



INTRODUCTION TO THE TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE SPECIMEN TREE PROGRAM

The Tree Advisory Committee of the Town of Wytheville has adopted a Specimen Tree Program to recognize trees with significance to Wytheville and the surrounding area. The trees will be scored based on various criteria including beauty, healthiness, location, history, etc. The Specimen Tree Program should help citizens engage, notice, appreciate, and be inspired by trees throughout the town and surrounding area.

Nominators may nominate a tree utilizing the Specimen Tree Nomination Form. The form is available online at www.wytheville.org or by contacting the Municipal Office at 276-223-3354. Photo(s) should be included with the nomination form showing the tree and the location, as well as depicting any personal connection or historical significance. Smart phones can be utilized to determine latitude/longitude of the tree if an address is not available. Information should be completed on the form as accurately as possible.

The Specimen Tree Program will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Visibility**: Community trees in a public venue, streetscape, park, etc. or trees on private property that can be easily enjoyed from the sidewalk or street and should be deserving of specimen tree status.
2. **Historical Significance**: Trees with any historical significance to the area should be recognized and will be scored accordingly. Any photos available to show the historical significance would be beneficial.
3. **Extraordinary Features/Qualities**: Trees will be scored based on extraordinary features including size, age, beauty, etc. The Town desires to especially recognize very large and/or very old trees.
4. **Care and Vigor**: A tree that is properly pruned and/or cared for will be scored accordingly.
5. **Significant or Unique Species**: Trees will be scored based on being a significant or unique species and if it is a native species. Avoid nominating invasive and/or nuisance trees as specimen trees or multiples of the same species, if possible, but all trees nominated will be scored appropriately.
6. **Right Tree/Right Place**: Points will be deducted for trees not being in the right tree/right place causing conflicts with utility lines and public safety or if it is an invasive species.
7. **Personal Connection**: Any personal connection to the tree should be noted and what that connection entails, i.e., planted by the nominator or a family member, and any family history should be included. This information will be included in the database and shared on walking tour guides. Any photos available showing the history would be beneficial.
8. **Other**: Any other items of interest for the tree should be noted, such as trees used for food or trees that highlight natural processes (fire, flood, climate change, ecological processes, etc.).

The trees nominated for the Specimen Tree Program will be added to a master database to document these trees which will be made available to the public. Also, a Tree Walking Tour and other programs recognizing nominated trees will be developed so others can enjoy them. They will be able to tour the trees around the area along with a brief history of the tree, if known, especially if there is any historical significance or any personal history/connection.