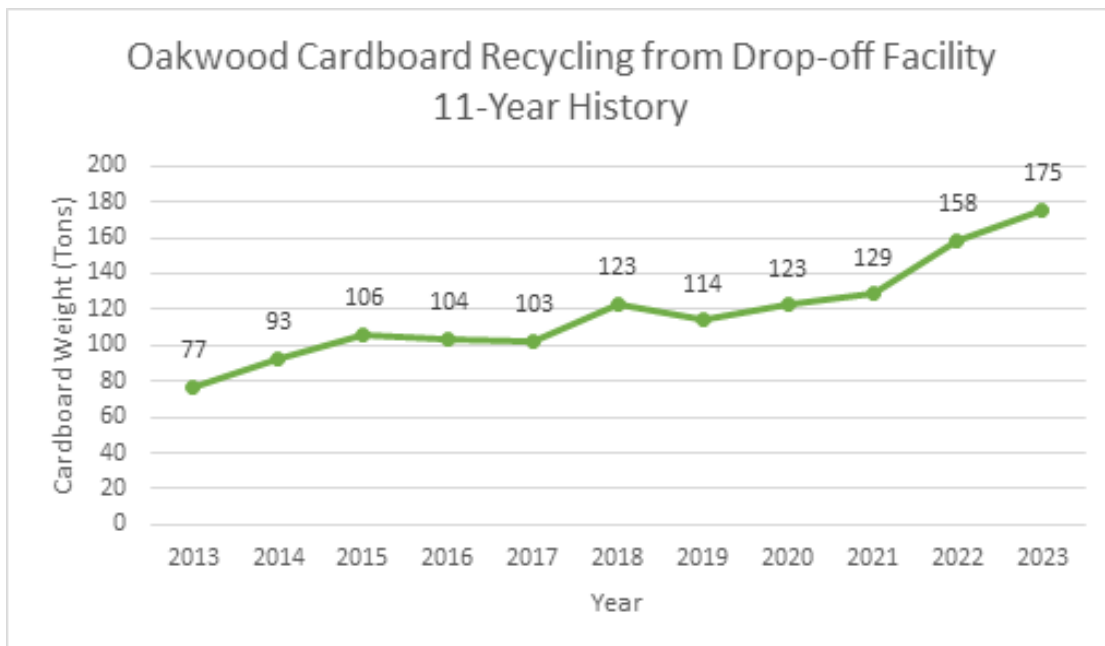


Over the past several decades, the city of Oakwood has implemented numerous measures to address matters of the environment. These measures have provided for the betterment of Oakwood and the greater community. Below is a list and brief description of each measure:

Recycling:

- Cardboard: About 30 years ago, the city began collecting cardboard for delivery to local cardboard recyclers in two ways. One is through the single stream process where the cardboard is co-mingled with other recyclables (glass, plastics, metal cans, newspaper, etc.) and picked up by the city with the weekly refuse removal. The second is through the single product cardboard drop-off at the city’s yard debris and recycling drop-off facility located at the entrance to the J.D. Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard. The preferred method for cardboard recycling is for Oakwood residents to bring their cardboard to the single product drop-off containers at the recycling facility. As a single product, it has the greatest value and is most efficiently recycled. The graph below illustrates how cardboard volumes have increased over the past eleven years demonstrating the community’s growing interest in and commitment to recycling.



- Co-mingled Products: In 1989, Oakwood started city-wide weekly collection of co-mingled recyclables, and it continues to this day. It is a voluntary program, but nearly all Oakwood residents participate. At the outset of the program, about 60% of Oakwood residents participated. Based on a survey completed in November 2021, about 92% of Oakwood residents participate.
- Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-off Facility: On November 30, 2021, the city opened a new facility for the 24/7 drop-off of green waste (yard debris), cardboard, and co-mingled recyclables such as glass, plastics and metal cans. The city recycling facility also accommodates the drop-off of seasonal items such as holiday string lights and provides space for Styrofoam drop-off under a new Montgomery County program conducted quarterly. (The city works with the Green Oakwood citizen group to implement the holiday string light and Styrofoam programs.) The recycling drop-off facility supplements Oakwood’s weekly recycling collection program, and replaced a smaller facility formerly operated from the Creager Dog Park parking lot. The new location provides for a more efficient drop-off operation and is a much more user-friendly facility. The total project cost was about \$380,000, with \$72,000 paid through a recycling grant from the Montgomery County Solid Waste District under the 2021 District Incentive Grant Program. The grant recognizes and acknowledges Oakwood’s continuing commitment to recycling.



- Other: The city maintains numerous recycling containers at parks, in public natural areas, and in city buildings.
- Recycling Numbers: In 2023, approximately 57% of the total waste generated in Oakwood was recycled.

Leaf Collection and Reuse: For over 30 years, the city has collected leaves throughout the community each fall, and converted the leaves to mulch. The yard mulch is offered to Oakwood residents each spring. In 2023, the city picked up over 8,000 cubic yards of leaves, an enormous amount for a city of just 2.2 square miles in total land area.

Green Waste Collection and Disposal: Oakwood residents have three convenient ways to dispose of green waste without adding it to the weekly household trash. First, for several decades, and in addition to the fall leaf pick-up, the city has operated a year-round green waste collection program. The program is heavily used for the disposal of brush, branches and all other types of yard waste. Residents can place the green waste behind the edge of roadway at their property frontage for pick-up by the city. Second, residents may order a dumpster from the city. The city will deliver and pick up the dumpster at no charge when it is used exclusively for green waste. Third, residents may drop off green waste at the 24/7 recycling drop-off facility.

Stormwater Management: The city manages stormwater runoff in several ways.

- Stormwater Management Utility: In 2013, Oakwood established a stormwater utility for managing stormwater in compliance with federal and state EPA standards under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). One of the requirements of the NPDES permit involves public education on stormwater matters, education that leads to pollution prevention. The city routinely addresses this with articles published in the bi-monthly *Oakwood Scene* newsletter. In 2019, the city completed a program to install “No Dumping” placards on all stormwater inlets (catch basins) throughout the city. This was done as a volunteer effort through Little Miami Watershed Network and The University of Dayton River Stewards, at no cost to the city.



- **Stormwater Drainage Ordinance:** Several decades ago, Oakwood City Council adopted a drainage ordinance to address stormwater runoff generated by home and business improvement or expansion projects. The drainage ordinance requires that property owners take steps to mitigate the additional runoff created by their projects. The steps involve either stormwater retention or detention to: 1) protect downstream property; 2) protect downstream rivers and other waterways; and 3) reduce negative impacts to the flow capacity of the stormwater discharge infrastructure.
- **Rain Garden:** In 2008, the city built a parking lot on the former site of a 4-unit apartment building on Orchard Drive to address parking needs in the Far Hills Avenue Business District. The parking lot design included construction of rain gardens to accommodate the stormwater runoff generated by building the additional hard surface area.

Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal: In 2008, the Oakwood Rotary Club launched a quarterly Hazardous Waste Collection Program. Four Saturdays each year, volunteer Oakwood Rotarians travel around the city and collect household hazardous materials such as oils, pesticides, paints, batteries, etc., and transport them to the Montgomery County Refuse Transfer Station where they are properly disposed. Residents call 937-296-5155, a phone number at the Public Works Department, to register for a pick-up. The Public Works Department compiles a list of pick-ups and provides the list to the team of Rotary volunteers. This has been a highly successful program, removing large amounts of hazardous material to make the community safer and keep the material out of our landfills.

Prescription Drug Drop-off: In 2017, the city installed a drop-off box for the safe and proper disposal of unused or surplus prescription drugs. The container is located at the entrance to the city building, 30 Park Avenue, adjacent to the public safety dispatch office. It is available 24/7.



Public Lawn Maintenance: The city maintains numerous public lawn areas including parks, gardens and boulevards. For over 20 years, the city has used an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for maintaining the public grass and landscaped areas. All city mowers have mulching blades, and city staff sets the mowers at a high cut setting. Best IPM practices indicate that the taller the turf the less weed infestation, and thus less need for lawn treatment. Use of mulching blades returns nutrients to the lawn and helps keep the grass healthy.

Landscape Management Code: On July 18, 2022, City Council approved an amendment to Chapter 551, Weeds, of the Oakwood General Offenses code, renaming it to “Landscape Management” and incorporating new provisions to authorize the establishment of managed natural landscape areas on private property within the city. The purpose of the amendment was to encourage the use of native vegetation throughout the city to maximize ecological and aesthetic benefits while respecting existing community values regarding landscaping to include well-maintained yards, preservation of sight lines, compatibility with existing structures, and public safety. Ecological benefits of “managed natural landscapes” include enhancement of pollinator support habitat, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and preservation of biodiversity. The updated code adds provisions to expressly authorize property owners to establish “managed natural landscape areas” on their property but, importantly, it does not give property owners permission to neglect their yards or allow them to “go wild.” The key concept behind a managed natural landscape area is that it must be “managed and maintained” as required by the new ordinance. Before designing a managed natural landscape, property owners should review the city’s Landscape Management regulations in Chapter 551 of the Codified Ordinances. To learn more about native plants, including how to begin planting with natives, check out the Native Plant Guide with helpful links and ideas.

Dogipot Stations: In 2008, the city began installing stations throughout the city for disposal of dog waste. There are currently 15 stations maintained throughout the city for convenient and proper disposal of dog waste. These stations are heavily used, keeping the waste out of our waterways. A map of the station locations is available on the city website.

Wellfield Protection: In 1994, Oakwood City Council adopted a wellfield protection program in compliance with recommendations from the United States and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA). The program includes: 1) an Aquifer Characterization and Protection Area Delineation Study; 2) a Potential Pollutant

Source Inventory Report; and 3) a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan. The program included establishment of two new zoning districts... the Wellhead Operation District and the Well Field Protection Overlay District. The purpose of the program is to protect the aquifers from which the city's water is drawn. It is fully endorsed by the Ohio EPA. Signs are installed on Far Hills Avenue and Shroyer Road to inform the public that they are entering a well field protection area.



Electronic Communication and Document Storage: The city has taken multiple steps over the years to embrace the digital age, continuously looking for ways to operate the local government administrative functions in a manner that has the least impact on our environment. As an example, between 2009 and 2013 the city implemented electronic purchase orders, utility e-bills, direct deposits of payroll and emailing of paycheck stubs; and began routinely saving reports in pdf format rather than printing and maintaining hard copies.

Solar Power Electricity Generation: The city embraces the entrance of residential solar power generating systems in Oakwood and offers a simple and efficient permitting process for property owners interested in solar power installations. There are currently 64 residential installations in Oakwood.

LED Street Lights: In May 2023, Miami Valley Lighting (MVL), Oakwood's street light contractor, upgraded the majority of the street lights throughout Oakwood. The citywide project involved replacement of about 500 HPS fixtures, nearly all of the residential street lights in Oakwood. MVL installed LED fixtures that emit light at a color temperature of 2700 degrees Kelvin. These fixtures were specially selected to provide illumination in the warm or soft white range, as opposed to the bright white light often seen with LEDs. LED lights are very energy efficient. A second phase of conversion from HPS to LED will take place in the fall of 2024. This includes thoroughfare lighting on Far Hills Avenue, Shroyer Road, W. Schantz Avenue and Oakwood Avenue. Prior to 1998, the vast majority of Oakwood street lights consisted of incandescent bulb fixtures, with some mercury vapor fixtures. In 1998,



Dayton Power & Light completed a citywide conversion to High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. Now, consistent with the street lighting industry, the city is converting to LED fixtures.

Eradication of Invasive Plants: The city works continuously to manage and remove honeysuckle and other invasive plants from public properties. This includes the work of city staff and periodic events where citizens and community groups volunteer time to assist.

### Trees:

- Johnny Appleseed Program: In 1979, the city established the Johnny Appleseed street tree planting program. Over 3,300 new trees have been planted in Oakwood through this program. The program offers a systematic and continuous way of renewing Oakwood's expansive tree inventory.
- Far Hills Avenue Business District: In 2014 and 2015, the city replaced nearly all of the center median and curbside trees in the Far Hills Avenue Business District, renewing this primary component of the business district landscaping. In total, 164 new trees were planted. The city also planted 10 new trees in the Orchard Drive parking lot, along with the rain gardens mentioned above.
- Shroyer Road: In 2017, the city converted the 1.1 mile stretch of Shroyer Road from a 4-lane asphalt street to a 3-lane asphalt street with 16 raised center medians. The project included planting 56 trees in the newly created center median. The medians reduced the hard surface area of Shroyer Road in Oakwood by 5% (12,205 square feet or 0.28 acres).
- Emerald Ash Borer Treatment: In 2008, the city began protecting the ash trees against the devastating impact of the Emerald Ash Borer. The city treats a majority of the ash trees on public property annually.
- Tree City USA: In 2024, Oakwood was recognized for the 42<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year as a Tree City USA community. This is a designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation recognizing Oakwood's continuous commitment to maintaining and improving the city's tree inventory.
- Annual Youth Arbor Day Event: Each year in the month of April or May, the Oakwood Beautification Committee (OBC) leads 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from both Harman School and Smith Elementary on a "Treasure Hunt" to find different species of trees in Oakwood. All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive a native tree seedling to plant on their property. The children learn about the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-Horned Beetle, Tree City USA Program, and why trees are beneficial.

Walkable and Bikeable Community: Oakwood is a highly walkable and bikeable community with schools, shops, houses of worship, parks, and community services all within blocks of one another. The city continuously looks for ways to promote and maintain a safe environment for walking and cycling.

- Sidewalk Maintenance: The city places great emphasis on the maintenance of public sidewalks. Each year, approximately 25% of the city sidewalks are inspected and repaired or replaced as needed. Also, the city's Code Enforcement Officer conducts routine inspections to identify locations where trees or vegetation are encroaching public sidewalks.
- Shroyer Road Improvements: The 2017 Shroyer Road improvement project included construction of dedicated bike lanes on both sides of the street between the roadway and adjacent curb. The project significantly improved the safety performance of Shroyer Road for all transportation modes (e.g., vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle). Vehicle speeds dropped dramatically, as did the number of accidents.
- Public Transportation: The city supports the efforts of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in promoting public transportation.

Deicing Salts: Oakwood is committed to minimizing the use of traditional rock salt for deicing public roadways, alleys, and other public properties.

Composting and Native Plants: Through the Oakwood Community Center, the city periodically offers educational programs on topics including composting and use of native plants. The City of Oakwood encourages the use of vegetation throughout the City to maximize ecological and aesthetic benefits while respecting existing community values regarding landscaping to include well-maintained yards, preservation of sight lines, compatibility with existing structures, and public safety. Ecological benefits of "managed natural landscapes" include enhancement of pollinator support habitat, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and preservation of biodiversity. Before designing a managed natural landscape, property owners should review the city's Landscape Management regulations in Chapter 551 of the Codified Ordinances. To learn more about native plants, including how to begin planting with natives, check out the Native Plant Guide with helpful links and ideas.





Parks and Natural Areas: The city maintains Smith Gardens as one of the finest public gardens in Ohio. The city maintains and renews public natural areas using saplings, native plants and eco-smart hardwood mulch. In 2017, the city accepted a 0.6-acre parcel of greenspace from the Oakwood Investment Group at the northwest corner of West Schantz Avenue and Far Hills Avenue. As a condition of the donation, this property shall remain a public greenspace in perpetuity. In 2007, the city purchased 3.1 acres of land adjacent to Houk Stream. This land had been established as a buildable lot in 1995 when an 11.4 acres estate property was subdivided. The purchase was made to significantly enhance the public natural area around Houk Stream.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: On May 31, 2022, the city opened a two port, Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in the Orchard Drive public parking lot. The city joined several other Miami Valley communities in an Ohio EPA grant application to help fund the project. The application was submitted through the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Oakwood was awarded \$15,000 towards the \$24,000 project. Several years ago, Dorothy Lane Market built an electric vehicle charging station in its parking lot.

Battery Operated Equipment: The city continuously evaluates battery powered vehicles and equipment to see if and when it is practicable to replace existing gasoline powered equipment. In 2023, Oakwood ordered a fully electric police car. Delivery of the Chevrolet Blazer EV Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) is expected in late 2024 or early 2025. When deployed, it will be the first all-electric fully outfitted police car in Montgomery County.

Oakwood Farmers' Market: City staff works with a group of Oakwood citizens organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to plan and operate an annual community farmers' market. The first Oakwood market opened in 2013. Its mission is to create an educational, entertaining, and inclusive market for the residents of Oakwood and surrounding Dayton communities to gather and support local businesses including local farmers, gourmet food vendors, and artisans.

Efficient Movement of Traffic: The city continuously monitors and maintains the traffic signal system in an effort to move traffic in the safest and most efficient manner. The city is currently developing a master plan for capital improvements at all 17 signalized intersections. This master plan includes consideration of building a roundabout at the intersection of Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Thruston Boulevard, commonly known as Five Points. Where properly located, roundabouts have proven to significantly reduce vehicle emissions.