



*Mayor
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SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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www.leonianj.gov

Dear Resident:

The Leonia Shade Tree Commission (the “STC”) is excited to announce our new Private Property Planting Program - a program that offers Leonia residents the opportunity to have planted on their property (i.e. in the area between the house and sidewalk) a 6 to 8 foot shade tree (of the resident’s choice) at no cost to the resident. The STC will also arrange for the planting. While there is no cost to the resident for purchasing or planting the tree, the resident will own and be responsible for the care of the tree after planting.

The impetus for this program was the realization that the public right of way is often not ideal for planting shade trees because of the overhead utility lines and suboptimal space between the curb and sidewalk. In order to restore and maintain Leonia’s overall canopy cover which sets Leonia apart from neighboring towns and ensure the right tree is planted in the right place, the STC believes it is imperative to plant in both the public right of way and on private property.

Since shade trees require ample space to grow, we are looking for properties that have an appropriate planting area that will support the health and growth of a shade tree. The planting area should allow for the growth of tree with enough distance from any nearby overhead utility lines and sidewalks. Under the program, the trees may not be planted in the backyards of residents. We believe your property has such an ideal planting area, so we hope you decide to participate. Your participation will help ensure the future of the Leonia’s beloved green asset.

Shade trees on your property have the following benefits among others (www.state.nj.us):

- 1) On average trees add at least 5% to 6% to the value of a house
- 2) Shaded homes cuts energy bills by 50% in the summer
- 3) Reduce heating in the winter by 30%
- 4) Improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect, and other harmful pollutants
- 5) Reduce runoff - soaks up water that would end up in your or your neighbor’s basement
- 6) Provide wildlife habitat

“TREES ... THE HEALTH OF OUR FUTURE”

Possible choice of shade tree as well as others:

1. Tulip poplar - fast growing shade tree
2. Red or Sugar Maple – beautiful fall color
3. Little Leaf Linden – beautiful heart-shaped leaves
4. Northern Red Oak - Perfect for acidic soil - good branches for kids to swing
5. Zelkova - Good for small yards or alongside or front of home
6. American Sycamore - beautiful bark, needs space to grow
7. Eastern White Pine - Evergreen that will shade your home all year long

Over the past 15 years, Leonia has lost 16% of its canopy and we are hoping to restore it in part through trees planted under this program.

If interested, please reach out to shadetree@leonianj.gov. A member of the STC will reach out to you with further information regarding the program and choices of trees.