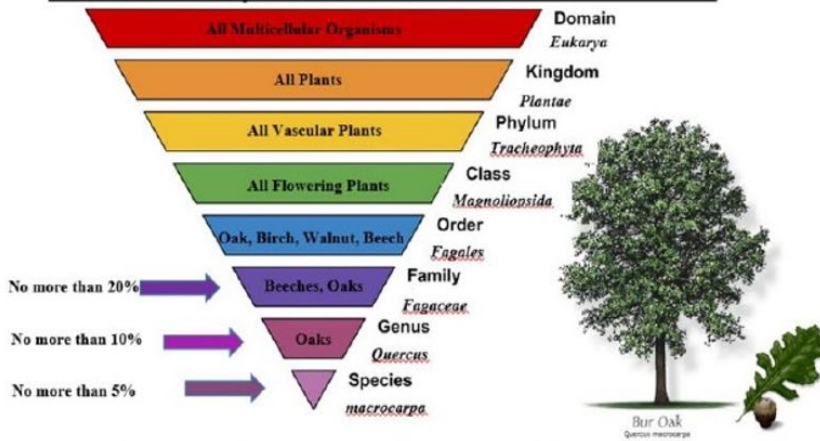


Inventory Results-Age Class (DBH)

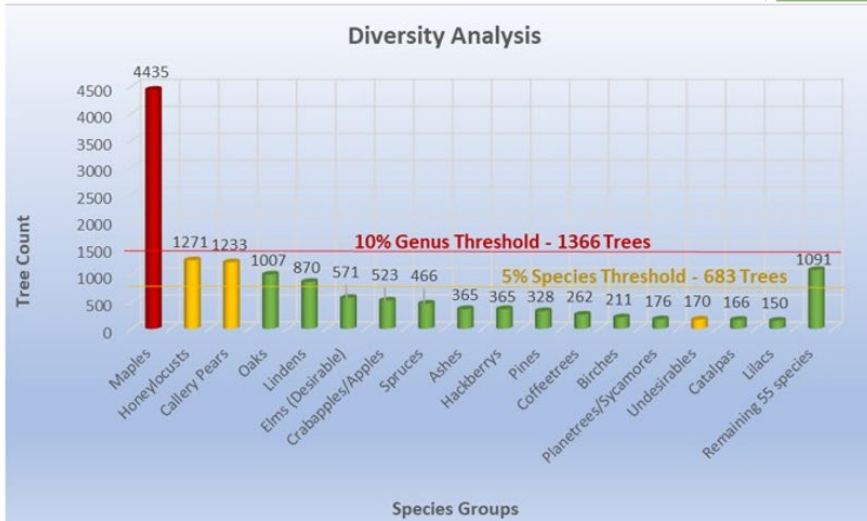


Inventory Results-Diversity!!!

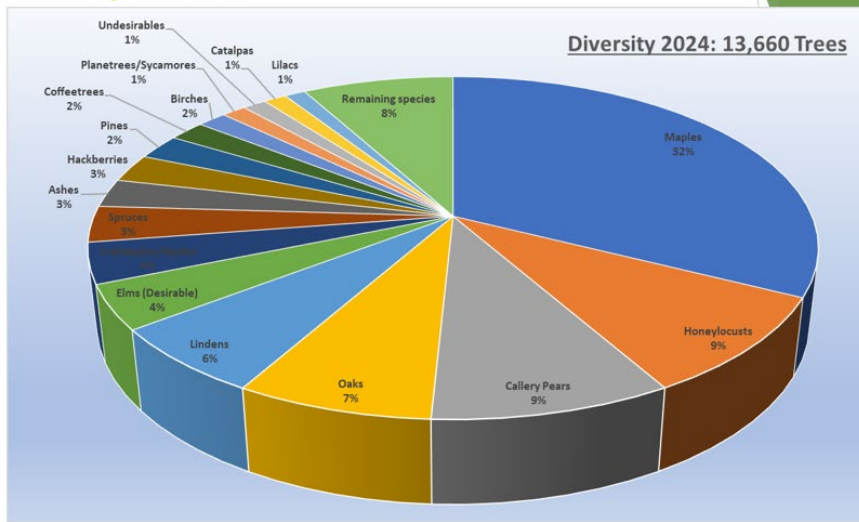
Taxonomy and the 20-10-5 Rule



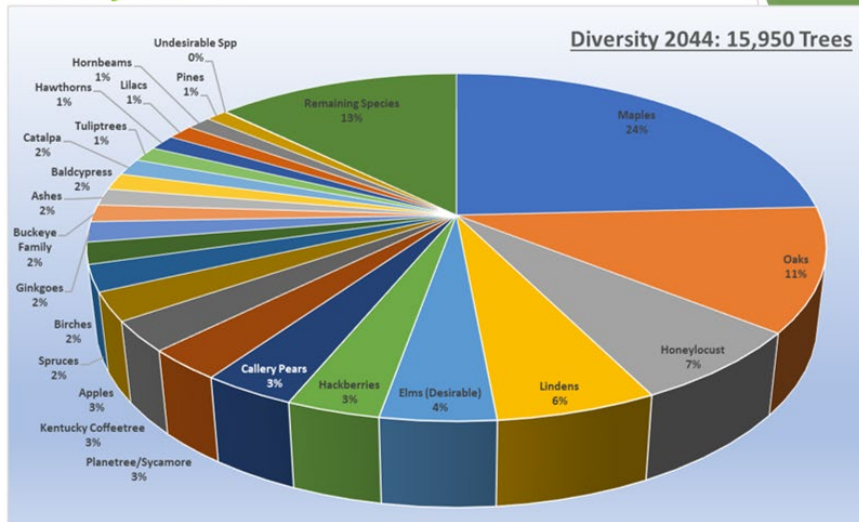
Inventory Results-Diversity!!!



Diversity 2023



Diversity 2023



iTree: What Benefits Do Trees Provide?

Pollution Removal	\$16,500
Carbon Sequestration	\$15,700
Avoided Runoff	\$6,470
Building Energy Savings	\$24,000
Carbon Avoided	\$10,100
Oxygen Production	\$29,024
TOTAL ANNUAL BENEFITS	\$101,794

Carbon Storage	\$380,000
Replacement Value	\$6,430,000
TOTAL STANDING BENEFITS	\$6,810,000

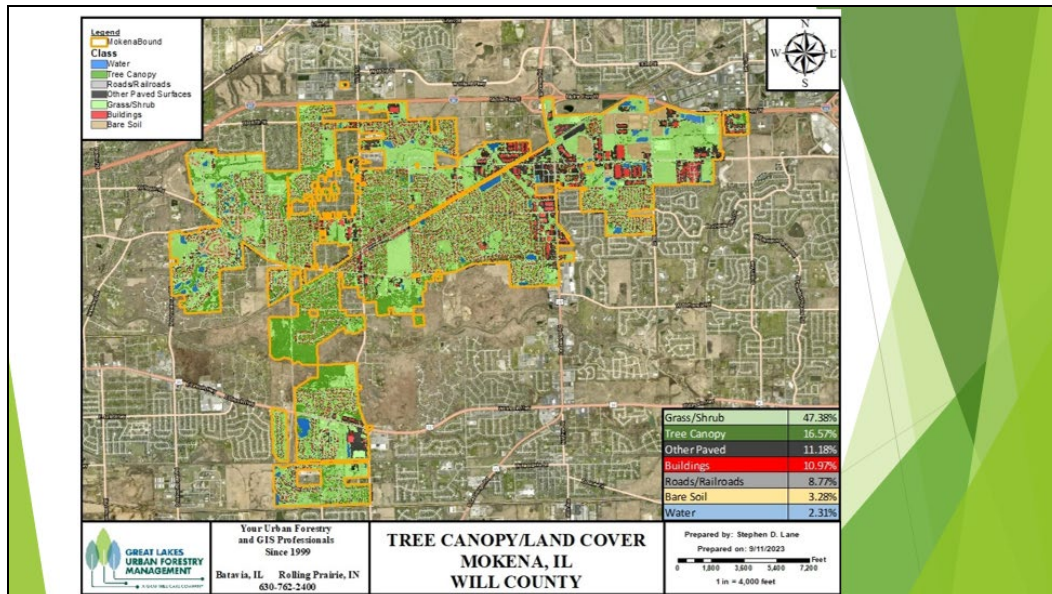
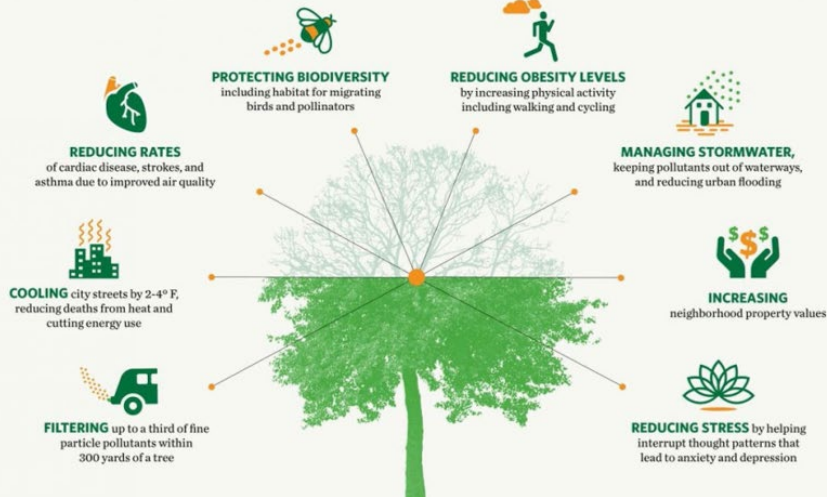


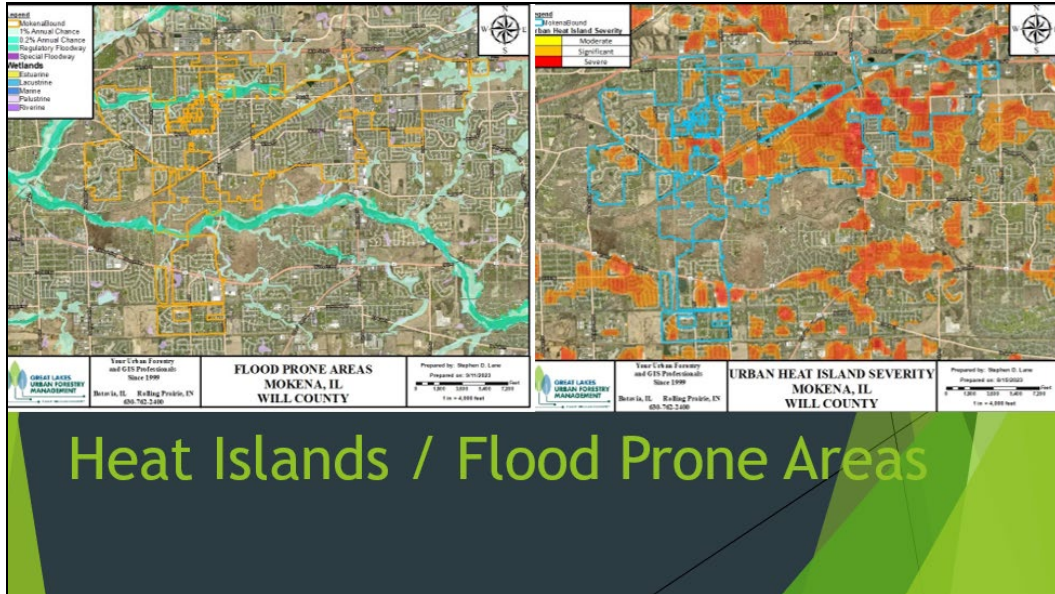
Initial Purchase and Installation	\$575	\$575
Pruning 15x Over 60 yr Lifetime	15 @ \$75/prune	\$1,125
Emergency Maintenance	1 @ \$250	\$250
Eventual Cost of Removal	\$850	\$850
SUBTOTAL		\$2,800
Annual Benefits	\$30.78/yr @ 60 years	\$1,847
Replacement Value	\$1,610	\$1,160
Carbon Storage	\$92	\$92
SUBTOTAL		\$3,099
Return on Investment		10.68%



Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...





Education and Outreach

- ▶ BIG part of plan going forward, surveys told us you want more education
- ▶ Tell us what you want to know about trees, we'll create the events to fill those needs!
- ▶ Cost Sharing Programs for Tree Purchase
- ▶ Continuing Citizen Education
- ▶ Private Property Tree Planting Programs
- ▶ Urban Wood utilization programs
- ▶ Publicly available maps and data about trees
- ▶ Clean-up/ Arbor Day event




What's Next-The Road Ahead

- ▶ Making tree inventory more efficient
- ▶ Making tree inventory more publicly available
- ▶ Plan for Inventory updates
- ▶ Purchase recommended equipment
- ▶ Hire recommended staff
- ▶ Evaluate success
- ▶ Schedule inaugural update to work out kinks
- ▶ Pursue initiatives in Plan
- ▶ Review, revise, rinse and repeat!



Budget and Next Steps

REMOVALS	Milestones	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2044
	Trees Removed	75	176	203	200	200	200
	Removal Cost (CPI)	\$31,950	\$33,075	\$34,900	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$37,625

PLANTINGS	Milestones	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2044
	Trees Planted	100	140	180	220	250	270/year
	Planting Cost (CPI)	\$35,000	\$49,000	\$63,000	\$77,000	\$87,500	\$108,675

PRUNING	Milestones	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2044
	Trees Pruned	1,950	2,000	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,300/year avg.
	Cost (CPI)	\$87,760	\$94,750	\$101,800	\$108,760	\$115,750	\$132,150

INVENTORY UPDATES/FORESTRY	Milestones	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2044
	Cost (CPI)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

Total Budget	TOTALS - CPI 3%	\$164,710	\$186,825	\$209,700	\$230,760	\$248,250	\$288,450
			FY25				

- ▶ Put Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) out for public comment
- ▶ Finalize revision to tree ordinance and other related ordinances
- ▶ Review Draft UFMP and tree with Morton Arboretum for grant approval

Board Review

- ▶ Does the Board agree with the proposed draft management plan?
- ▶ Does the Board agree with the FY25 budget?
- ▶ Does the Board agree with next step?

Discussion:

Director of Public Works Kulesa informed the Board that the Public Works Department staff has been collaborating with our consultant Great Lakes Urban Forestry, Steve Lane, and staff at the Morton Arboretum to create a draft for an Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) for the Village of Mokena. Director of Public Works Kulesa summarized the grant and activities to date. Steve Lane highlighted the Urban Forestry Plan draft for the Board members. Director of Public Works Kulesa concluded the presentation by reviewing the Fiscal Year (FY) 25 budget plans to support the UFMP.

Overall, the Board supported the UFMP and the FY 25 figures. Trustee Dauphinais also expressed interest in further exploration of trees being planted along I-80. Steve Lane from the Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management team said he is currently working with the city of Joliet on a grant that includes trees along I-80 over the next year and informed Trustee Dauphinais he would keep the Village of Mokena abreast of this project. Trustee Dauphinais also asked about the ArbNet Level II Arboretum Accreditation which requires a municipality to have at least 100 unique species in its tree population. Steve Lane said this would be good for the Village to consider and would help with future grants. Mayor Fleisher said this Urban Forestry Management Plan was very much needed and thanked Steve Lane for his long-time support of the Village's forestry.

Willowcrest Commuter Parking Lot

Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson presented the following item:

Willowcrest Commuter Lot

Village Board Work Session
March 18, 2024

Background

February 2024

Village Staff contacted by Mokena School District 159

History

- Originally completed for additional Metra parking
- Low utilization
- Used as a drop-off/pick-up point during the pandemic
- Utilized more by District 159 than the Village and commuters



Existing Agreements

Metra & Mokena School District 159

- Lease agreement executed on May 14, 2003
- Agreement called for Metra to improve the land as a parking facility and provides for the use of the site for commuter parking
- 25-year term expiring in May 2028

Metra & the Village of Mokena

- Intergovernmental agreement executed on January 12, 2004
- Agreement called for Metra to complete design, engineering and construction of Willowcrest Commuter Lot
- The Village is responsible for operation and maintenance of the parking lot
- 25-year term expiring in January 2029

Current Conditions



Current Conditions



Board Direction

1. Does the Village Board have any questions regarding the terms of either agreement?
2. Does the Village Board support terminating the agreement with Metra to allow District 159 to take control of the Willowcrest Commuter Lot?

Assistant Village Administrator Anderson stated that Mokena School District 159 inquired if the Village would be interested in giving operational control of the commuter lot to District 159. Assistant Village Administrator Anderson explained that the Willowcrest Commuter Parking Lot was originally completed for additional Metra parking for the Mokena Downtown station, but the lot had very low utilization for commuters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many parents with students at Mokena Elementary School started utilizing the parking lot as a drop-off/pick-up point. The parking lot continues to be utilized more by District 159 than the Village of Mokena and downtown commuters.

Assistant Village Administrator Anderson stated that Mokena School District 159 owns the land and has an existing lease agreement with Metra through May 2028. The agreement states that Metra has control to utilize the site as a commuter parking lot. Mr. Anderson also explained that

the Village has an Intergovernmental Agreement with Metra to operate and maintain the parking lot through January 2029. The agreement may be terminated with sixty days' prior written notice of the intent to terminate.

Assistant Village Administrator Anderson asked the Village Board if they have any questions regarding the terms of either agreement and if the Board supported terminating the agreement with Metra to allow District 159 to take control of the Willowcrest Commuter Lot.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski reiterated the terms of each agreement and stated that the school district owns the property.

Discussion:

Mayor Fleischer asked the Village Board if they supported the termination of the agreement. The consensus of the Village Board was that the commuter parking lot was utilized more by the school district and that the Village should not continue to do maintenance on the lot.

Village Administrator Tomasoski informed the Village Board that this item would be placed on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

Truck Parking Code Amendment

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck presented this item.

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck advised the Board that the focus of the agenda item was to deliberate the proposed amendment to Section 6-5-10 of the Village's Code of Ordinances, concerning truck parking regulations within the Village limits. This amendment aimed at broadening the prohibition of parking for large vehicles, extending it from just residential streets to all village streets or public roads not specifically designated for truck parking.

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck outlined the rationale behind the proposed amendment, starting with an introduction to the issue at hand. He emphasized the original ordinance's objective to address safety concerns, preserve the aesthetic integrity of neighborhoods, and alleviate street congestion. However, an unintended consequence had arisen, with large vehicles relocating to other parts of the Village not explicitly covered by the existing ordinance. This shift had inadvertently introduced the same challenges, such as visual obstructions, increased wear and tear on infrastructure, potential disruptions to emergency services, and a decrease in residents' quality of life due to noise and pollution, to these areas. In response to these challenges, the proposed amendment sought to implement a more comprehensive approach by expanding the scope of parking restrictions. This would ensure consistent application across the Village, thereby preventing the problem from simply moving from one area to another.

Discussion:

During the discussion, Board members weighed the benefits of the proposed amendment against potential challenges, such as enforcement and the necessity for clear signage to indicate designated parking areas for large vehicles. The consensus of the Board was to support the proposed amendment and to advance the ordinance amendment to a future board meeting for final consideration.

Engine Braking Noise Code Amendment

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck presented this item.

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck provided to the Board an explanation and justification for a proposed amendment to the Mokena Code of Ordinances. Specifically, the addition to Section 6-3-3 (C) addressing the issue of excessive engine braking noise within the Village. The amendment seeks to incorporate provisions aligned with the Illinois Compiled Statutes (625 ILCS 5/12-602.1), focusing on regulating the excessive noise produced by engine braking systems on commercial vehicles. Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck highlighted that excessive noise, particularly from engine braking in commercial vehicles, has been identified as a nuisance within the village, with residents expressing dissatisfaction. The proposed ordinance would aid in reducing noise, considering public health and safety, and align

local laws with state statutes, and enhancing enforcement mechanisms. Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck explained that in order for the Village to post signs on State controlled highways, like Route 30, the ordinance was required by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Discussion:

The Board discussed the merits of the ordinance, and the consensus of the Board was to support the amendment. Accordingly, Village staff advised that the amendment would be placed on a future Board agenda for consideration.

Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Metanias made a motion to enter executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Trustee Dauphinais seconded.

AYES: (4) Dauphinais, Fedora, Germany, Metanias

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (2) Engler, Smith

Motion carried

RECONVENE WORK SESSION

Trustee Metanias made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the work session at 7:21 p.m. Trustee Dauphinais seconded.

AYES: (4) Dauphinais, Fedora, Germany, Metanias

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (2) Engler, Smith

Motion carried

There being no further business to bring before the Mayor and Board of Trustees, Mayor Fleischer adjourned the work session at 7:22 p.m.