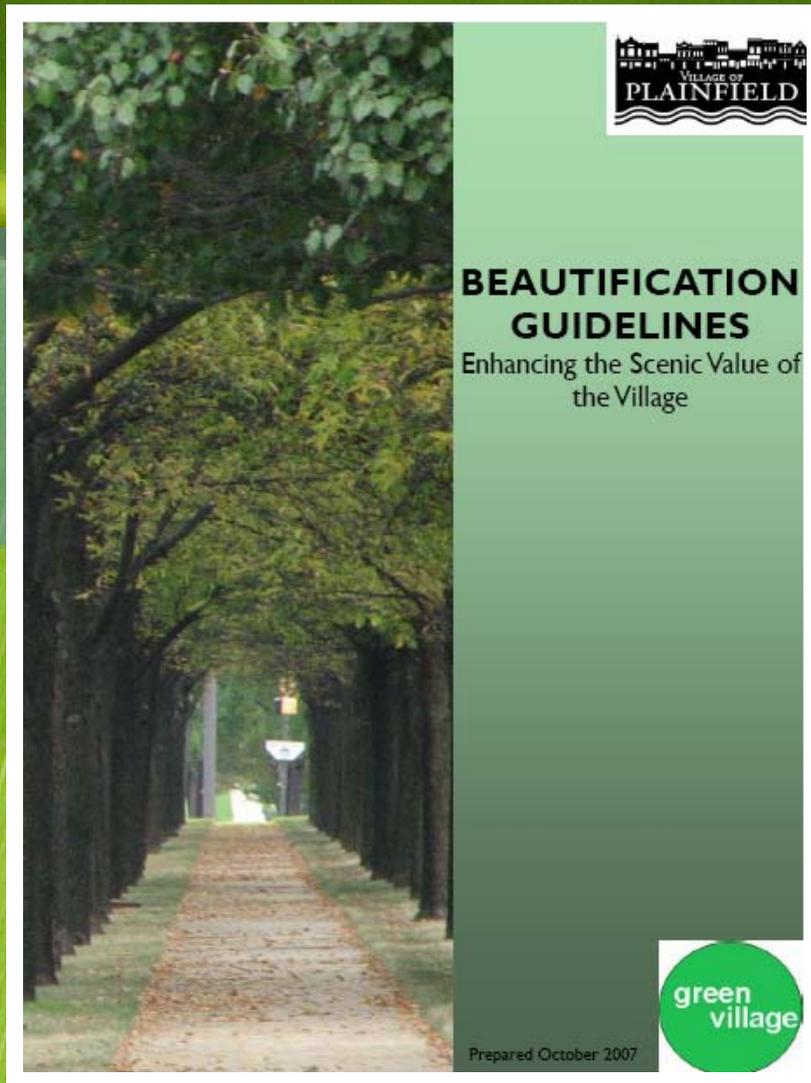


# BEAUTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT

Spring 2008





## VILLAGE of PLAINFIELD

- In November of 2007, the Village adopted the "Green Village" initiative.
- The Beautification Guidelines were an important element of the plan & called for the Beautification of Village streets & parks.
- In Spring 2008, the Village planned to launch a Beautification Pilot Project on important streets near historic downtown Plainfield and new developments.

## PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 202

- The School District was given a grant by BP Oil Companies to plant a nursery which would then be distributed around the community in a Village Beautification Project.
- 25 Service Learning students would take part in a hands on Beautification Project.
- Upon learning of the Village's Green Village initiative, the School District approached Village staff to see if there would be interest in forming a Beautification partnership.
- The School District's proposal complemented the Village's Beautification Plan (part of the Green Village initiative), and so the partnership was formed.



The nursery at Plainfield Academy.

# BEAUTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

## *Beautification Pilot Project*

Plainfield, IL -- The Village of Plainfield is pleased to announce the commencement of the Beautification Pilot Project. In partnership with Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202, the Village has developed a plan to transform Village streets into attractive, landscaped boulevards.

Twenty-five service learning students from the Plainfield School District will have the opportunity for hands-on education as they assist the Forestry Division of the Plainfield Public Works Department in pruning and transplanting a plant nursery valued around \$30,000.00.

After the Village Board's approval of the Green Village initiative in November of 2007, the School District approached the Village to see if there would be interest in forming a Beautification partnership. Previously, the School District was given a grant by British Petroleum (BP) to plant a nursery which would then be distributed around the community in a Village Beautification Project. The School District's proposal complemented the Village's Beautification Plan (part of the Green Village initiative) and a partnership was formed.

The Forestry Division of the Plainfield Public Works Department will provide landscaping and pruning lessons to service learning students at Plainfield Academy. Once the cold weather passes and the students have pruned the nursery, the students and Forestry Division will distribute the trees and native plants on Van Dyke Road, Drauden Road, and Ridge Road.

The Village Staff has created detailed landscape plans based on the nursery's plant inventory to enhance portions of the Village's medians. There will be several hundred trees, shrubs, and flowers planted to provide Village residents and visitors with scenic travel routes.

The partnership benefits both the Village of Plainfield and Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202. The Village will benefit by having beautified public streets that add character and beauty to the community. The additional parkway trees and landscaping will create attractive tree canopies and landscaping year-round. The School District will benefit by having hands-on education for service learning students. Participating students will be able to take pride in their work when passing by Village streets and will also have a feeling of connection to the community because they will be able to say, "I planted those trees" as they continue to mature, beautifying the Village. The Beautification Pilot Project is a great example of two government bodies working together to achieve a common goal.

# BEAUTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

## STEP 1

- Identify which streets shall be part of the Pilot Project.

## STEP 2

- Identify what types of plantings are wanted on each of these streets.

## STEP 3

- Create Landscape Plans.

## STEP 4

- Purchase any plants being used that are not a part of the School District's donated nursery & Prune the School District's Nursery.

## STEP 5

- Stake tree locations along roadways.

## STEP 6

- Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.

# STEP 1 : Identify which streets shall be part of the Pilot Project.



## Van Dyke Road

This is a collector street that already has several landscaped boulevards on it. More extensive landscaping must be installed as it is a road that leads directly to the Village's downtown and Settlers Park.



## Ridge Road

This is a major arterial that will eventually be an important north-south route between several counties. The road's character is important thus additional landscaping is necessary on the medians.



## Drauden Road

This is a collector street similar to Van Dyke Rd. There are already several landscaped boulevards, but there is minimal landscaping on them. This road leads into the new residential areas at the south end of the Village.

**STEP 2: Identify what types of plantings are wanted on each of these streets.**

**& STEP 3: Create Landscape Plans.**

### **Van Dyke Road Vision**

- Attractive landscaping year round.
- Manicured appearance to be consistent with a traditional downtown design.
- Trees with vibrant color and/or flowers
- Colonnade of same species trees for uniformity and visual interest.



### **Van Dyke Road Design**

- Chanticleer Pears spaced 25 feet apart adjacent to the downtown.
- Sugar Maples and Autumn Blaze Maples adjacent to the Pears.
- Colorful perennials and Lilac and Burning Bushes as accents at the end of each median.

**STEP 2: Identify what types of plantings are wanted on each of these streets.**

**& STEP 3: Create Landscape Plans.**

### **Ridge Road (future WIKADUKE) Vision**

- Attractive landscaping year round.
- Native plants & grasses in accordance with the Green Village initiative & to be consistent with the WIKADUKE Trail Design Guidelines.
- Trees with vibrant color and/or flowers.



---

### **Ridge Road (future WIKADUKE) Design**

- Variety of plant species for visual interest.
- Red Sunset Maples, Autumn Blaze Maples & American Redbuds for vibrant fall color.
- Native plants & grasses for environmental benefit and naturalistic design scheme.



**STEP 2: Identify what types of plantings are wanted on each of these streets.**

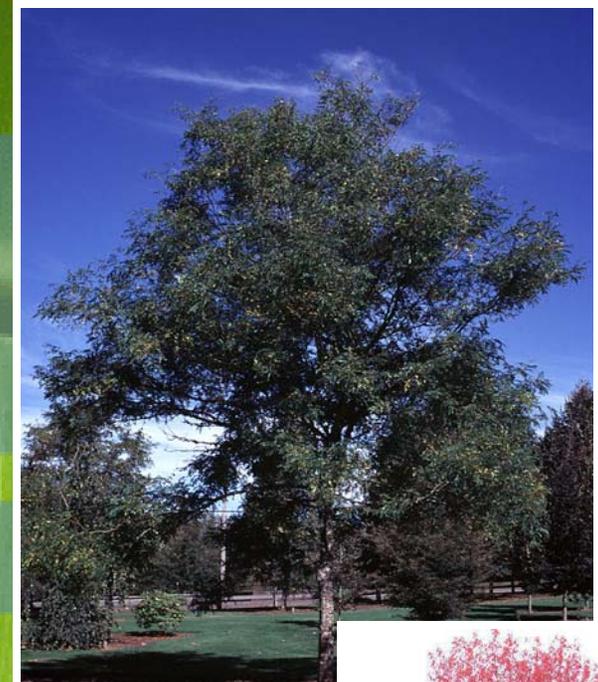
**& STEP 3: Create Landscape Plans.**

### **Drauden Road Vision**

- Attractive landscaping year round.
- Native plant species for environmental benefits.
- Trees with vibrant color and/or flowers.
- Plant additional trees and flowers for added character and beautification.

### **Drauden Road Design**

- Crimson King Maples, Sugar Maples, Red Sunset Maples, Honey Locusts & American Redbuds for color, variety & good street canopies.
- Colorful perennials and Lilac and Burning Bushes as accents at the end of each median.



# STEP 4 : Purchase any plants being used that are not a part of the School District's donated nursery & Prune the School District's Nursery.

March 26, 2008



## Hinsdale Nursery

The Chanticleer Pears proposed on Van Dyke Rd. were not accounted for in the School District's nursery, so the Village Forester went to an outside nursery to purchase the trees at wholesale price with money from the Beautification Fund.

## Selection Process

Trees were selected based on:

- Height
- Branch Orientation
- Trunk Width
- Inflections

The Village Forester inspected each tree before selecting the final ones.

## Final Selection

Trees were marked with a ribbon once selected. 18 Pear Trees were purchased, all of equal height, 2.5 inch trunks, sturdy branches angled upwards and with no inflections or "wounds" on the bark.

## **STEP 4 : Purchase any plants being used that are not a part of the School District's donated nursery & Prune the School District's Nursery.**



### **Pruning Lessons**

**The Village Forester and his work crew went on site to Plainfield Academy to provide landscaping lessons to the students participating in the Beautification Pilot Project. Students learned to prune trees, shrubs & perennials.**

### **Student Participation**

**After students learned how to safely prune the plantings so they were in prime condition for planting, they were allowed to prune the nursery themselves.**

### **The Group**

**The students worked in small groups like the one illustrated above with the help of the Village Forester. The \$30,000.00 nursery was pruned in a few short days.**

## STEP 5 : Stake tree locations along roadways.



Van Dyke Road  
April 2, 2008

### Staking

The Village's Public Works employees went out and staked the locations where the trees are to be planted in the landscape boulevards.

Public Works employees will be planting the purchased Chanticleer Pear Trees without the help of students, and once this is complete will be working with the students on the remainder of the project.

## **STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.**



### **Pear Tree Planting**

**Van Dyke Road  
April 11, 2008**

**The nursery came out & placed each Chanticleer Pear tree adjacent to the stakes that the Public Works Department had previously erected. A landscaping company then came & planted each pear tree on Van Dyke.**

**This concludes the Village's involvement with an outside nursery. Now that the Pear trees are planted on Van Dyke Road, the Village Forester can begin working with students on relocating their nursery to Village boulevards & medians.**

## STEP 6 : Plant and care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



### Mulching

Van Dyke Road  
April 15, 2008

A group of students from *Plainfield North High School* came out and mulched each of the Pear Trees on Van Dyke Road. The Public Works Department gave each student a yellow vest to wear to ensure their safety, marked off the road for passing traffic & provided landscaping equipment for the students to use.

Under the supervision of their teachers and Public Works, students shoveled the mulch off of the backs of Public Works trucks and transported it in wheelbarrows to each tree. With shovels and rakes they were then able to spread the mulch around evenly.

## STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



Installing Water Bags



Van Dyke Road  
April 16, 2008

A group of students from *Plainfield Central High School* came out and installed water bags around each of the Pear trees to help keep the soil moist. The water bags are a drip irrigation system that has a control valve that lets out only a single drop of water at a time.

In case of drought, these bags can help a tree adapt to new soil. Plainfield Central students took turns staking the water bags around the trees, filling them with water and attaching the valve timer.

## STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



### Installing Water Bags Day 2

Van Dyke Road  
April 17, 2008

A group of students from *Plainfield Academy High School* came out and installed water bags around the trees that were not finished the day before. Once filled, the water bags should last for approximately one month at which point they can be refilled if necessary.

To survive, newly planted trees and shrubs need an adequate, controlled water supply directed to reach the root system. In this situation, the water supply will continue over the first several vital weeks.

## STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



### Excavate Planting Beds

Van Dyke Road  
April 18, 2008

Now that all necessary tasks have been carried out on the Pear trees, students from *Plainfield South High School* were able to excavate parts of the Van Dyke boulevard to make space for planting beds. The Village Forester explained what the group was going to be doing by showing them the landscape plans, then let students take turns using the excavator. Once the planting beds were dug out, students were able to get their hands dirty pulling up the sod. This area will be planted with shrubs, perennials & grasses in the near future.

Friday, April 18, 2008

AN EDITION OF 'THE HERALD NEWS

PLAINFIELD STUDENTS, VILLAGE

## Coming together to plant trees

By Janet Lundquist  
STAFF WRITER

PLAINFIELD — Future travelers who enjoy the flowering pear trees along Van Dyke Road will have the village and the Plainfield School District to thank.

An informal partnership between the school district and the village of Plainfield teaches students about forestry while filling out the village's public landscape.

Thursday morning a group of students from Plainfield Academy donned fluorescent safety vests and helped village staffers fill irrigation bags around the bases of trees lining a Van Dyke Road median, just north of Lockport Street.

The row of newly-planted Chanticleer pear trees will get a steady drip of water from the bags for about a week.

Groups of high school students in the district's service learning program have gone to work with the forestry crew four mornings this week.

"The majority of (the teens) are taking an active role in helping and learning," said T.J. Countryman, the village's forestry division crew leader. "We're doing a lot of hands-on, which seems to be the easiest way for some people to learn."

The school district received a \$30,000 BP Oil Companies grant to plant a nursery. The district wanted its service-learning students to participate in a beautification project, and asked whether they could work with the village's



MICHAEL R. SCHMIDT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plainfield forestry division crew leader T.J. Countryman and Plainfield Academy students (from left) Shanna Hensoa, Jason Holmes and Sonia Sanchez install temporary irrigation systems Thursday morning along Van Dyke road in Plainfield.

forestry department.

The district agreed to donate its nursery, located at Plainfield Academy, to the village in exchange for village staff teaching the students about tree planting and maintenance. Last month, Countryman taught academy students how to prune the trees in the nursery.

"This is a wonderful project," said school district spokesman Tom Hernandez. "We're happy to partner with the village on this. It benefits our students as well as the village of Plainfield."

This project with the school district

is the first in the village's beautification plan, which is part of Plainfield's Green Village initiative.

The goal, said village planner Sara Leach, is to enhance the village's public areas — such as parks, parkways, and boulevards — with landscaping, lights, signs and even public art displays.

Van Dyke, Drauden and Ridge roads are the first beneficiaries of the plan. Van Dyke Road topped the list because it is a main road heading into the downtown area, Leach said.

Each year village crews plant about

350 trees, Countryman said. Part of that number are the trees planted in the village's 50-50 tree program, which splits the cost of trees between the village and residents who want them.

Crews plant the trees in residents' yards. The program, which can have up to 250 residents participate, always maxes out, Countryman said.

For more information on the village's forestry department or the 50-50 tree program, contact the village Public Works department, (815) 436-3577, or visit [www.plainfield-il.org](http://www.plainfield-il.org).



## **Digging up & Burlapping Maple Trees at Plainfield Academy nursery**

**The Forestry Division of the Public Works Department called in the help of a private landscape company to come dig up healthy maple trees from the Plainfield Academy High School nursery. The Landscape Company has machinery which makes the digging and burlapping much easier than doing it by hand.**

**The trees will be loaded onto a trailer and stored at the Public Works facility until students are available to help plant them on roadside medians.**

## STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



Van Dyke Road  
May 13, 2008

### Planting Maple Trees on Van Dyke Road

Public Works brought the trailer of Maple Trees to the planting site on Van Dyke Road. Consistent with action taken prior to the planting of the Pear Trees, the maple tree locations were measured out and staked prior to the tree planting. Julie conducted inspections prior to the digging as well.

A team of students from *Plainfield North High School* was the first group to begin planting the trees. Students had to dig large holes on Van Dyke Road which the Maple Trees could be placed in.

## STEP 6 : Plant & care for the trees, shrubs & perennials in accordance with the Landscape Plans.



### Planting Maple Trees on Van Dyke Road

Van Dyke Road  
May 13, 2008

Once a large enough hole was dug, a student helped the Village Forester push the 500 lb. tree into it. Members of the Forestry crew then removed parts of the burlapping to allow the roots to spread out and fill the hole. Additional dirt was spread over the tree as well.



**COMING SOON...**