

1. Why does the Borough think trees are important in our community?

Phoenixville is committed to enhancing the urban forest for the many benefits that trees provide. The tree canopy is a key component to minimize the damaging effects of stormwater runoff from the Borough to the French Creek, Schuylkill River, other streams, and ultimately, the Delaware Valley River Basin. Trees reduce air temperature, reduce heating and cooling costs and thus greenhouse gas emissions. Trees improve property values, enhance physical and psychological health, and reduce air pollutants. Trees help people reconnect with nature.

2. Where can I find information about our existing tree inventory?

Phoenixville's urban forest includes the trees lining the Borough's streets and shading its parks and buildings. It is made up of approximately 2,400 trees all of which are regulated per Chapter 25 of the Borough Code. Each of these trees provide shade and security, capture rainwater, filter pollution and add to the Borough's scenic character. Phoenixville's urban forest offers over \$350,000 per year in calculable benefits. Adding in the cost to replace each tree, its total value is about \$25 million. Follow this link to learn more.

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=97a60bdb38a84048a2c75395a0b23ffe>

3. What is the purpose of the tree commission?

The Tree Advisory Commission (TAC), is a group of volunteers that work, in conjunction with the Director of Public Works, to maximize the ecosystem services derived from Regulated Trees by establishing policies for the planting, removal, maintenance and protections of Regulated Trees in the Public Area located in the Borough. The policies and procedures within which the TAC shall function are set forth in Chapter 1 of the Code of the Borough of Phoenixville.

For more information follow this link. <https://ecode360.com/14087325>

4. What is meant by a "Regulated Tree"?

Regulated Street Tree(s) are defined as any tree(s) in the Borough which is (are) located within the public right-of-way and public spaces such as parks. Regulated street trees are protected from acts of vandalism, unauthorized removal, or pruning which may result in legal action, fines, and replacement costs per the Borough Code.

5. What is the long- term plan of the Commission and the Borough for trees?

The Tree Replacement Plan (TRP) divides the Borough into twelve sectors and beginning in 2018 through 2030 provides for the removal of a certain number of aged, dying, or damaged Regulated Trees so that a replacement Regulated Tree can be planted in order to ensure that each sector of the Borough remains sensitive to ecological and economic benefits and sustains a healthy Regulated Tree canopy. View the map here. <https://www.phoenixville.org/DocumentCenter/View/396/Tree-Replacement-Plan---2018-Map-PDF>

6. When does TAC meet?

The TAC meets on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are open to the public, are held in Council Chambers on the 3rd floor of Borough Hall and begin at 6:30 PM. **Currently, TAC meetings are being held via ZOOM. Contact the borough in order to be invited to a meeting.**

7. How do I go about getting a regulated tree pruned or removed at my home?

In order to get a tree evaluated for possible trimming or removal, you must fill out and submit a Borough Regulated Tree application. This application can be found on our website (<https://www.phoenixville.org/DocumentCenter/View/151/Borough-Regulated-Tree-Application-PDF>) or you can pick one up at Borough Hall. Once the application is submitted it will then be forwarded to the Tree Advisory Commission. The Tree Commission will be sent to the location of the tree, they will inspect it and will report back their findings and decision.

8. If I am willing to pay for the pruning or removal of a regulated tree, why do I need the Borough's permission.

The permit ensures that the tree service used by the resident adheres to the borough's requirements. In addition, the permit makes certain the contractor provides a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough an additional insured should something happen.

9. How do I go about getting a regulated tree planted at my home?

If you would like a tree planted in front of your house, simply contact the Borough so that your name and location can be passed along to the Tree Advisory Commission. The Commission conducts four plantings each year; two in the spring and two in the fall. If your home is selected as a possible site for planting, a letter will be sent to you to let you know. In the letter will be a list of trees that are available for that planting.

10. Is there a list of trees that are being planted in the Borough?

The tree selection varies based on what is available at our suppliers and what is available through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. If your home is selected as a possible site for planting, a letter will be sent to you to let you know. In the letter will be a list of trees that are available for that planting.

11. Why are they cutting down all the old regulated Oak trees?

A significant number of the regulated street trees are approaching seventy years of age. We are now seeing an inordinate number of trees dropping, in some cases, very large limbs; a surge in various diseases, and in many cases, the trees are just dying. This is especially true of the various species of Oak Trees that comprise the majority of regulated street trees. The borough is engaged in a planned effort to remove dead or dangerous trees and replace them quickly with trees that are appropriate for the neighborhood impacted. See Number 5 of this Q&A.

12. I had so many problems with our prior regulated tree. Why will it be any different this time?

A member of the Tree Advisory Commission (TAC) will have reviewed the site and recommended the planting of a tree species that would be most favorable for your location. Many factors go into these decisions such as the width of the street, overhead wires, lines of sight at corners or intersections and even microclimates. The Tree Advisory Commission will also vary the species of tree on the same block. This is done to prevent the destruction of an entire block of trees in case a disease or invasive insect affects that one type of tree.

13. A new regulated tree has been planted at my home. I have been told that I am now responsible for the health and well-being of this tree. How do I find out how to care for this new tree.

When a new tree is planted, it will come with a tree identification tag. On this tag you will find information about the size of the tree, the growing habit and how to care for the tree during the first two critical years. This tree will give you many years of beauty. The care it receives in the first two years will determine its long term health.