Shade Tree Commission

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Who We Are

The Shade Tree Commission is responsible for helping the Borough of Hummelstown maintain and enhance the beauty of the community through the care of its trees. Complementing the surrounding farm and woodlands, the trees lining the streets of Hummelstown provide an attractive and relaxing shady environment, habitat for wildlife, and clean air which our residents and visitors find rejuvenating and healthy. A sustained urban forest in Hummelstown ensures economic prosperity and well-being for future generations.

Our goals:

- To enhance the beauty of our community by successfully managing our urban forest.
- To provide a safe and healthy environment by providing more trees to cool the sidewalks and improve the air quality.
- To promote public understanding and involvement in the community forest.
- To enhance commerce, business, and property values.

All you have to do is say "Yes!"

The Shade Tree Commission inspected your neighborhood, and we feel that your property would be the perfect location for a street tree. We just need your permission to get started.

This brochure serves an as application for our Tree Planting Program. The program is FREE! Just complete the **Shade Tree Planting Application** on Page 5, return it, and we will add you to the list for our next tree planting.

If you have any questions, please call the Hummelstown Borough Office at (717) 566-2555 and leave a message for the Shade Tree Commission. We will return your call. The Commission also meets monthly on the third Monday of each month at 5:00 PM at the Borough Building.

10 Reasons to say "Yes!"

1. It's free! The Borough will organize the planting at no cost to you.
2. We will plant it for you! The Borough plants the shade trees. All you must do is water it!
3. Trees conserve energy by reducing the heat reflected from streets, buildings, and sidewalks, reducing air conditioning costs by 15-35%.
4. Trees conserve energy in the winter by blocking cold winter wind and can reduce heating costs by 20%.
5. Trees clean the air by producing the oxygen we breathe and by removing air pollution.
6. Trees make your home and neighborhood beautiful by adding grace and seasonal color.
7. Trees increase property values by 15% or more. Studies place a higher value on houses sheltered by trees.
8. Trees help reduce storm water flow by decreasing runoff.
9. Trees fight climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
10. Trees make a house feel like a home and elevate moods.

Shade Tree Removal Process

Thank you for your interest in maintaining your street tree. A permit is not required if the work being performed is tree trimming done to comply with the Shade Tree Ordinance of clearing 8' above sidewalks and 14' above streets. Other tree trimming or tree removal does require a Shade Tree Permit for which there is no cost.

Instructions:

1. Please review the below information on tree evaluation.
2. Complete the **Shade Tree Removal Application** on Page 3 and return to Borough Office or via email.
3. Application must include a minimum of two (2) photos of the tree to be removed
4. Once the permit is received, the Commission will review the application at our next regularly scheduled meeting, and you will be contacted shortly after that meeting to discuss removal and replacement. Emergency requests will be evaluated as needed.

Below is an explanation of the Borough's policy on Street Tree Removal taken from the Hummelstown Community Tree Plan, Part 4, Tree Evaluation and Removal. Shade Tree Commission is abbreviated by "STC".

Part 4: Tree Evaluation and Removal

Tree removal standards ensure that undesirable trees are removed in a consistent, safe manner. They also ensure that healthy trees are not indiscriminately removed. The STC does not authorize the removal of a healthy tree because the tree is inconvenient to the property owner (i.e., falling leaves and debris).

Tree Evaluation

To consider a tree for removal, the property owner must submit a Shade Tree Permit Application to the borough office. Trees are removed only in accordance with objective tree-removal criteria:

- The tree is dead, dying or otherwise damaged beyond reasonable restoration.
- Public safety is jeopardized.
- Proximity to home is causing a problem.
- The tree is diseased or infested.

Tree & Stump Removal

If approved, removal will be granted with stipulation to replace the tree within one year. An exception may be granted if the location is not conducive to tree growth. When removing a large tree or a tree near utility lines, a professional trained arborist should perform the removal. If the property owner desires that the tree stump be ground out, underground utilities must be cleared by using the PA One Call System. Tree removal is dangerous so precautions should be taken to ensure everyone's safety and to avoid property damage.

Tree Replacement

As per the Borough Shade Tree Ordinance, a street tree removed must be replaced with a 1 ½ - 2" caliper tree within one year. Low hanging, ornamental trees or large trees are not approved for street planting. STC has compiled a list of recommended trees including those that avoid sidewalk damage and do not drop fruit or other debris.

Residents can apply for a free tree that is provided and planted by the Borough through our Annual Tree Planting Program. The **Shade Tree Planting Application** is on Page 5.

Shade Tree Removal Application

Date of Application _____

Name of Property Owner: _____

Address where work is proposed:_____

If this is not the same as your mailing address, please provide mailing address:

_____

You may need to be contacted to discuss your permit.

Please check box of how best to reach you, and provide best time:

Phone Number:_____ Time:_____

Home ☐ Work ☐ Cell ☐ Email ☐

Email Address: _____

Work Proposed to be done*:*

Tree Removal, # of trees _____ Species, if known: _____

Tree Trimming

Include a minimum of two (2) photos of tree(s) to be removed or altered

Please give specific reasons as to why you request this work to be done:

_____

_____

_____

Estimated Date of Work: _____

Contractor: _____

In the event this permit is issued for the removal of a shade tree, Ordinance #1-2022, Section 5 requires that the shade tree be replaced in accordance with the terms as set forth therein. The applicant must notify the commission of such replacement. When such notification is received, the date thereof shall be noted below.

Applicant Signature_____

Signifying that they will replace the shade tree(s) within 1 year if required.

_____

BOROUGH OF HUMMELSTOWN
YOUR KIND OF TOWN Pennsylvania

Office Use Only

Date Application Received: _____ Permit No. _____

Evaluation

	Dead Tree		Topped Tree
	Dead Branches • Branches > 4" diameter • Branches< 4" diameter • Hangers		Wrong Tree for Site • Too tall for under power lines • Too large for width tree lawn available • Too small for available space (larger tree preferable at the location)
	Decay or Cavity • In trunk • In branches • < 1"sound wood/6" stem • > 1"sound wood/6" stem		Leaning Tree
	Root Problems • Stem girdling • Severed roots (from construction) • Tree planted too deep • Sidewalk buckling • Roots growing over sidewalk or curb		No issues

Recommendation:

	Remove Tree (Permit Approved w/ Conditions – see below)
	Prune Tree (using proper reduction cuts (per International Society of Arboriculture approved ANSI A300 Pruning Standards)
	Remove as soon as possible and do not plant a new tree. (The stump must be ground out to at least 12" below grade, removing 70% or more of the trunk and major root crown)
	Remove as soon as possible and mandatory replacement within calendar year. • The stump must be ground out to at least 12" below grade, removing 70% or more of the trunk and major root crown. • The hole must be filled with topsoil. • Minimum nursery stock size permitted is 7' tall or 1.5" stem diameter measured at 6" above the ground. • **See Shade Tree Planting Application Page 5**
	The tree is not under the custody/control of the Shade Tree Commission.
	Do Not Remove (Permit Denied) Reason for Denial (all or some of the following): • The trees are in good condition • Public safety in not jeopardized • The tree is not in proximity to the home to cause a problem • The tree does not appear to be dead, diseased, or infested. • Other:

Shade Tree Commission Reviewers Signature: _____
Shade Tree Application Received: Yes ☐ No ☐ Date: _____

This represents the final decision of the Shade Tree Commission. If you wish to appeal the decision, please attend our next Meeting which is regularly scheduled the Third Monday of each month at 6:00pm to discuss the application.

BOROUGH OF HUMMELSTOWN, PA AUG. 26 1874

WE PLANT Shade Tree Commission Borough of Hummelstown

Shade Tree Planting Application

Date of Application:_____

Name of Property Owner:_____

Address of Property:_____

Address of Property Owner (if different):_____

Phone Number:_____

Tree Preference:

1st Choice:_____

2nd Choice:_____

☐ Choose the appropriate tree for me

Note: Only one (1) tree is permitted per property per year

Refer to **Hummelstown Shade Tree Recommendations** on Page 5

(For photos and information go to www.missouribotanicalgarden.com)

Placement of Tree *(as if looking at your front door from the street):*

☐ In front of the door ☐ Right of the door

☐ Left of the door ☐ Other: _____

Please include a photo and stake the location of where would like the tree planted by March 31st

Are there wires overhead?

☐ Yes ☐ No

I agree to water and care for this tree:

_____

Signature Date

Please return this application to the Borough Office or via email to ShadeTree@Hummelstown.gov

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Pennsylvania

Hummelstown ShadeTree Recommendations

Small Trees - Suitable for Under Utilities (<30')	
Min. Landscape Strip = 2ft	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Trident Maple	Acer buergerianum
Hedge Maple	Acer Campestre
Flame Maple	Acer ginnala 'Flame'
Paperpark Maple	Acer griseum
Tatarian Maple	Acer tataricum
Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry	Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'
Eastern Redbud	Cercis canadensis
Crimson Cloud Hawthorn	Crataegus laevigata 'Crimson Cloud'
Winterking Hawthorn	Crataegus viridis
Pink Flair Cherry	Prunus sargentii
Japanese Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'
Summer Sprite Linden	Tilia cordata 'Halka'
City Sprite Zelkova	Zelkova serrata

Medium Trees (30'-40')	
Min. Landscape Strip = 3ft	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
European Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus
Thornless Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis
Amur Maackia	Maackia amurensis
Ironwood	Ostrya virginiana

Large Trees (>45')	
Min. Landscape Strip = 4ft	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Hardy Rubber Tree	Eucommia ulmoides
Maidenhair Tree	Gilkgo biloba (male only)
London Plane Tree	Platanus occidentalis
Bloodgood London Plane Tree	Platanus x acerifolia "Bloodgood"
Shingle Oak	Quercus imbricaria
Green Vase Zelkova	Zelkova Serrata "Green Vase"

Narrow Streets	
Min. Landscape Strip = 2ft	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Fastigiate Red Maple	Acer rubrum "Armstrong"
Columnar European Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus "Columnaris"
Princeton Sentry Ginkgo	Ginkgo biloba "Princeton Sentry"
Columnar English Oak	Quercus robur "Fastigiata"

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WE PLANT
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