

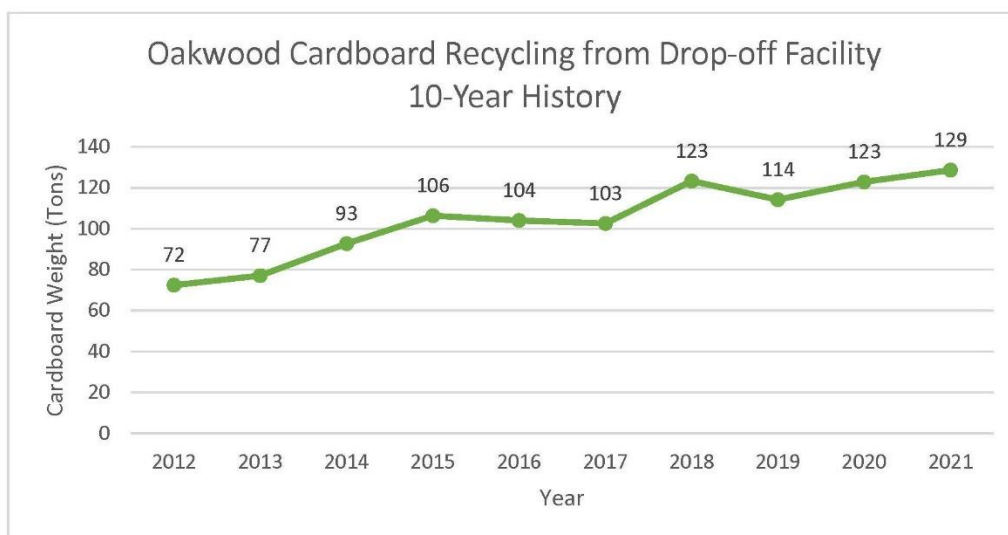
## Oakwood Sustainability Measures

June 8, 2022

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 most value and is most efficiently recycled. The graph below illustrates how cardboard volumes have increased over the past ten 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 conducted in conjunction with trash collection, and replaces a facility formerly operated from the Creager Dog Park parking lot. The new location provides for a more efficient drop-off operation and a much more user-friendly environment for facility users. The total project cost was about \$380,000, with \$72,000 paid through a 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.

Leaf Collection and Reuse: For over 30 years, the city has collected leaves throughout the community each fall, and converted the leaves to yard mulch. The yard mulch is offered to Oakwood residents each spring. In 2021, the city picked up over 7,000 cubic yards of leaves, an enormous amount of leaves for a city of just 2.2 square miles in total land area.

Green Waste Collection and Disposal: Oakwood residents have two convenient ways to dispose of green waste without adding it to the weekly household trash. For several decades, and in addition to the fall leaf pick-up, the city has operated a year-around 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 at their property frontage for periodic pick-up by the city. The

second way is for residents to drop off the 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 can lead 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 project 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 additional 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 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 a phone number at the Public Works Department to register for a pick-up. The Public Works Department compiles a list of quarterly 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 from the community both making it safer and keeping 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 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.



**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 is instructed to set the mower at a high cut setting. Best IPM practices indicate that the taller the turf the

less weed infestation and thus the less need for lawn treatment. Use of mulching blades returns nutrients to the lawn and helps keep the grass healthy.

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 US and Ohio EPAs. 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.

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 hardcopies.

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 about 26 residential installations in Oakwood.

Eradication of Invasive Plants: The city works continuously to remove Honeysuckle and other invasive plants from public properties.

## Trees:

- Johnny Appleseed Program: In 1979, the city established the Johnny Appleseed street tree planting program. Over 3,200 new trees have been planted 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 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 by 5% (12,205 square feet or 0.28 Acres) the hard surface area of Shroyer Road in Oakwood.
- 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: This year, Oakwood will be recognized for the 40<sup>th</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> grader 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 and why trees are beneficial. In 2022, a coloring contest, sponsored by the Oakwood Community Center and the OBC, was also held with over 90 entries from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

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, 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.

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 equipment to see if and when it is practicable to replace existing gasoline powered equipment.

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.