

Celebrate. Recognize. Protect.

How you can get involved





Let's work together to preserve Urbana's natural beauty

Urbana's trees are a source of shared pride in our community. With one of the most diverse urban forests in the Midwest, we can claim trees that are historic, unique, rare and one-of-a-kind specimens. So it's little wonder that Urbana is one of 13 charter Tree City USA communities in the United States.

Now you can help celebrate, recognize and protect our city's most significant trees through the Legacy Tree Program, established by the Urbana City Council, by nominating a tree or donating to the program.

How the program works

Nomination. Any Urbana resident can nominate any tree in Urbana. Nomination forms are available online at www.urbanaininois.us/legacytree and at the Urbana Public Works office at 706 S. Glover Street.

Consent. Participation in the Legacy Tree Program is voluntary, and the property owner must consent to having the tree evaluated and designated. If your tree is nominated, the City Arborist will contact you to seek written consent to evaluate and potentially designate your tree. If the tree is

on public property, the Public Works Director must provide consent.

The City has adopted a formal process to follow when a property owner wishes to have his/her healthy tree taken out of the Legacy program. A process is also in place for removal of private property Legacy trees that are in poor health and decline beyond repair. Full details on both of these procedures are included in the Legacy Tree Owner's Participation Guide.

Evaluation. If the property owner of the nominated tree provides written consent to participate in the Legacy Tree Program, the City Arborist evaluates the tree, using the eight Legacy Standards Assessment criteria referenced in the "What is your favorite Urbana tree?" section, along with the following two additional assessments:

- **Locale Assessment** to ensure the tree is visible from the public right-of-way and located far enough from overhead utilities; and
- **Condition Assessment** to ensure the tree's health meets the established standards of the Program.

The City Arborist then submits his/her Legacy Tree assessment findings on the nominated

tree to the Urbana Tree Commission, along with a recommendation on whether the nominated tree should be designated as a Legacy Tree. Full details of the assessment criteria can be found online at www.urbanaininois.us/legacytree and at the Urbana Public Works office at 706 S. Glover Street.

Designation. Upon receiving the City Arborist's recommendation and the completion of any individual inspections, the Urbana Tree Commission will then consider whether the nominated tree qualifies under the Legacy Tree Assessment. The Commission may designate the nominated tree as a Legacy Tree by a majority vote of all voting members who are present and voting.

For designated Legacy Trees on private property, the property owner will receive:

- recognition in annual publication and on the City's Legacy Tree Walking Tour
- free tree assessment and tree care advice from the City Arborist
- 5 yards of free mulch
- recognition certificate
- other potential benefits granted by the City of Urbana



What is your favorite Urbana tree?

A tree or group of trees can be designated for Legacy status by the Urbana Tree Commission if it/they meet one or more of the following standards (City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2013-04-027). Does your favorite tree qualify?

- **Size:** The tree is in the top one percent of tree sizes of its inventoried species in Urbana.
- **Rarity:** One of a kind tree due to species type, characteristic and/or a species of less than one percent of all inventoried trees in Urbana.
- **Historic or Notable Event:** There is a documented association with an historic event of 75 or more years ago and/or a more recent event of notable worth.
- **Age:** The tree is more than 100 years old, or a minimum of 75 years old when adjacent to a historically designated home.
- **Special Ecological Value:** The tree is shown to provide soil stabilization, an important genetic resource, or offers critical habitat for important plant or animal species.
- **Location:** The tree is considered of public value as a prominent visual focal point as viewed from public streets and right-of-ways.
- **Aesthetics:** The tree has a distinct or unusually appealing visual characteristic.
- **Illinois or National Register of Big Trees:** The tree is included in the Illinois or National register of Big Trees.

Note: If the nominated tree is on public property, the Public Works Director must provide consent. If the tree is on private property, the owner must consent to participate in the program.

Pictured at left: The beloved Sim Hackberry tree, which stood at the northeast corner of west High Street and south Coler Avenue for more than 100 years, has been honored posthumously as Urbana's first Legacy Tree. It brought the community together to help celebrate, recognize and protect all of Urbana's trees. (Photo courtesy of Hoemann-Perrone Photography)

How you can support the program

With financial support from you and other community tree advocates, the City of Urbana can cover the cost of identification for all Legacy Trees as part of its natural inventory, feature them on a city-wide map accessible on the City website, produce plaques commemorating each Legacy Tree; develop a Legacy Tree locator app; and plant unique and indigenous trees.



We have established the following friend and sponsor levels:

- **\$50-\$249 Tree Friend** – Listed as a Friend in annual Legacy Tree publication
- **\$250-\$499 Tree Friend** – Listed as a Friend in annual Legacy Tree publication and receive a voucher from the Landscape Recycling Center or Common Ground Food Co-op
- **\$500-\$999 Tree Friend** – Listed as a Friend in annual Legacy Tree publication and receive 2 tickets to the Master Gardeners Annual Garden Walk
- **\$1,000-\$2,499 Tree Sponsor** – Sponsor 1 Legacy Tree for 2 years and become part of the Legacy Tree Circle, which includes 2 tickets to the Master Gardeners Annual Garden Walk and 2 tickets to the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation annual dinner where you will be recognized for your support of the Legacy Tree Program. Listed as Tree Sponsor in annual Legacy Tree publication and on one plaque to be installed on City right-of-way adjacent to Legacy Trees.

Benefits associated with larger gifts are available online at www.urbana.illinois.us/legacytree and at the Urbana Public Works office at 706 S. Glover Street. The City of Urbana is partnering with the Community Foundation for processing donations to the program. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of East Central Illinois with "Legacy Tree Program" in the memo line and mailed to the Foundation's office at 307 W. University Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820. Or you can make your donation online—as a one-time, monthly, quarterly or annual gift via the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois website: www.cfeci.org. Be sure to enter "Legacy Tree Program" in the designation box.

Want to talk further?

We appreciate your interest in the Legacy Tree Program. For additional information, please contact City Arborist Mike Brunk at 217-384-2393.

Individual and corporate gifts of any amount are welcome, and may be deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

