

# City of Philadelphia Heritage Trees

Revised August 27, 2013

[Section 14-705 Landscape and Trees](#) of the [Philadelphia Zoning Code](#)<sup>1</sup> details the preservation of Heritage trees on developments on existing lots greater than 5000 sq. ft. The code states that “Heritage trees may be not be removed from any property unless the applicant obtains a special exception approval.”

**City of Philadelphia Heritage Tree List<sup>2</sup>**

| Scientific Name                      | Common Name          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i>                   | Red maple            |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i>                | Sugar maple          |
| <i>Acer saccharinum</i>              | Silver maple         |
| <i>Betula lenta</i>                  | Sweet birch          |
| <i>Betula nigra</i>                  | River birch          |
| <i>Carya</i> spp.                    | Hickory species      |
| <i>Castanea dentata</i> <sup>3</sup> | American chestnut    |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>           | Hackberry            |
| <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>          | Persimmon            |
| <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>             | American beech       |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i>            | White ash            |
| <i>Fraxinus pensylvanica</i>         | Green ash            |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>         | Honey-locust         |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>            | Kentucky coffee-tree |
| <i>Juglans nigra</i>                 | Black walnut         |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>       | Sweetgum             |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>       | Tuliptree            |
| <i>Morus rubra</i>                   | Red mulberry         |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>               | Sourgum              |
| <i>Pinus strobus</i>                 | Eastern white pine   |
| <i>Platanus acerifolia</i>           | London planetree     |
| <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>         | Sycamore             |
| <i>Populus deltoides</i>             | Eastern cottonwood   |
| <i>Prunus serotina</i>               | Wild black cherry    |
| <i>Quercus</i> spp.                  | Oak species          |
| <i>Salix nigra</i>                   | Black willow         |
| <i>Sassafras albidum</i>             | Sassafras            |
| <i>Tilia americana</i>               | Basswood             |
| <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>              | Canada hemlock       |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i>               | American elm         |
| <i>Ulmus rubra</i>                   | Slippery elm         |

**Notes:**

1. Approved on December 22, 2011
2. City of Philadelphia Heritage trees will be the species listed in this table that are equal to or exceed 24 inches diameter at breast height (DBH)
3. Any American chestnut tree of any size shall be considered a Heritage Tree