



Legacy Tree Program

Purpose:

To recognize, foster appreciation for, educate regarding, and inspire awareness of the contribution that trees make to the Township – including but not limited to environmental, aesthetic, cultural, and historical contributions.

Goal:

To designate individual trees or groves of trees within the borders of Montgomery Township that are significant to the Township and its residents as deserving of special recognition and additional protections in order to ensure their preservation.

Legacy Tree:

A tree designated by the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission which, because of its physical or historic characteristics or prominence in the landscape, is of exceptional cultural, landscape or environmental value and has been accepted into the Montgomery Township Legacy Tree program.

Criteria for trees to be considered Legacy Trees:

In order to be considered eligible for Legacy Tree designation, nominated trees or groups of trees must be in healthy growing condition and must meet a minimum of two of the following criteria:

- The tree is at least 50 years old.
- The tree has a large trunk diameter or overall size for its particular species.
- The tree has a documented association with a historic person, structure, location, or event.
- The tree is a prominent landmark within Township.
- The tree has a unique aesthetic value such as outstanding habit, fall color, etc.
- The tree is a rare species for its location.
- The tree is horticulturally valuable.
- The trees are a group of trees in notable grove.
- The tree is a National, State, or County Champion Tree.

Nomination Process:

This process is voluntary, and anyone can nominate a tree using the form provided by the Township. Trees can be located on either private or public property, but must be located within the geographical boundary of Montgomery Township. If the tree is located on private property, the owner must provide written consent attached to the application and must agree to permit access to the tree before the tree can be considered. If the tree is located on public property, the nomination will be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Department for review and recommendation prior to consideration. Once nominations are given to the Township, the tree will be inspected to determine its condition and to ensure that it is in good health and meets the nominating criteria.

Benefits to the Township and Property Owners:

- Plaques will be placed by Legacy Trees to signify their importance.
- Legacy Trees will be added to a Township map of important trees.
- Owners may be given advice on the maintenance and care of the tree from an ISA Certified Arborist.
- Owners of Legacy Trees on residential property may be eligible to apply for special tree care grants for tree pruning, vertical mulching, cabling and bracing, and other maintenance needs.