AGENDA
POWELL TREE BOARD
2409 STATE ROUTE 750 W
POWELL, OHIO 43065
BENNETT FARM PARK
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026
2:00 PM

*. ***NOTE: THIS IS A WORKING MEETING FOR THE TREE BOARD MEMBERS TO VISIT BENNETT PARK AND THE PLANNED SHARED USE PATH LAYOUT. IT IS RECOMMENDED FOR PARTICIPANTS TO WEAR LONG PANTS, SHIRTS, AND CLOSED TOED SHOES FOR SAFETY AND TICK PREVENTION.***

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

   a. Approval of the minutes from the Tree Board meeting held on May 26, 2026.
   tree-board_minutes_summary 05.26.2026.pdf

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

   a. Welcome New Members

      - Elliott Schaffer
      - Keith Gooch

   b. Tour of Bennett Farm Park Shared Use Path
   Tick Prevention.pdf

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Leif Carlson called the May 26, 2026 Tree Board meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Committee members present included Melissa Hindman, Jonathan Davis, Lance Austin, and Chairman Leif Carlson, Council Representative. Staff present included Elaine McCloskey, City Clerk, Jason Nahvi, Human Resources Director; and Charles Dukes, Public Service Director.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

City Council Clerk Elaine McCloskey issued the oath of offices for Melissa Hindman, Jonathan Davis, Lance Austin and Chairman Leif Carlson.

3. INTRODUCTION OF TREE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Leif Carlson provided an introduction of himself and that he is a Council Representative for the City and he looks forward to making sure the Powell Tree City USA designation remains active.

Melissa Hindman, Recreation Manager, introduced herself and explained that she oversees the maintenance, programming, special events in Powell since November 2021. Prior to that she was with the City of Worthington for almost 26 years. Melissa Hindman prepares the application every year for Tree City USA.

Lance Austin, Maintenance Specialist, said he is a boot on the ground employee and does a majority of the tree related work and landscaping. Prior to being in the City, he worked for the City of Dublin in the Forestry Department. He looks forward to interacting with the community and improving the tree program.

Jonathan Davis, Maintenance Specialist, has been with the City for almost three years. He has a degree from Ohio State University in Natural Resource Management and Parks and Recreation. He also worked previously for the City of Dublin in their tree program.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on future topics for consideration

Chairman Leif Carlson said from a council perspective, he discussed the meeting requirement for Tree City USA. He recommended that this Board attend the tour of the Bennett Farm with the Operations Committee to view the placement of the path and how it will be placed with the trees and landscaping. He also said it would be interesting to have remote meetings onsite and look at areas like Bennet Park and Lechler Building renovations. He discussed that the Lechler Building had an area that was full of native grass and planting and at one time this was placed there with a purpose, but he feels it has been

lost throughout the time. He said this Board could look at the area and help make some recommendations for the park area and provide guidance to the City on some of the bigger projects taking place related to trees and plantings.

Melissa Hindman discussed that she would like to touch base with the Board on Eagle Scout projects. She reported that she was recently contacted by an Eagle Scout who is interested in doing a pollinator garden as his project. She would like the board to give some guidance on placement of the garden and discussed the opportunity for future Eagle Scouts to do plantings and invasive species clearing. She recommended that they be able to present their plans and concepts to this Board for review. She discussed having this request at a future meeting.

Melissa Hindman also discussed the planning of the annual Arbor Day celebration. She said this is a event typically planned with the Tree Board in other communities. She noted that the Arbor Day celebration is not always on Arbor Day and sometimes is in conjunction with Earth Day. This year's celebration was interrupted due to dangerous weather conditions and hail, but staff were able to get a tree planted for Arbor Day. She said that staff in the past have partnered with the Girl Scouts or Scouting American.

Jonathan Davis discussed that he had started a list of operational pain points and that moving forward this list can be added to. He said he wants to look at trees in general and what is going on in the City and what is needed.

Councilmember Leif Carlson discussed that he also thinks about sidewalks and the cost of replacement.

Public Service Director Charles Dukes said from a snow and ice perspective there is a need for a policy to address trees that are overgrown over the road. He said this impacts the ability to perform tasks for snow removal and getting near the curb area. Due to the tree canopy they are often six or seven feet out from the curb when plowing. He said there are trees that have not been pruned in a long time.

Lance Austin discussed that any tree in the right a way, they need to be able to get a better grip on because a lot have not been touched since they were planted and they cause a nuisance, not just on the street side, but towards the sidewalk. The trees can become difficult for people walking or riding their bikes. He reiterated the sidewalk side is just as important as a focus area to make sure there is proper clearance.

Councilmember Leif Carlson discussed the use of partnering with the Columbus Zoo in the past for pruning and the Zoo would use the materials to feed the animals. Public Service Director Charles Dukes discussed that the Columbus Zoo is working with the City to remove the bamboo planted in Bennett Park. It was discussed reaching out to them to see if there was an interest from the Columbus Zoo in working together in other areas. Councilmember Leif Carlson discussed that there was a line item added to the budget for invasive removal. It may not have been enough, but he discussed using the Board to help look at the budget and make recommendations.

Melissa Hindman discussed having the board help with organizing clean up events at parks and organizing volunteers for invasive species clean up days.

b. Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel - to consider the appointment for boards and commissions.

MOTION: Melissa Hindman moved to enter executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel - to consider the appointment for boards and commissions. Lance Austin seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-4 N-0 AB-0

The Tree Board entered executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel - to consider the appointment for boards and commissions at 10:48 a.m. Members present included Melissa Hindman, Jonathan Davis, Lance Austin, and Chairman Leif Carlson, Council Representative. Staff present included Jason Nahvi, Human Resources Director; and Charles Dukes, Public Service Director. The Board invited individually Elliott Schaffer and Brooke Moree to participate in executive session. The Tree Board returned to open session at 11:49 p.m.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of discussion held by the Tree Board.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chairman Leif Carlson moved to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Hindman seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

VOTE: Y - 4 N - 0 AB-0

_____ _____

Leif Carlson, Chairman — Date

Elaine McCloskey, Clerk — Date

Create a Tick-Safe Zone around Your Home



You can make your yard less attractive to ticks. Here are some simple landscaping techniques that can help reduce ticks:

- Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.
- Place a 3-ft wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around patios and play equipment. This will restrict tick migration into recreational areas.
- Mow the lawn regularly and keep leaves raked.
- Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents that ticks feed on).
- Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible.
- Remove any old furniture, mattresses, or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide.



Create a tick-safe zone similar to this play area by using landscaping techniques mentioned above to make your yard inhospitable to ticks. This is especially important when your yard is bordered by tick habitat.

Preventing Ticks on Your Pets

Pets can also be affected by tick bites and tickborne diseases. To reduce the chances that a tick will transmit disease to your pets:

- Check your pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors.
- If you find a tick on your pet, remove it right away.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick prevention products for your pet.

  Note: Cats are extremely **sensitive** to a variety of chemicals. **Do not** apply any insecticides or **repellents** to your cats without first **consulting** your veterinarian!



- Reduce tick habitat in your **yard.**

For more information on tickborne diseases:

Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Infectious Diseases
Zoonotic Disease Program
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 752-1029
www.ohio.gov/tick

Or find your local health department at www.odh.ohio.gov or the address below:

BeTICK Smart!



Ohio.Gov/Tick

Ohio Department of Health

Protect • Check • Remove • Watch

Tickborne Diseases in Ohio

Tickborne diseases are illnesses that can spread to people or pets through the bite of an infected tick. To feed, a tick will wait on a blade of grass or a leaf until a person or animal brushes by. The tick will climb on and make its way to the skin where it can feed.

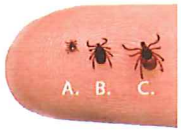
If not removed, a tick may feed for several days. While it feeds, the tick will get larger as it fills up with blood. The longer the tick is attached, the greater the chance it will pass on any disease germs it may have.

These are the most common tickborne diseases reported in Ohio:

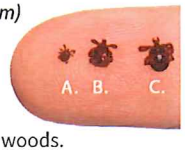
- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Ehrlichiosis
- Lyme disease
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Most cases of these diseases in Ohio are caused by these common ticks:

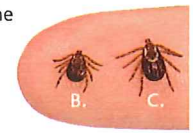
Blacklegged tick *(Ixodes scapularis)*
The blacklegged tick, also known as the "deer tick", may transmit the bacteria that cause anaplasmosis and Lyme disease, as well as the parasite that causes babesiosis. The risk of exposure to this tick is greater in wooded or brushy areas and along the edge area between lawns and woods.



Lone star tick *(Amblyomma americanum)*
The lone star tick may also transmit the bacteria that cause ehrlichiosis. It may also transmit other diseases. This tick is most common in shady areas along roads and in meadows and woods.



American dog tick *(Dermacentor variabilis)*
The American dog tick may transmit the bacteria that cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It is often found in overgrown lots and along weedy roadsides, paths, and hiking trails.



A. Nymph B. Adult male C. Adult female

Protect

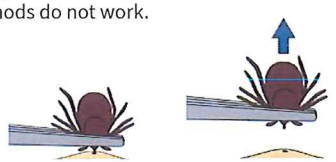
- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Walk in the center of trails.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 labelled for use against ticks on exposed skin for protection that lasts several hours. Always follow the product label. Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding their hands, eyes, and mouth.
- Treat clothing and gear such as boots, pants, socks, and tents with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin. It remains protective through several washings. Always follow the product label. Pre-treated clothing is available and may provide longer lasting protection.
- Wear long pants, long sleeves, and long socks. Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and tuck shirts into pants to keep ticks on the outside of your clothing. Light colored clothing will help you spot ticks more easily.

Check

- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to more easily find and wash off any ticks that may be crawling on you.
- Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body upon return from tick-infested areas. Parents should check their children for ticks under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and especially in their hair.
- Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs.
- Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended.

Remove

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull away from your skin with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth parts easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
- Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.
- Wash your hands and the bite area with soap and water.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or any other "folk" remedies to remove a tick. These methods do not work.



Watch

- Watch for symptoms of tickborne diseases.
- Symptoms vary, but most often include fever, headache, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue, or a rash soon after a tick bite.
- Watch for symptoms of different diseases to begin at different times after a tick bite:

  Anaplasmosis .....5-21 days
  Babesiosis .....7-56 days
  Ehrlichiosis .....5-10 days
  Lyme disease .....3-30 days
  Rocky Mountain spotted fever....5-10 days

- Contact your healthcare provider if symptoms develop. Tell them if you had a tick bite or found a tick on you, and tell them about your outdoor activities.