

foundation. One of the items in this report is this annual work plan; another is the budget. Bluffton's tree/landscaping reportable "expenditures" always exceed the required \$2.00/citizen. On the 2011 Tree City, USA report, Bluffton was credited with "spending" ~ \$35,000 on its tree/landscape plantings, tree care and maintenance, administrative hours, volunteer hours (including Eagle Scout projects) and mulching costs.

Meeting Tree City, USA, criteria allows Bluffton to be eligible for Ohio forestry grants. We have been awarded several of these grants over the past 19 years of being a Tree City, USA. In 2011, we received a matching funds grant (Western Lake Erie basin ash removal/replacement grant) which helped to cover the cost of removing hazardous dead/dying ash trees from public areas (tree lawns, Buckeye and Village parks).

In summary, Tree City, USA, recognition does not supply Bluffton with any monetary funds nor does it cost the Village of Bluffton anything. It simply awards a community for committing funds, for volunteer work and other services (mulching yard waste, Arbor Day observance, etc.) related to trees/landscaping. Receiving a national award such as Tree City, USA, sends a positive message to visitors and community citizens - Bluffton cares about its appearance, is planning for its future and is proud to be recognized for these efforts.