



# Susquehanna Township

1900 Linglestown Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
717-545-4751

[www.susquehannatwp.com](http://www.susquehannatwp.com)

Parcel ID		Permit #	
Date Rcvd		STC Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved
Date of STC			<input type="checkbox"/> Denied

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION SHADE TREE PERMIT APPLICATION

### 1. Property Location

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Owner Information

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Contractor Information

Contractor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ HIC#: \_\_\_\_\_

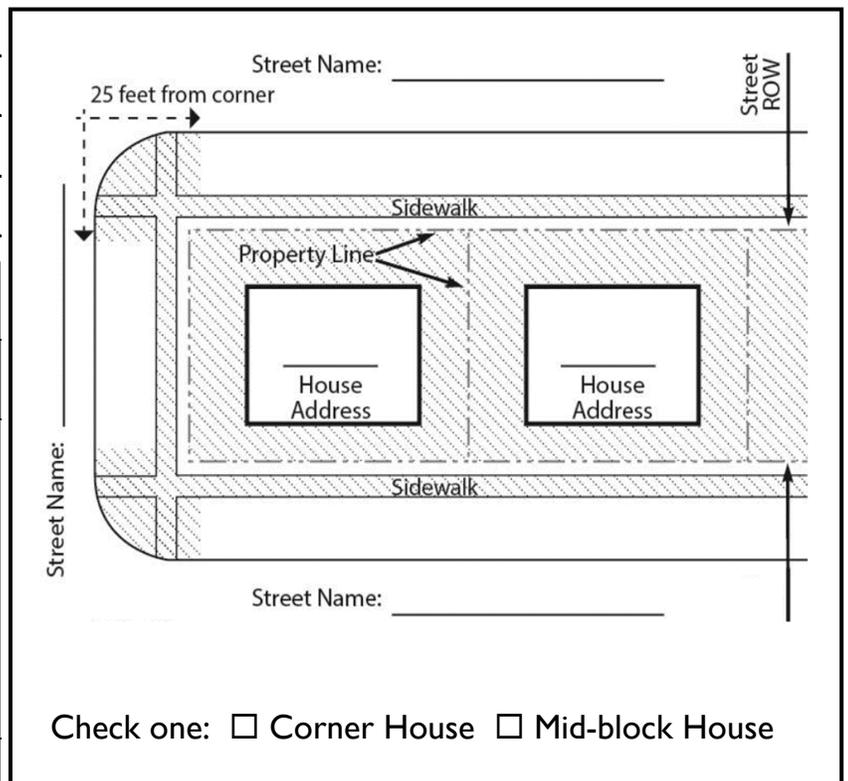
**Note:** If contractor does not have an HIC #, then proof of insurance naming Susquehanna Township as the certificate holder is required.

### 4. Check the appropriate box(es):

- Removing Tree(s)
- Root pruning for sidewalk repair
- Planting Tree(s)
- Trimming tree (in excess of 8' above the sidewalk and 14' above the street)

### 5. Provide a description of the tree(s) (i.e species, health, size), and complete the graphic below showing the location of the tree(s) to be removed or planted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### 6. Certification

Initial each section and sign and date below

Initials	I hereby understand and agree to the following:
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The information contained herein is true and correct.

I have read and understand the Township's Shade Tree Commission Ordinance and/or the Frequently Asked Questions.

I am required to grind the stump 15" below grade and plant a new shade tree from the approved list of trees.

Signature of Applicant

Date



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### SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Why is there a Tree Ordinance?**

Trees are a valuable part of our communities, providing beauty, shade and increasing property value. Trees between the sidewalk and the curb are under the authority of the Township.

#### **When do I need a permit?**

A permit is needed to plant or remove a tree, to trim living branches greater than 1" in diameter, or to perform any sidewalk or sewer repair that will affect roots. The Township does not allow trees to be removed simply for the sake of removing them. Trees must be dangerous or diseased without remedy. If a permit for removal is granted, the stump must be ground to a point not less than 15 inches below the grade of the surrounding area and a replacement tree must be replanted. Replanting can often be done by the Township as budget allows. Replanting ensures that future residents enjoy the same benefits that we do from trees.

#### **What if a tree has caused damage to the sidewalk?**

Because of the value placed on larger trees, damage to sidewalks and curbs should be repaired in lieu of removing established trees. Sidewalk grinding or ramping can remove a trip hazard. For severe lifting, the sidewalk must be removed and re-laid, preferably curving around large roots. Root pruning before re-pouring can minimize chances of a reoccurrence. Your tree service and concrete contractors should work together. Most concrete contractors are not root pruning experts and can make a tree unsafe. An arborist is recommended for root pruning.

#### **What if a tree has caused damage to the sewer line?**

Often trees are blamed for sewer line problems when the real problem is older pipes that are crumbling. Roots do not have the ability to penetrate sound lines, and removing the closest tree does not solve the problem. Once replaced with new plastic pipes, tree roots can no longer invade. A line cleaning service can clean roots out of sewer lines and will guarantee free flow for 6 months. Following a clean out, homeowners should be doing preventative maintenance by applying root inhibition products regularly to sanitary lines. Chronic root invasion indicates a failing sewer line.

#### **I'm replacing my sewer line and it goes right under a tree. What do I do?**

It is often possible to replace a line without removing the tree. Numerous local services offer trench free lateral replacement. These companies replace laterals without digging up yards, sidewalks, and trees.

#### **What trees can I plant in the tree lawn?**

The Susquehanna Shade Tree Commission has an approved list of trees. This list can be found on the website (<https://www.susquehannatwp.com/approved-street-trees>) or in the Susquehanna Shade Tree Program Brochure. If you wish to plant a tree that is not on the list of approved species, please provide information on why you want to plant that specific species and the Shade Tree Commission will review the request.

#### **Free Tree Program**

The Susquehanna Township Shade Tree Commission sponsors a free street tree planting every October. Applications for a free tree are due on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications are available on the Township website at <https://www.susquehannatwp.com/shade-tree-commission>.