

Charleston Tree Commission ***Trees of Merit* Program**

History

Vision

The ***Trees of Merit*** program offers a representative sample of tree species that grow within the Charleston community. They contain within their stories a unique part of Charleston's history; one very much tied to the land.

Trees of Merit are trees of particular interest by virtue of age, size, shape, special interest, location, and/or history. ***Trees of Merit*** may include individual trees, avenues, groves, shelter beds, tree gardens, arboretums and sites of botanical and ecological interest.

With familiarity and increased understanding of the value trees play in maintaining healthy ecosystems, it is hoped a sense of stewardship for our natural history will be inspired.

The objectives of the Charleston Tree Commission ***Trees of Merit*** program are:

- To facilitate and promote stewardship and conservation of trees as an integral part of nature's ecosystem.
- To foster knowledge and awareness of the role of trees in Charleston's natural history.
- To foster knowledge and awareness about the cultural aspects of tree heritage.
- To provide programs and information, that supports stewardship, conservation, knowledge, and awareness of trees.

The Charleston *Trees of Merit* Program

The Charleston ***Trees of Merit*** program facilitates extensive community involvement in a collaborative approach to decision making. It unites the public with a wide variety of disciplines under a common theme. The Charleston City Council along with various environmental, conservation, educational, historical, arboricultural and horticultural organizations contribute significantly to the project in terms of identifying trees for recognition, advertising the project, distribution of brochures and nomination forms, and distribution of plaques and certificates.

Upon receiving nominations, the Charleston Tree Commission, consisting of local individuals, will select trees of importance to their community. The Charleston Tree Commission facilitates the process of establishing ***Trees of Merit***. The Charleston Tree Commission is creating a web-based map of trees in Charleston that will include the location of ***Trees of Merit***.

Charleston Tree Commission
***Trees of Merit* Nomination Form**

Person nominating tree:

Property owner (If other than nominator):

name

name

address

address

phone (day)

phone (day)

phone (evening)

phone (evening)

email

email

Tree Description

1. Location (street address): _____
2. Private property _____ Public property (park, median, etc.): _____
3. Single tree _____ More than one (give number): _____
4. Scientific or common name _____
5. Historical facts _____
6. Approximate height: _____ ft
Crown (measure from one edge to opposite edge): _____ ft
Circumference (distance around trunk 4.5 ft above ground): _____ ft _____ in
7. Approximate age: _____ yrs
8. Condition: Healthy _____ Pruning problems _____
9. Noteworthy features:
Beauty _____ Shape _____ Special interest _____
History _____ Bird habitat _____

Mail to: Charleston Tree Commission
City Hall

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Charleston, Illinois 61920