HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP TREE TENDERS

Large Shade Tree Replacement Program – Spring 2013

Many of the largest trees in the Township have been lost over the past 20 years. For the most part, they have reached the end of their expected life cycle, since most were planted 75-100 years ago when our Township neighborhoods were developed. While the Township has planted replacement street trees over the years, the species have generally been small and medium-sized varieties, such as the Bradford Pear, Flowering Plum, Crabapple, and Kwanzan Cherry.

Large-species trees enhance the environment exponentially over smaller varieties. Every leaf on a tree creates oxygen and filters pollutants in the air. Each foot of shade-providing canopy reduces the work of air conditioners in the summer. Each inch of root mass improves storm water management and the filtration of water-borne pollutants. In addition to environmental benefits, the grandeur of large trees creates a sense of history and place for the Township, enhancing the quality of life and raising property values.

In order to protect our tree cover, we will be working with the Township on replacing those largest trees. This year, the Township and Tree Tenders is offering 60 free trees to residents who will plant the largest sized shade trees (50’ or taller at maturity) in their front yard. We may also plant some of these in the median strips of Darby Road, West Chester Pike, Hathaway Lane, etc. and in parks throughout the Township.

- Trees are subject to availability and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis – one per address. Spring 2013 planting day is Saturday, May 18th. Interested residents must fill out and return the order form and sign the waiver by Friday, May 10th. Order forms can be found on-line at http://www.haverfordtownship.org/department/board.php?IDD=14-199 or picked up in the Public Works Department in the Township Building.

- Free trees are native, large-species trees only. Offered this spring: Swamp White Oak, Willow Oak, Tulip Poplar, and American Elm (see attached descriptions).

- Trees must be planted on the lawn side of the sidewalk unless the dogwalk is 48” or wider.

- Trees may not be planted directly under wires, but may be set back into the lawn if wires are present.

- Residents should mark the spot with a stake where you would like the tree planted before Monday, May 13th and make a hose or large bucket of water available on the planting day.

- Resident must agree to water the tree once a week in mild to hot weather when we don’t have significant rainfall that week. After planting, trees should be watered weekly until mid-November, and in the heat of the summer in 2014.
Tree Selection Guide

Swamp White Oak (*quercus bicolor*)

The Swamp White Oak tree is a beautiful, rugged tree with lustrous, heavy textured leaves with wavy margins. This oak grows to about 60-80 feet tall in residential areas. Growth rate is fairly fast (1½ to 2 feet per year). It is a long-lived tree that may reach 300 to 350 years old. The name bicolor refers to the two-colored leaf, shining dark green above and velvety white pubescence below, turning golden in the fall with an occasional red-purple. This deciduous tree has a rounded open habit which casts dense shade. The bark of mature trees is quite attractive and unique. The sweet acorns are eaten by whitetail deer, ducks, squirrels, woodpeckers, and smaller rodents.

Swamp White Oaks are frequent inhabitants of wet woods, swamps, wetlands, bottomlands, and near bodies of water, although it is very drought tolerant when established and can be planted in soils that are dry in summer.

Willow Oak (*quercus phellos*)

The Willow Oak is a large tree, growing 50-80 feet tall. This tree looks different from other oaks because of its leaves. Instead of having wide leaves with lobes, Willow Oak has many slender leaves like a willow. Leaves are green and up to five inches long, but only about an inch wide. You can tell it is an oak and not a willow, because the leaves do not have teeth, and because there is a tiny bristle (like a hair) at the tip. Foliage is light to bright green in summer and yellow, yellow-brown and russet in fall. Relatively fast-growing, it tolerates poorly drained soil. Prefers acid soil and full sun. Many birds and animals eat Willow Oak acorns, including: Blue Jay, Red-headed Woodpecker, Common Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Meadow Vole, White-footed Mouse, White-tailed Deer, Squirrels, Raccoon, Red Fox, and Opossum. Many animals use these trees for shelter, cover, and nesting.
Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Tulip Poplar, also called tuliptree, yellow-poplar, white-poplar, and whitewood, is one of the most attractive and tallest of the eastern hardwoods. It is fast growing and may reach 300 years of age on deep, rich, well-drained soils of forest coves and lower mountain slopes. Tulip-poplar is also valued as a honey tree, a source of wildlife food, and a shade tree for large areas.

The Tulip Poplar is an excellent tree in all seasons. In the spring your whole tree is smothered in thousands of blooms. The Tulip looking flowers give you a delightful fragrance of nectar that you'll enjoy all spring long. This nectar even attracts birds – including ruby-throated hummingbirds, cardinals and finches – and other small wildlife. During the summer you get a fast growing, well formed green shade tree. In the fall, get your sunglasses. While other trees are turning brown, your Tulip Poplar leaves turn from green to bright yellow.

The Tulip Poplar is one of the largest of the native trees of the eastern United States, known to reach the height of 190 feet, but typical height is 70–100 feet. It prefers deep, rich, and rather moist soil; The Tulip Poplar is highly resistant to disease and insects, making this a healthy tree that will provide a lifetime of enjoyment.

American Elm (*ulmus americana*)

The American Elm is a native, fast growing vase-shaped tree which can reach 60-100 feet at maturity. Fall color is usually green and chartreuse, with occasional golden or yellow leaves interspersed in the canopy. The American Elm once dominated the nation's landscape, only to be wiped out by Dutch Elm disease between 1930 and 1970. Elm trees once lined the streets of nearly every American town, as the sturdy, Y-shaped tree was exceptionally tolerant of city life. The Elms being offered are seed grown from blight-resistant parent trees.
Free Large-Species Tree Request Form – Spring 2013

Trees are ordered on a first-come, first-served basis – one per address. Trees must be planted on the lawn side of the sidewalk unless the dogwalk is 48” or wider. Interested residents must submit the order form and signed waiver by May 10th.

Name(s) ____________________________ Date ____________

Address ____________________________
Email Address ____________________________
Home Phone ____________________________ Cell Phone ____________________________

Trees are subject to availability and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please mark 1 for your first choice, 2 for second choice, and 3 for third choice:

___ Swamp White Oak  ___ Willow Oak
___ Tulip Poplar  ___ American Elm

Dear Resident,

Haverford Township is providing this tree at no cost to you. Acceptance of this tree removes all responsibilities from Haverford Township for the following: all maintenance, all trimming, all storm damage, all tree removal, or any other damage that may be caused by or to this tree. This waiver includes any successor or assignees.

Additional responsibilities:

- Spring 2013 planting day is Saturday, May 18th. Residents should mark the spot where you would like the tree planted with a stake by Monday, May 13th. Please make a hose or large bucket of water available on the planting day.
- Resident must agree to water the tree once a week in mild to hot weather when we don’t have significant rainfall that week. After planting, trees should be watered weekly until mid-November and in the heat of the summer in 2014.

Please sign below and drop off or send this form by 5/10/13 to: Public Works Department, Township of Haverford, 2325 Darby Rd. Havertown, PA 19083-2251.

Larry Gentile, Township Manager

I have read and understand and will follow the regulations and responsibilities contained above.

Homeowner Signature ____________________________ Date _______