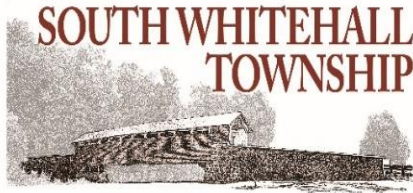


# SHADE TREE PERMIT APPLICATION



FOR STAFF USE ONLY

PROJECT #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

- BUSINESS PRIVILEGE LICENSE
- WORKER'S COMPENSATION
- THIRD PARTY REVIEW FEE

**THIS PERMIT IS REQUIRED ONLY FOR WORK ON TREES WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PUBLIC STREET**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PROPERTY PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ APPLICATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

An application is hereby made for a permit for construction as indicated herein and which shall be located as shown on the plot plan submitted herewith and/or to use the premises for the purpose herein described. Applicant agrees that such work will comply with all provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, Building Code, with all deed restrictions and with all other applicable Ordinances of South Whitehall Township.

APPLICANT PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

IF THIS APPLICATION IS NOT BY THE PROPERTY OWNER, THEN BY WHAT AUTHORITY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX/CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY OWNER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX/CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Pa One Call Serial # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO BE DONE** Please note that street trees that are proposed to be removed may be required to be replaced.

Tree Removal: Reason for Removal \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Pruning \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Planting: List Species To Be Planted \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All work to be done in accordance and subject to 67 PA Code, Chapter 213 (Work Zone Traffic Control), PA Act 38 (PA One Call), and all other conditions, restrictions and regulations prescribed by South Whitehall Township with the same force and effect as if written or printed here and under and subject to special conditions, restrictions, and regulations may be imposed by the Township.

I/We agree to protect, defend, indemnify and save harmless the Township, Officer or Agents thereof, from all claims, suits, actions and proceedings of every nature and description whatsoever which may be brought against the Township Officers or Agents thereof, for or on account of injuries or damages to persons and/or public or private property, due to any materials or applications an in the work or by account of improper materials of workmanship, or for on account of any accident or any other act, negligence or omissions of said applicant or his agents, servants or employees, and the Township shall not in any way be liable therefor.

The applicant is (1) that person or persons who will be doing the work; or (2) the property owner.

PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

## FEEES AND APPROVALS FOR STAFF USE ONLY

**APPROVALS:**

	REVIEWER	DENIAL	DATE	APPROVED	DATE	PERMIT NUMBER	ISSUANCE DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE AND SHADE TREE	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC WORKS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

**FEEES:**

FREE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Called: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVAL CONDITIONS:**

PERMIT ISSUED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

IF NOT PICKED UP BY APPLICANT, THIS PERMIT EXPIRES ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) DAYS AFTER APPROVAL DATE

# PLOT PLAN

(PLEASE INCLUDE LOCATION(S) OF BUILDINGS, DRIVEWAYS AND TREES TO BE REMOVED)

**REAR PROPERTY LINE**

**Front Property Line**

1 square ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) = \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Show all existing and proposed structures and buildings, including eaves, cornices, porches, chimneys, decks, sheds, etc. Also indicate the setbacks of all structures and buildings from all property lines. Existing and future (ultimate) right-of-way lines should also be shown along all streets fronting the subject property. Please note that right-of-way lines are customarily measured from the centerline of the street.

To All Applicants, Contractors, Utility Companies:

**RE: Street Excavation & Occupancy Permits  
South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania**

This letter is to advise you that starting immediately with receipt of this letter all Street Excavation & Occupancy Permits in South Whitehall Township shall be applied for and approved by the Department of Public Works located in the service building behind the municipal building. Payment for the permit shall still be made at the Department of Community Development, Permit Office in the municipal building.

The following shall be adhered to when applying for or receiving an approved Street Excavation & Occupancy Permit:

- ◆ All information requested on the application shall be completed including contact persons, titles, addresses and telephone numbers (working hours/after hours).
- ◆ Sketch or scaled detailed drawing showing relationship of proposed excavation to existing or proposed excavation to existing or proposed curb lines, existing edge of pave and all existing utilities.
- ◆ PA Act 38 (Pennsylvania One Call) serial number with the date and time of request shall be indicated.
- ◆ The three working days time frame for compliance by all utility companies shall be from the date and time the request is received by the utilities from PA One Call.
- ◆ If a roadway closing is requested, the request for a detour shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of 67 PA Code, Chapter 203, including the appropriate detail sketches or drawings.
  - Township review shall require a minimum of three working days after receipt of the application and all required supplemental data or information to a maximum of five working days.
  - If the detour is designed to access state highways or another municipalities roadways, the Township shall require written approval from Penn DOT or the other municipality to permit said detour on their roadways.
  - The request for a detour shall be denied if in the opinion of the Department of Public Works, due to the location of the main line, one lane traffic can be accommodated with the use of approved traffic control signing and flagmen.

# WHY PA ONE CALL SYSTEM BEFORE YOU DIG?

**S**AFETY! To protect yourself, your workers, the public, the environment and critical utility services from accidents involving underground facilities.

**P**A LAW! Use of One Call System is deemed compliance with the law for both Excavators and Designers.

## Notification Requirements

<u>Excavators</u>	<u>Designers</u>
Minimum 3 working days	Minimum 10 working days
Maximum 10 working days	Maximum 90 working days

## MARK OR OUTLINE YOUR WORK SITE WITH WHITE.

**S**ecurity! Use of Pennsylvania One Call System may prove the least expensive insurance available – and may actually reduce your insurance premium.

**S**ervice! One 900 number, available 24 hours every day of the year, will notify all member underground facilities at your work site.

A small annual fee to excavators and designers provides unlimited use of the system each calendar year. This fee is required by law to offset operating costs to municipalities.

**O**SHA! To satisfy OSHA 1926.651

## SPECIAL EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS

Before any excavation actually begins, the standard requires the employer to determine the estimated location of utility installations – sewer, telephone, fuel, electric, water lines or any other underground installations – that may be encountered during digging. Also, before starting the excavation, the contractor must contact the utility companies or owners involved and inform them, within established or customary local response times, of the proposed work. The contractor must also ask the utility companies or owners to find the exact location of underground installations.

**R**eference! A permanent Serial Number is assigned as proof of your compliance.

**R**eassurance! All calls are recorded and archived for legal record.



**PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM, INC.**  
**www.paonecall.org**  
**Dig Safely.**  
**CALL 1-800-242-1776**  
**WORK LOCATION REQUEST FORM**

TELEPHONE NUMBER: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ EXT.: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLER: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX #( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON TO CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ EXT: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSITE INFORMATION:**

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ MUNICIPALITY: \_\_\_\_\_ WARD: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET #: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEAREST INTERSECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SITE MARKED IN WHITE:  Yes  No PENNDOT PERMIT # \_\_\_\_\_ LAT./LONG. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF WORK: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKING IN:  STREET  SIDEWALK  PUBLIC PROPERTY  PRIVATE PROPERTY

OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_ OWNER/WORK BEING DONE FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTIFICATION TYPE:**

CONSTRUCTION Not less than 3 nor more than 10 Working Days PROPOSED DIG DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

DESIGN Not less than 10 nor more than 90 Working Days

**TO BE COMPLETED AFTER PLACING ONE CALL**

LAWFUL DIG DATES: \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SERIAL NUMBERS REFERENCED: \_\_\_\_\_

FACILITY OWNER MEMBERS NOTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER ASSIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**THERE IS AN ANNUAL FEE**

**DO NOT FAX THIS FORM TO POCs-If you are interested in FAX-A-LOCATE please call 1-800-248-1786**



# NOTIFICATION OF STREET OCCUPANCY/CLOSING

\*\*\*Gather this information before you call\*\*\*

STREET NAME: _____	INTERSECTION: _____
STREET CLOSED/OCCUPIED BETWEEN: _____	INTERSECTION: _____
TYPE OF WORK: _____	_____
DATE OF WORK: _____	TIME: _____
DATE OF CLOSING/OCCUPANCY _____	TIME: _____
DATE OF OPENING/COMPLETION _____	TIME _____
WILL EMERGENCY VEHICLES BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH? Yes ____ No ____	
CONTRACTOR: _____	GROUP LEADER/CREW LEADER: _____
PERSON TO CONTACT: _____	PHONE/EXTENSION: _____
MOBILE PHONE: _____	PAGER: _____
REMARKS: _____	

### Notification of Street Closing

All work to be done in accordance and subject to 67 PA Code, Chapter 203 (Work Zone Traffic Control), and all other conditions, restrictions and regulations prescribed by South Whitehall Township with the same force and effect as if written or printed here and under and subject to such special conditions, restrictions, and regulations may be imposed by the Township.

(Traffic Control plan must be submitted at time of permit application.)

Notify businesses listed below of street closing.

	<u>Fax</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Lehigh County Radio (Police/Fire/Ambulance)		610-437-5252
South Whitehall Township	610-398-6898	610-398-0407
Parkland School District - Transportation	610-351-5689	610-351-5690
Cetronia Ambulance	610-395-1874	610-395-6833
Lanta Bus	610-435-6774	610-439-1941
Meals On Wheels	610-398-7088	610-398-2563
J P Mascaro & Sons	610-434-2501	610-434-3011

### NOTIFY BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN AFFECTED AREA WITH WRITTEN NOTIFICATION AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF CLOSING (COPY TO THE TOWNSHIP).

I/WE agree to protect, defend, indemnify and save harmless the Township, Officer or Agents thereof, from all claims, suits, actions and proceedings of every nature and description whatsoever which may be brought against the Township Officers or Agents thereof, for or on account of any injuries or damages to persons and/or public or private property, due to any materials or applications and in the work or by account of improper materials of workmanship, or for on account of any accident or any other act, negligence or omissions of said applicant or his agents, servants or employees, and the Township shall not, in any way be liable therefore. The applicant is (1) the person or persons who will be doing the work, or (2) the property owner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved Public Works

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_



## CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLES

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At every intersection of a public street, private street or commercial driveway with a public street there shall be triangular areas deemed to be clear sight triangles. A clear sight triangle shall be determined by the intersecting street centerlines and a diagonal line connecting the two points, one at each centerline. The distance of each point from the intersection of the street or driveway centerlines, as applicable, shall be as specified by PennDOT's Intersection Sight Distance or Formula Sight Distance, in the latest edition of AASHTO "A Policy On Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" as applied by PennDOT.

There shall be no obstruction of vision between a height of two (2') feet and ten (10') feet above the centerline grade of the street within the clear sight triangle.

Clear sight triangles shall be graded as necessary and kept clear of any buildings, plantings, or other obstructions, with the exception of items required by a governmental, quasi-governmental entity or public utility, such as, but not limited to, traffic signage, utility poles, etc.

A violation of the clear-sight triangle requirements may be permitted upon application to and approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Please contact the Department of Public Works at 610.398.0407 to report suspected clear-sight triangle violations.

# SHADE TREE POLICY



## **1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide background and plain-English interpretation of the South Whitehall Township Ordinances regarding shade trees in the Township.

## **2 Background**

On August 12, 1968, South Whitehall Township revised their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to include the requirement for shade trees along streets in new developments. On March 10, 1969, South Whitehall Township established a Landscape and Shade Tree Commission, a 3-person citizen Board, to oversee the community forest that lines our streets and roads. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code states that “The commission shall have exclusive custody and control of the shade trees in the Township, and is authorized to plant, remove, maintain, and protect shade trees on the public streets, and highways in the Township.” The Landscape and Shade Tree Commission has been active ever since, ensuring that our existing communities maintain the trees that are an integral part of each neighborhood’s unique character and lending guidance to the greening of our new neighborhoods and commercial centers.

## **3 “Shade Trees”**

When dealing with the Township, trees are divided into several categories, each of which has its own regulations associated. “Shade Trees” or “Street Trees” refers to trees within the rights-of-way of public streets. These trees are most commonly known as the trees between the curb and the sidewalk along many public streets. Since the right-of-way of any given public street will generally extend beyond the edge of the roadway, it may not be easy to determine if a given tree is a “Shade Tree” in areas without sidewalks. Please call the Township if you have a question regarding the location of the right-of-way of a public street. “Parking Lot Trees” refers to those trees in and surrounding commercial parking lots as required by the Zoning Ordinance. “Buffer Strips” refers to trees and vegetation that serve as an attractive sound and light barrier around commercial uses as required by the Zoning Ordinance. Generally speaking, all other trees on private property are considered private property and may only be subject to Township concern should a situation regarding visibility along or access to a public right-of-way, danger to property, or public safety arise.

## **4 Legal Basis**

As mentioned previously, the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission is regulated by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. On January 17, 2024, South Whitehall Township adopted an updated ordinance *Chapter 17 Article VII Landscape and Shade Tree Commission* to outline the powers and duties of the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission and ensure consistency with other Boards/Commissions/Councils of the Township. Subsequently, the Township also adopted on January 17, 2024, an ordinance *Chapter 330 Trees* to specify the maintenance requirements and enforceable actions associated with Shade Trees.

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Section 312-40 deals with the planting of Shade Trees by developers and Section 350-48(o)(2)(E)(v) of the Township Zoning Ordinance deals with the requirements for parking lot trees and buffer plantings.

## **5 Property Owner Responsibilities**

### ***Permits***

Subsection 330-4 of *Chapter 330 Trees*, in summary states that no person shall conduct work to a Shade Tree or remove a Shade Tree without first obtaining a permit from the Township. The purpose of this permit is to ensure there are no conflicts or safety concerns with the proposed work. Following the removal of a Shade Tree, a property owner will often be required to replant a new Shade Tree in accordance with the Township Shade Tree Guide. This requirement is provided in the form of a recommendation by the Township Shade Tree Coordinator. If a property owner chooses to challenge the recommendation of the Township Shade Tree Coordinator, they may file an appeal with the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission.

### ***Tree Maintenance***

Subsection 330-6 of *Chapter 330 Trees*, outlines general details on the types of trees that may be planted should they be considered “Shade Trees”. More specific details on the species and types of trees appropriate can be found in the Township’s Shade Tree Guide. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and reasonable trimming of their respective Shade Trees, following the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Tree Care Standards. All major tree maintenance must be conducted by an ISA Certified Arborist or under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist. Property owners may complete minor tree work following the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards, only if a permit has been obtained and the work is approved as minor by the Township Shade Tree Coordinator.

Should a landowner fail to properly maintain a Shade Tree or if the Shade Tree is considered a risk to the life, health, safety, or property of the public, the Township Code Enforcement Officer shall notify the property owner to mitigate the issue. Similarly, the Township Code Enforcement Officer shall notify the property owner to mitigate issues pertaining to contagious disease, insect infestation, or similar nuisances related to the Shade Tree.

### ***Township Responsibilities***

The Township shall have the right in the event of an emergency, natural disaster, roadway obstruction or roadway maintenance to prune, trim or remove any Shade Tree or part of a Shade Tree in the street right-of-way. Should a Shade Tree or part of a Shade Tree fall and bring down overhead utility wires, the Township will take appropriate measures to control the hazardous situation while the appropriate utility is dispatched to repair the damage. If the fallen tree(s) are touching wires, the Township will not engage until the appropriate utility has determined the area to be safe. The Township is not responsible for the overhead utility lines and cannot repair them.

# South Whitehall Township

# SELECTING SHADE TREES

## Preferred Species

**In open areas** (areas where structures, driveways and light standards are generally greater than 30 feet from planting locations) Plant at 35-40 foot intervals

### Aceraceae Family

Red Maple *Acer rubrum* (susceptible to verticillium wilt)

### Caesalpineae Family

Thornless Honey Locust *Gleditsia triacanthos Inermis* (susceptible to mimosa webworm infestation) ①

### Euphorbiaceae Family

Hardy Rubber Tree *Eucommia ulmoides*

### Fabaceae Family

Kentucky Coffeetree (males only) *Gymnocladus dioica* (susceptible to verticillium wilt)

### Fagaceae Family

American Beech *Fagus grandiflora* (seeds are poisonous if ingested)

White Oak *Quercus alba* ①

Scarlet Oak *Quercus coccinea* ①

Shingle Oak *Quercus imbricaria* ①

English Oak *Quercus robur* ①

Northern Red Oak *Quercus rubra* ①

### Ginkgoaceae Family

Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree (males only) *Ginkgo biloba* ①

### Hamamelidaceae Family

Sweet Gum (seedless only) *Liquidambar styraciflua* ①

### Nyssaceae Family

Black Gum or Black Tupelo *Nyssa sylvatica* (susceptible to verticillium wilt)

### Platanaceae Family

London Plane *Platanus acerifolia* ①

### Tiliaceae Family

Little Leaf European Linden *Tilia cordata* (susceptible to Japanese Beetle infestation) ①

Crimean Linden *Tilia euchlora* ①

Silver Linden *Tilia tomentosa* ①

### Ulmaceae Family

Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis* ①

Japanese Zelkova *Zelkova Serrata* ①

**In tight areas (areas where structures, driveways and light standards are generally less than 30 feet from planting locations) Plant at 30-35 foot intervals**

**Betulaceae Family**

- American Hornbeam *Carpinus caroliniana* ①
- Upright European Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* ①

**Corylaceae Family**

- Turkish Filbert *Corylus colurna*

**Sapindaceae Family**

- Goldenraintree *Koelreuteria paniculata* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)

***Columnar varieties of other preferred species***

**Under overhead wires Plant at 30-35 foot intervals**

**Aceraceae Family**

- Hedge Maple *Acer campestre* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)
- Paperbark Maple *Acer griseum* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)
- Tatarian Maple *Acer tataricum* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)

**Betulaceae Family**

- American Hornbeam *Carpinus caroliniana* ①

**Cornaceae Family**

- Kousa Dogwood (tree form only) *Cornus kousa* ①

**Fabaceae Family**

- Eastern Redbud (tree form only) *Cercis canadensis* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)

**Oleaceae Family**

- Japanese Tree Lilac (tree form only) *Syringa reticulata*

**Rosaceae Family**

- Serviceberry (tree form only) *Amelanchier x grandiflora* or *Amelanchier laevis* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)
- Hawthorne *Crataegus* – (*including Ohio Pioneer, Winter Green, Thornless Cockspur, Laval, Washington, Winter King, Crimson Cloud English*) ①
- Crabapple (disease resistant only) *Malus*
- Ornamental Pear (except Bradford) *Pyrus calleryana cultivar* ①

**Parking Lot Trees**

- Any preferred variety of Maple *Acer* (*susceptible to verticillium wilt*)
- Any preferred variety of Oak *Quercus* ①
- Japanese Zelkova *Zelkova Serrata* ①
- Thornless Honey Locust *Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis* ①

**Note ①: This species is resistant to Verticillium Wilt, as soil-borne disease present in the Township.**

## Prohibited Species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Ash <i>Fraxinus</i>	Subject to borers
Birch, Paper <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Intolerant of stress
Box Elder <i>Acer negundo</i>	Weak wood, weak limb attachment
Catalpa <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Messy fruit
Cottonwood <i>Populus deltoides</i>	Weak, messy cotton, too large
Coniferous Evergreens, such as Fir, Hemlock, Pine, Spruce	Clearance problems
Elm, American <i>Ulmus americana</i>	Disease
Elm, Chinese	Weak, surface rooting
Elm, Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Weak wood
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus sp.</i>	Messy fruit
Larch	Clearance problems
Locust, Black <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Insects, borers on poor sites
Maple, Norway	Surface rooting, dense shade
Maple, Silver <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Weak wood, weak limb attachment
Mulberry <i>Morus alba</i>	Messy fruit
Pear, Bradford	Weak wood, weak limb attachment
Poplar, Lombardy & any variety or hybrid	Weak wood, short lived
Russian Olive <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Disease problems, weak wood
Sycamore <i>Platanus sp.</i>	Too large, messy, disease problems
Tree-of-Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Weak wood, invasive
Willow <i>Salix sp.</i>	Too large, messy
<b>Any species listed on the current Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Invasive Species List</b>	

## Tree Species Diversity

To promote species diversity and minimize impact of disease on the shade tree population, use the following table to determine the number of different species to be planted:

Number of Trees Proposed	Minimum Number of Families
1-10	1
11-20	2
21+	3

So as to minimize the potential impact of species-specific disease or pests, developers should avoid grouping trees of the same family together.

## Selecting Quality Trees

The selection of the trees is one of the most important decisions when planting shade trees. The selection of the proper species for the location and context will increase the probability that the tree will grow to maturity without conflicting with the surrounding infrastructure and without suffering from stunted growth or early death from environmental hazards. Selection of strong, healthy trees of the proper species may initially incur greater expense, but is more likely to require fewer, if any, tree replacements in the future.

## **South Whitehall Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance**

### Section 11.38 Shade Trees

Except as otherwise provided in Subsection 11.38(c)(4) hereof, within the right-of-way of streets or street tree easements, as applicable, adjacent to or in new subdivisions, the developer shall plant shade trees meeting the specifications found in these regulations. Site locations, land use, topography, natural and historic features shall be considered by the developer and the Township Shade Tree Commission, in selecting and approving species.

(a) SPECIES OF TREES PERMITTED. Trees within street rights-of-way or street tree easements shall be deciduous hardwood types of varieties (including hybrids thereof) indicated within the South Whitehall Township Shade Tree Policy, as established by the Board of Commissioners from time to time, or other species approved by the Shade Tree Commission.

#### (b) TREE SPECIFICATIONS

(1) Trees shall be of nursery stock quality, grown under the same climatic conditions as at the location of the development.

(2) All planting shall be done in conformance with good nursery practice and to the standards established by the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission.

(3) Trees permitted shall be of symmetrical growth, free of insect pests and disease.

(4) TREE SIZE. The trunk diameter measured at a height of six (6) inches above ground level shall be a minimum of 2 to 2-1/2 inches. Trees shall have a minimum of a four (4) foot single straight stem to the first lateral branches, above ground level.

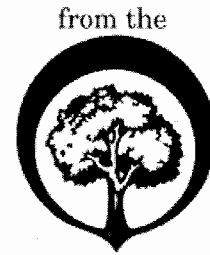
(A) Depending on good planting with reference to the particular species to be planted, the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission may modify the size requirements of trees.

#### (c) TREE LOCATION

(1) In all subdivisions, trees shall be planted within the street rights-of-way or street tree easements at uniform intervals between thirty (30) and forty (40) feet. The location of shade trees will be subject to the approval of the Landscape and Shade Tree Commission and the Board of Commissioners. If acceptable to the above two Boards, trees may be planted midway between the curb and sidewalk, providing the planting strip is a minimum of five (5) feet in width; or between the sidewalk and building restriction line, three (3) feet from the sidewalk. Should the latter location be chosen, additional street right-of-way shall be dedicated to the Township or a street tree easement established in lieu of. The size of the additional right-of-way or street tree easement shall be determined by the Township Engineer.

# Don't Top Trees!

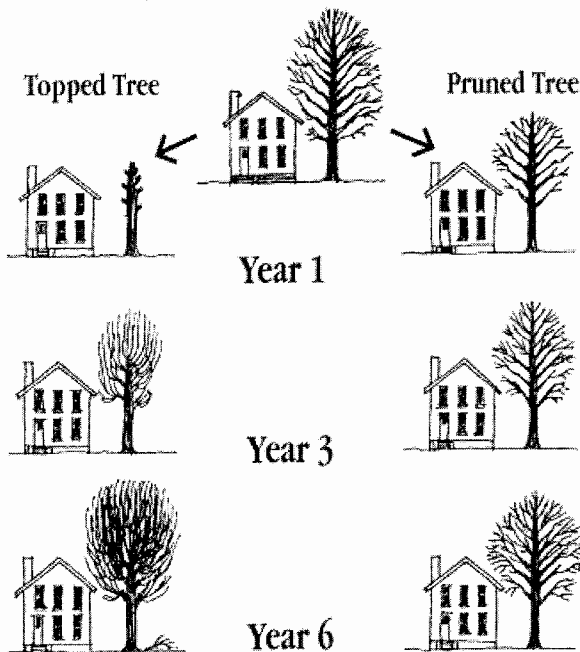
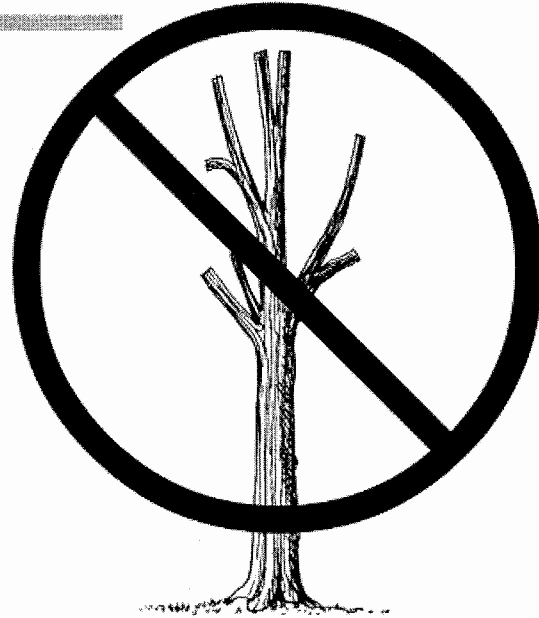
Never cut main branches back to stubs. The sight of topped trees is all too common in the communities and along the roadways of America—trunks with stubby limbs standing naked in the landscape, trees stripped of all dignity and grace. Trees are often topped because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or solar collectors, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner. But, as one arborist has said, "Topping is the absolute worst thing you can do for the health of your tree."



**TREE CITY USA®  
BULLETIN**

## Why NOT to "Top:" 8 Good Reasons

1. **Starvation:** Topping removes so much of the tree's leafy crown that it dangerously reduces the tree's food-making ability.
2. **Shock:** By removing the protective cover of the tree's canopy, bark tissue is exposed to the direct rays of the sun. The resultant scalding can cause the tree's death.
3. **Insects and Disease:** The exposed ends of topped limbs are highly vulnerable to insect invasion or decay fungi spores.
4. **Weak Limbs:** New branches that grow from a stubbed limb are weakly attached and more liable to break from snow or ice weight.
5. **Rapid New Growth:** Instead of controlling the height and spread of the tree, topping has the opposite effect. New branches are more numerous and often grow higher than before.
6. **Tree Death:** Some tree species can't tolerate major branch loss and still survive. At best, they remain weak and disease-prone.
7. **Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with new growth it never regains the grace and character of its species.
8. **Cost:** The true cost of topping is often hidden — lower property values, expense of removal and replacement if the tree dies.



## Proper Pruning — The Alternative to Topping

When a decision is made to reduce the size of an older tree, it can be topped, or it can be pruned properly. Although the speed and nature of regrowth will depend on species and local factors, any comparison between irresponsible topping and competent pruning will be dramatic.

- **Year 1:**  
The topped tree is an ugly stub and a remnant of a once lovely tree. If pruned properly, the tree's size is reduced but form and beauty are retained.
- **Year 3:**  
Vigorous sprouts have sprung out of the topped tree in large numbers and are growing with abnormal rapidity. The pruned tree adds growth, but it does so more slowly and distributes it more normally.
- **Year 6:**  
In a relatively short time, the topped tree is as tall — and far bushier and more dangerous — than it was to begin with. The properly pruned tree is safer, more beautiful, and its size is better controlled.

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