Common name of nominated tree: _____

Scientific name (if known): _____

Township tree is located in: _____

Please list the nearest street address and town that the tree is located in: _____

_____

Is the tree visible from the road? Yes No

Please list the tree dimensions below

Circumference at 4.5 feet: _____ Height: _____

Average Crown Spread divided by 4: _____

Physical condition of the tree when measured: _____

Date measured: _____

_____

Signature of Landowner (Landowner must sign to allow tree to be nominated)

Landowner should be aware that they may be contacted for a scheduled visit by a county Naturalist.

Name of owner: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name of nominator: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

☐ Photo of tree included ☐ Tree has historical significance. Written description included.

Mail or Email the completed nomination form and photos to:

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation-Distinguished Tree Program
2000-1 East 151st Street
Carmel, IN 46033
megan.gutierrez@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Phone: 317-774-2500

Fax: 317-848-0590

How Do I Nominate a Tree?

In order to nominate a tree, simply fill out the nomination form included in this brochure. Send the form to the address provided. A Naturalist will look over your entry and contact the tree owner with any further questions. Please be aware that it make take several weeks to review the nomination.Upon reviewing the nomination, a Naturalist or HCPR staff representative will contact you. Hamilton County's Distinguished Trees List will be updated continually, based on nominations.

If you need assistance identifying the species of tree you are nominating, please call 317-774-2500 or bring a twig with leaves into: Cool Creek Nature Center 2000-1 East 151st Street Carmel, IN 46033.

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, Indiana 46033
317-770-4400
hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

DISTINGUISHED TREES PROGRAM of Hamilton County

What Makes a Tree Distinguished?

A Distinguished Tree of Hamilton County is a tree that is unusually large for its species, and may be the largest of that species within our county. A tree may also be nominated if it has historical significance.

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department (HCPR) created the Distinguished Trees program in 2010. There is also a statewide "Big Tree Program" through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and a "National Register of Big Trees" through American Forests (formerly known as the American Forests Association). American Forests began their National Tree Registry in 1945. IDNR began their program in 1974.

In order to determine whether or not you have a tree that is large enough to appear on the Distinguished Trees list, we have adopted the American Forest's definition of a big tree, which is based on a point index. The tree with the highest point index within a species will earn the title of Distinguished Tree of Hamilton County. The point index is compiled by three measurements. The three measurements required are as follows:

1. The tree's circumference in inches at 4.5 feet above the ground.

2. The tree's total height in feet.

3. The average crown spread in feet, then divided by four.

Details on the best way to obtain these measurements are located in this brochure.

In order to determine whether or not your tree can appear on our list for historical significance, we ask that you include a written description with as much information as possible. This may include photos, documents, maps or any other documentation. We may contact the County Historian regarding verification.

If your tree is listed as a Distinguished Tree of Hamilton County, you will receive a certificate that states you have a tree on the list. If you have a tree on the list that is eventually outscored by another tree of the same species, you will be notified.

The most recent list of all Distinguished Trees will be available on the HCPR website: www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

How to Measure Your Tree

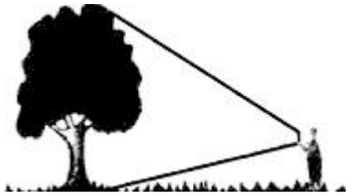
The instructions for measuring your tree are below. American Forests, IDNR, and HCPR use the following formula to tally the tree's total points:

Trunk Circumference + Height + Average Crown Spread = Total Points

Measuring Trunk Circumference:
At 4.5 feet off of the ground, measure the distance around the tree in inches. If the tree forks, record the circumference below the lowest fork, excluding dead branches and small sprouts. In this case you would also record how many inches above ground the lowest fork is.

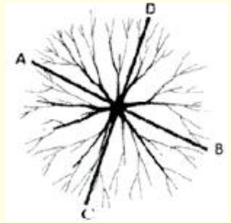
Measuring Height:
You can use many "high-tech" methods for measuring tree height in feet. Lasers, hand levels, hypsometers, clinometers, and relascopes would all serve the purpose of measuring your tree. If you do not have any of those, do not worry! You can use a yardstick to estimate the height as well.

First, measure 100 feet from the tree. Hold the yardstick vertically, 25 inches from your eye. Line up the "0 inch" mark on the yardstick with the base of the tree and note the number in inches that lines up with the top of the tree. Every inch measured equals four feet.



Measuring Crown Spread

Two measurements of the crown spread are taken and then averaged together. The first measurement is the greatest distance between any two points along the outermost leaves. Record the distance in feet. Once you have found the widest spread, turn the axis of the measurement 90 degrees and re-measure in feet. You will then average both crown spreads together. You can do this by adding both numbers together and dividing by two. The resulting calculation will be the tree's average crown spread. Take the average crown spread and divide the number by four. This is the number you will enter on your nomination form.



Example Calculation:

Circumference (inches): **118"**
Height (feet): **106'**
Average Crown Spread (feet), then divided by 4: **65'**

The sum of all numbers (point index): **240.25**