

## Trees available through Grant in Long Hill

Long Hill again has a challenge grant and is offering home or property owners in Long Hill a chance to purchase up to two deciduous shade trees for \$250 each through the Shade Tree Commission. Business owners are also encouraged to apply, particularly those along the Valley Road corridor. The \$250 level includes a variety of flowering and shade tree species. Other species may be available upon request at a higher amount. All trees must be located so they can be seen from the street.

Through this program, property owners may purchase a tree for less than the retail value, with the township paying the balance with the grant. Installation is arranged by the Township Public Works Department

“We have seen the hazards of planting too many trees of one species such as the ash tree.” said Shade Tree Commission Chair Susan Jean, Therefore, the Shade Tree Commission is again expanding the recommended species list to include some new and exciting choices such as River Birch and Linden along with the usual Maples, Oaks, Redbuds and Dogwoods.

### River Birch



As its name suggests, the river birch naturally grows along riverbanks. But as a landscape tree, it can be planted almost anywhere in the U.S. The species is valued for its relatively rapid growth, tolerance of wetness and some drought, unique curling bark, spreading limbs, and relative resistance to birch borer. Provides brilliant yellow fall color.

Image and information from Arbor Day Foundation

### Linden



The linden will draw you in with its pleasing shape, dense canopy, and super-fragrant flowers. This tree is a source of beauty in natural settings as well as parks and streets across America. It has been used as a shade tree since ancient times, and for good reason. It does well in a wide range of soils (hardiness zones 3-7).

Image and information from Arbor Day Foundation

Those interested in participating must complete an application available on the township website at <https://www.longhillnj.gov/forms/Challenge-grant-program-application.pdf> This application should be accompanied by a check for \$250 per tree with a two tree limit and mailed to **Township of Long Hill** 915 Valley Road Gillette, NJ 07933

Applications are due by Monday, September 16, 2024. Only 20 applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

A Shade Tree Commission representative will contact the property owner to approve the location of the tree(s) on the property and to select the variety of tree that would be the best fit for the location. Trees will be planted mid-to-late October.

The Shade Tree Commission reserves the right to make the final decision on location and arrangement for installation. Once installed, the property owner becomes responsible for the watering and maintenance of the tree as prescribed by the Shade Tree Commission.