

Recognition of Janice Fisher
April 21, 2015

In 1985, just five years after the City was incorporated, Janice Fisher recognized the City did not have a focus on trees or maintaining its urban forest. As a result, Janice put forth efforts to raise awareness, organize tree planting and fundraising.

One of the programs Janice initiated was the “Because of Me, There’s a Tree” campaign. It was to raise funds for tree projects in parks and other areas of the City. Advertising was done, public announcements went out, the campaign began and donations began coming in.

The City’s first parks were just being completed or started at that time. Park construction budgets were small. The donated funds were dedicated to trees and greatly helped make the parks and other properties green. Many of the trees (still standing today) in older parks are a result of her efforts. One of her most recognizable accomplishments stands in City Park. It is a grove of 13 trees celebrating the founding of the United States and represents the original 13 Colonies.

Janice also organized the City’s Tree Committee. It was made up of residents and Parks and Recreation Department staff. Janice would organize the meetings, make sure they took place, prepare an agenda, and set the vision. The Committee was the emphasis and a requirement to qualify to be a “Tree City USA.” The City has been a “Tree City USA” member for 20 years and has qualified for 10 growth awards.

Janice’s efforts led to a greater public understanding of the importance of trees in creating a sense of identity in the development of Parks, neighborhoods, commercial areas, and the over-all image of the City