

# City of Berkley Boards and Commissions: 2025 Highlights and Achievements

---

***January 26, 2026***

Rachel Patterson, Deputy City Clerk



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*-Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901-1978)*

# Beautification Advisory Committee - 2025 Achievements

## Public Safety Spring Cleanup

- The BAC members cleaned up the garden beds removing old growth and weeds.
- Added mulch to garden beds.
- Continued maintenance and watering after cleanup.



# Beautification Advisory Committee - 2025 Achievements

## Friends Park Cleanup

- The BAC members added many hosta plants, new shrubs, and mulch.
- Continued maintenance and watering after cleanup.

## Street Tree Planting Outreach

- Members distributed door hangers in neighborhoods with low canopy coverage to boost participation in the city's street tree planting program.
- Members were present at Touch-A-Truck event to help pass out information on the city's street tree planting program.



# Beautification Advisory Committee- 2025 Achievements

## Holiday Lights Parade

- BAC members participated in the holiday lights parade and walked with our new banner.



## Luminaries At Bacon Park

- The BAC team put on their first luminary display at Bacon Park.
- Flyers were created and placed at the Library along with digital announcements/outreach to get word out to the community.
- The BAC assembled and placed the luminaries along the pathways of Bacon Park for the community to enjoy during the week of Winter Solstice.



# Beautification Advisory Committee- 2025 Achievements

## Adopt-A-Garden

- Creation of a new adopt-a-garden program for Berkley.
- Project is still in progress as we are in the phase of creating community awareness and finalizing plots and other logistics.
- Members were present at Touch-a-Truck event to distribute flyers about Adopt-a-Garden program.



## Fall Clean Up - Community Center

- Cleaned up garden bed by removing invasive plants and replacing with low-maintenance and native plants.
- Removed weeds and shrubbery from the north-west corner of building exterior.



# Environmental Advisory Committee - 2025 Achievements

## Primary Activities:

- Operated a Bike Corral at the Berkley Art Bash Saturday June 14.
  - The corral promotes air quality and use of alternative transportation.
  - BEAC makes literature available to event-goers on topics such as bike routes, sustainable yard and garden management, and recycling.
- Assisted the South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority and the Berkley Public Works Department with the Berkley E-Recycling Day on May 17.
  - 10 pallets of e-waste, 700 pounds of cardboard and 160 pounds of styrofoam were collected by SOCRRA for recycling.
- Joined with other municipal environmental committees to co-sponsor of the Earth Day 2025 Expo at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market on April 26.
  - Brought communities, businesses, and residents together to educate and inform the public on environmentally sustainable policies and practices.



# Environmental Advisory Committee - 2025 Achievements

- Conducted two Native Plant Sales on June 1st at the Community Center, and on September 21st at the Berkley Public Library.
  - Promote environmentally sound landscaping in Berkley, providing additional stormwater control, reducing pollution, and building a healthier urban ecology.
  - Volunteers included committee members and Berkley High School students.
  - Over 600 native plants were sold, resulting in over 600 dollars in revenue to the committee.
- Worked with the City to conduct two used clothing swaps, on June 29th at the Dorothea Pocket Park and on December 6th at the Berkley Library.
  - Clothing swap events promote reuse of good quality clothing instead of discarding it, reducing waste.
  - About 25 people participated in the Dorothea event.
  - 30 people participated at the library event and over 300 clothing items were exchanged.
  - All leftover clothing was donated to Goodwill Industries.

## Other Activities:

- Continued to educate the community about environmentally sound lawn and garden practices and provide information on funding opportunities and environmental events on its longstanding Facebook page.



# Historical Committee - 2025 Achievements

- Continued to advance the committee's mission of study and recommend various approaches to utilizing city history in developing educational and cultural activities by sponsoring a tour of Roseland Park Cemetery attended by over 100 people.
- Participating in the city's events: Boo!kley, Pride Block Party, Art Bash, Coolidge Art Fest, and Holiday Lights Parade.
- Offering a series of special historic displays, including three Berkley churches, past restaurants, Twelve Mile businesses (1972) and Coolidge businesses (1967), and holiday parades and the Berkley Santa.
- Producing quarterly newsletters with articles about past events in the city's history and news about the museum.
- Welcoming over 1,300 visitors to the museum (an average of 11 a week plus large numbers during events like Boo!kley and Holiday Lights).
- Posting an average of three historic images every week on Facebook, Instagram, and X, all receiving enthusiastic responses from the sites' visitors.
- Researching and responding to dozens of inquiries from residents and others about all aspects of our city's history.
- Scanning over 1,000 images and documents to facilitate responses to inquiries, preparation of displays, and material for events.
- Selling over 300 immensely popular Santa ornaments, designed by committee member and artist Steven Patterson, to both residents and Berkley lovers all over the country, helping to promote the Museum and the City to new audiences.



# Library Board - 2025 Achievements

- Reviewed Library Advisory Board Bylaws.
- Reviewed Code of Conduct supporting the library.
- Reviewed and updated Library Card policy Draft and implement Study Room Policy.
- Reviewed Meeting Room policy.
- Maintained ongoing awareness of budget impacts at the federal and state level.
- Encouraged professional development for Advisory Board Members through dedicated activities:
  - Participated in the American Library Association's United for Libraries virtual Library Policy Retreat, which focused on intellectual freedom and the impact of artificial intelligence on library governance.
  - Maintained active membership with the Michigan Library Association, supporting continued engagement with statewide library issues and professional growth.
  - Engaged with the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations (ALTAFF) to strengthen advocacy and leadership skills within the library community.



# Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - 2025 Achievements

- Returned to monthly meetings.
- Highlight programming and accomplishments of Parks and Recreation staff.
- Preliminary work on the 5-year plan including multiple community engagement meetings.



# Tree Board - 2025 Achievements

- Completed the UCF IRA grant and conducted a post grant review work session (chair, city staff, and council liaison).
- Thirty 2024 DTE grant awarded trees were planted in the spring of 2025.
- The Tree Board & DPW continued to celebrate Arbor Day with an annual tree planting. In 2025, they planted two Sweetgum trees at Oxford Park.
- Board funds were used to purchase a new banner and sign to be used at various community events.
- The Tree Board facebook page continued to be a tool to educate residents about our own urban canopy as well as sharing information on community events and highlighting interesting facts about trees and tree care. Audience growth over the year to 571 followers.



# Tree Board - 2025 Achievements

- The Tree Board participated in a larger number of community events this year. The purpose was to highlight awareness of our board, as well as facilitate residents to sign up for easement trees.
  - Arbor Day: Two Sweetgum trees were planted at Bacon Park.
  - Berkley Street Art Fest: Tree board members entered the chalk art contest and also had a table at the event. They were able to provide a QR code for residents to directly sign up for an easement tree.
  - Touch a Truck: The city provided boards and committees with the opportunity to engage citizens at this event. Tree board members shared literature about the board and its mission, as well as encouraged people to sign up for street trees.
  - Boo!kley Monster Mash: Board members provided a craft and treats for participants at the event. They helped kids with the activity and talked to parents. Many families weren't from Berkley but they still obtained sign ups and had lots of fun.
  - Holiday Lights Parade: This year they ordered a new smaller banner for the parade and other events. Participation was high this year with all but one member walking in the parade.

