

THE
NATURE
CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES

June 10, 2003

Mr. Robert Klitz, Facilities Manager
Laurel School
One Lyman Circle
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Dear Mr. Klitz,

I am writing this as a letter of reference for the Forest City Tree Protection Company in support of their qualifications to perform tree-care services at Laurel School's Fairmount Campus.

Forest City Tree Protection has provided tree services for The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes over the past four years. These services have included pruning, removal, root therapy, diagnosis, and consultation. They have been particularly helpful in regards to the preservation of several large mature trees in proximity to recent construction work.

In all our dealings with Forest City, they have demonstrated a high degree of expertise, professionalism, and responsiveness. Crews have been well-supervised and their work has been completed as specified. When circumstances required quick action, we've always been given prompt service. The quality of their work has been of the highest caliber in all circumstances.

Environmental appreciation and protection is at the core of our mission. It is important to us to maintain trees in a manner that doesn't negatively impact the environment. With our newly-expanded building, our many trails and boardwalks, and full schedule of activities, it is also critical to demonstrate care when work is done around people, buildings, and infrastructure.

Forest City Tree Protection crews have always demonstrated a high degree of technical skill, while exhibiting appropriate care for our visitors, our building, and our boardwalks. During the construction process for our expanded facilities, they helped preserve a number of significant trees, utilizing environmentally-conscious methods as well as working with us to carefully remove one oak tree that was then re-used for furniture and art in our "One Tree Project". This achievement is recognized in our on-going "green building" exhibit.

I have confidence that Forest City Tree Protection has the capabilities to care for the trees at your Fairmount Campus and recommend them to you unequivocally.

Sincerely,

Jan Zorman, Facilities Manager
The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes