



Notable Trees Program Chattanooga, Tennessee

Program Description

The citizens of the City of Chattanooga recognize the importance of our urban forest as a natural resource. They also appreciate the beauty and significance of our city's trees as a source of inspiration and pride in our community. Trees provide a sense of place like not other, anchoring people to their neighborhoods and communities. In acknowledgement of this devotion and pride, the Chattanooga Tree Commission (CTC) has developed a **Chattanooga Notable Tree Program**. The program is designed to provide to the public a list of trees in our community that are of special interest, significant size or noteworthy historical importance. The trees may be located on public or private property.

Criteria for Designation

A **Notable Tree** must be commonly recognized as an established and familiar feature of the community, confirmed as a significant part of the community's heritage, or planted to commemorate special events or community leaders.

Program Limitations

Chattanooga Notable Tree designation does not entitle the tree to *any* treatment by the city. This program does not offer any official protection by the city. The program is strictly voluntary and is designed to offer the owners of designated trees recognition by the CTC as a special or significant tree in the city.

Submitting a Candidate Tree

Anyone can nominate a tree, but the owner of a candidate tree must approve the inclusion of their tree in the program. The application form (available on the city web site – Urban Forestry Division in Public Works Dept.) includes information about the **location of the tree, the species of the tree, the property owner name and contact information**. Candidate trees must be submitted in writing (by mail or e-mail). The "**Permit to Publish Location**" form shall be considered the application form. Candidate trees will be considered at Tree Commission meetings held monthly. Tree species listed as invasive exotic in the state of Tennessee will not be considered. Completed application forms and photos of the tree(s) can be sent by two methods:

1. By regular mail to:

City Forester
Department of Public Works
900 East 11th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403
(423) 643-6839

2. By e-mail to:

ghyde@chattanooga.gov

Publishing the Location of Chattanooga Notable Trees

The owner of the property where the tree is located must sign the Permit to Publish Location form and a copy shall be held by the city Forestry Division until such time the tree is asked to be removed from the program by the owner; or the tree no longer qualifies as a Chattanooga Notable Tree (damage or death). The tree shall not be designated a Notable Tree without the completed form on file. The publication of the location of the tree may



include but not be limited to: the Forestry Division section of the city web site, Take Root web site, printed publications which may be used as a fund raising vehicle for the Take Root tree planting program and other publications utilized by the city. A map may be available to the general public showing the location of all Chattanooga Notable Trees.

Responsibility of the City

The Forestry Division in the Department of Public Works will be responsible for maintaining records of Notable Trees. A student intern may be assigned to this task. The trees will be made available for viewing by the public through a publicity program as stated in the "Publishing the Location" paragraph above. The City Forester shall be responsible for inspecting the tree to determine potential hazards. (See "Hazardous Trees" in the Criteria Guidelines.)

Responsibility of the City Tree Commission

The Chattanooga Tree Commission shall be the sole entity to determine qualification of an applicant tree as a Landmark Tree. A minimum of two (2) TC members shall verify qualifying information provided by the tree owner. The Tree Commission shall vote with a simple majority of attending members being the deciding factor to designate an applicant tree as a Landmark Tree. The CTC will review applications at each monthly meeting however, an on site inspection by at least two members of the CTC must be verified and recorded in the minutes of the meeting before a vote can be brought.

Recognition, Signs & Plaques

Landmark Trees may be recognized publicly at an annual awards event held by the CTC and may be in conjunction with Arbor Day. A certificate will be provided to the tree owner by the CTC. The owners of a designated Chattanooga Notable Tree have the option to purchase a plaque indicating their tree as such. For purposes of continuity of design, the plaque must be approved by the CTC and will include the CTC designation, the botanical and common names of the tree and may include historical or significant text as determined by the owner. Text must be approved by the CTC.