

Carlinville Tree City USA

In the past three years there has been quite a bit of activity with Carlinville Tree City USA. The committee along with volunteers, Tim Wilson and his Boy Scout Troop 62, have been working on completing a tree census of city trees. Preliminary findings are that the vast majority of city trees are either Oaks or Maples so we are working on diversifying the trees that populate our town.

Since 2018, we have added a total of 40 new trees to the city parks. The variety of trees include Service Berries, Gray Dogwoods, Redbuds, Bald Cypress, Bur Oaks, Red Maple, Overcup Oaks, White Oaks, Pussy Willow, Corkscrew Willow, Tulip Trees, American Plum, River Birch and Catalpa. We also have an order in for 24 more trees to be planted fall of this year. Additionally, a couple of Tree City members are currently caring for 25 each potted Bur Oaks and Overcup Oaks that will be planted spring of 2021.

Volunteer efforts have been great with the removal of invasive bush honeysuckle at Loveless Park fall of 2019 as well as the removal of 20 volunteer Callery Pear Trees. Work has also began on the revitalization of a remnant prairie at Loveless Park. A burn was performed by conservation/naturalist volunteers spring of 2020. Plans are underway for some nature trails to be added too.

Other plantings this year at Loveless Park include: Bottlebrush Buckeye, Hazelnut, Red Ozier Dogwood, Gooseberry, Culver's Root, Beauty Berry, Milkweed, Choke Berry, Phlox, Wild Ginger, Snowball Hydrangea, and yellow coneflower. Five bluebird houses were put up around the park edges.

An Adopt A Tree program was designed and implemented for new park trees in the spring of 2019. A church youth organization, 4H group, individuals and families helped with the care of the newly planted trees during the 2019 growing season. 2020 adoptions got off to a rough start because the pandemic hit, but, the church organization and 4H club were able to restart their volunteer duties a little later in the season plus we have added a new individual and Carlinville Queen pageant winners to our Adopt A Tree program group of volunteers.

Confident we will have a total of 100 plus trees in the ground before the end of 2021!

Carlinville has been a Tree City since 1994.