

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 \$275 each through the Shade Tree Commission. Business owners are also encouraged to apply, particularly those along the Valley Road corridor. The \$275 level includes a variety of flowering and shade tree species. 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.

The Shade Tree Commission continues to encourage species diversity in order to counteract the problems incurred by planting too many trees of one species (such as the ash or elm). The LHSTC is now offering chestnut oaks, tupelos and lindens, as well as maples, dogwood, and redbuds.

Chestnut Oak



The common name “chestnut oak” owes to the leaves looking like those of American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) and indeed both are members of the beech family, Fagaceae. There’s growing interest in using chestnut oak in the urban environment because it is pH-adaptable, handles dry soils and periods of drought, has a beautiful mature form, requires minimal pruning, and tends to be free of major pests and diseases.

Arbor Day Foundation

Tupelo



Called “one of the best and most consistent native trees for fall color” by tree expert Michael Dirr, the black tupelo is a terrific landscaping choice. Displaying various hues of yellow, orange, bright red and purple—often on the same branch—its foliage is a stand-out of the autumn season. Even the distinctive bark, which resembles alligator hide, adds visual and textural interest. It also serves as an important food source for birds, bees and other wildlife.

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 \$275 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, April 15, 2025. 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 May.

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.