

DISTINCTIVE TREES OF LEXINGTON

The Distinctive Trees of Lexington Project is a new undertaking of the Friends of Trees group, and the Lexington Tree Committee, that aims to point out and list the wealth, variety, and distinction of our town's largest living creatures – our trees.

We are asking the public to nominate individual trees or groups of trees for recognition in local print media and on our website.

A tree might be nominated as “Distinctive” for its age or history, its relative rarity, its size, its form and beauty, its function, or the arrangement or design in which one or several trees are found.

As examples: in the Age/History category we are trying to track down one tree that is said to have been present at the time of the Revolution. Another category, Rarity, is represented by the Osage Orange tree next to the bikepath – it may be the only one in Lexington. Size (height) should be a popular category, as nominations vie for the tallest White Pine or American Basswood. Size is relative to species, so a really tall Flowering Dogwood might have the distinction of ‘tallest for its species’. Form and Beauty are in the eye of the beholder, so let’s see what our citizens think. Function might be represented by a fruit or nut tree, or a tree serving as a sentry, marker, or barrier. And finally, Arrangement/Design might be taken to recognize beautiful matched plantings along a street or property – plantings that are matched either spatially, by species, or both.

The trees could be on either public property (right-of-way street trees, in parks, schools, or cemeteries) or on private property. If the latter, please be sure that the owner of the property has given permission to enter the property to measure the tree, and is agreeable to having the tree entered into our lists. The individual address can be omitted from publication if the owner wishes. If the tree is not viewable from a public place (i.e., it is hidden in someone’s backyard), we would note that on our list, and ask that anyone wishing to view the tree request an appointment through the Friends of Trees.

We are not calling this project a “Champion” tree project, a name which is used by national and state organizations to recognize the largest trees per species. If any of the trees we identify are potential candidates for champion status, we will call in a state expert to verify the dimensions.

If you need help identifying the species of the tree, or estimating its height, please signal that and one of the Friends of Trees or Tree Committee will contact you. A “how-to” of measuring is found at <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php> To nominate a tree, you should first obtain a form by emailing the Friends of Trees, c/o Karen Longeteig, KLongeteig@rcn.com or by printing it out from the Tree Committee’s website, at <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/committees/tree.cfm>. Take the measurements, obtain the information, and return it by email as above, or snail mail to Lexington Friends of Trees, c/o Dave Pinsonneault, DPW, 201 Bedford Street, Lexington MA 02420.

DISTINCTIVE TREES OF LEXINGTON, NOMINATION FORM

Name of nominator _____ Date of nomination _____

Address/location of tree _____

Owner of tree if known _____

Species of tree (both common name and Latin name, if known) _____

Visibility: (visible from street? If on private property, what are owners' requirements for viewing?)

Dimensions: Circumference, measured at 4'-6" above ground level _____ inches

Estimated Height _____ feet

Average crown spread (measured in two directions and then averaged) _____ feet

Reason for nomination (circle one or more, and give any other information:

Age/History Rarity Size Form/Beauty Function Arrangement/Design

Pictures attached? (Either printed or emailed) _____

We are looking forward to a lively dialogue with the public!

Sincerely,

The Friends of Trees, and the Lexington Town Tree Committee

(Return the form to, or ask questions of, Karen Longeteig, KLongeteig@rcn.com, or mail to:

Lexington Friends of Trees, c/o Dave Pinsonneault, DPW, 201 Bedford Street, Lexington MA 02420.