



# Benefits – a partial list

- Pretty!
  - property values, tax revenue, visitors, etc.
- Reduces urban heat island
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Recreation
- Stormwater benefits
- Ecological services
  - Habitat
  - Oxygen!
- A \$4M \$283M asset, depending on methodology



# Problems – a partial list

- Leaves
- Falling branches
- Acorns(!)
- Sidewalk damage
- Utilities
- Birds?

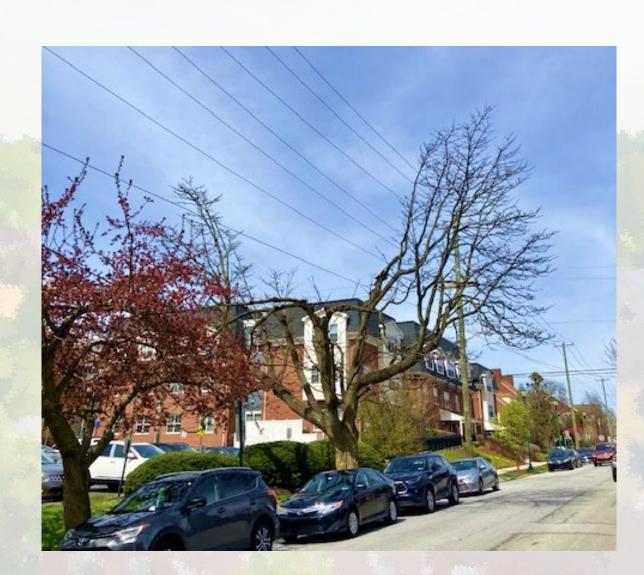






# Challenges – a partial list

- "Nutrition" (space, light, dirt, etc.)
- Age, condition, species
- Competing uses of curb/ROW (parking meters, utilities, fire hydrants, café seating, bike racks, and oh - humans!)
- Pruning
- Drunk kids
- Drunk drivers
- Novice parallel parkers
- Snow plows





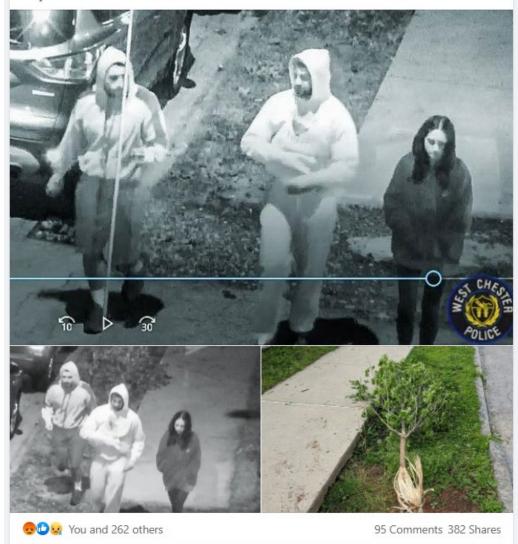


We are asking for your assistance in identifying the three individuals in the photos.

In the early morning hours of May 6, 2021 these individuals saw the need to cause damage to a tree in the 50 block of Lacy Street in the Borough.

They are described as: ... See more

Like



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## How to Protect & Grow?

### **Tree Commission**

- Standing committee tasked with protecting and growing the Borough's trees, including street trees, private trees, and parks/open space
- Advises Borough Council on policy matters
- Support from consulting arborist
- Publishes lists of approves trees
- Maps and monitors trees/tree health
- Reviews development submissions for landscaping considerations and compliance with ordinances
- Reviews tree planting, trimming, removal requests and condemnation orders

## How to Protect & Grow?

### Tree Ordinance

- Updated 20-page ordinance enacted in 2019
  - Acknowledges trees provide public benefits
  - Pruning, removal, planting rules, permits, etc.
  - Protection during construction
  - Tree well protection
  - Contractor qualifications
  - Replanting requirements
  - "Heritage Tree" designation and protections
  - Fines, liability, enforcement mechanism for damaging trees, tree wells
  - Planting and Financial Assistance

#### ORDINANCE NO. 12 - 2019

#### BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER

#### CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 102 TITLED, "TREES", TO REPLACE CHAPTER 102 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO ENACT NEW REGULATIONS AND PROPER PLANTING, REMOVAL, MAINTENANCE AND PROFER PLANTING, REMOVAL, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, RIGHTS OF WAY, AND WITHIN PARKS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES AND TO ENCOURAGE THE PROPERTY.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the Council of the Borough of West Chester, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 102 of the Code of the Borough of West Chester, titled, "Trees" is hereby amended to delete and repeal the existing Chapter 102 and enact the following new Chapter 102:

#### "CHAPTER 102 TREES

#### § 102-1. Goals and Purposes.

The West Chester Borough Tree Ordinance acknowledges the urban forest as a necessary part of the Borough's infrastructure. Green infrastructure provides crucial benefits to the Borough – including low-cost ecosystem services (storm water management, carbon sequestration, energy savings, and support of urban wildlife economic advantages (increased property values, increased business activity and revenue, and decreased utility costs). The manmade urban environment, however, can conflict with the needs of an urban tree canopy, creating a strong need for regulations that protect and conserve this valuable resource.

#### The purposes of this Ordinance are to:

 Prioritize a full and healthy urban tree canopy by creating sound regulations and incentives for the proper planting, removal, maintenance, and protection of trees along streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way, and trees within parks and public open spaces.

## How to Protect & Grow?

### Planting and Financial Assistance

- Professionally plant a street tree and water for free
- Provide free, curated tree for private property
- \$50 for planting (stormwater assessment)
- Reduce your stormwater assessment to not cut down a Heritage Tree (private property)
- Cost-share for condemned street tree removal
- Seek external funding to support these programs



