

Mission Statement

The mission of the Chester Borough Shade Tree Commission (STC) is to create, protect, sustain and manage a robust, healthy tree resource to promote an attractive quality of life for all residents, visitors, merchants and others residing, conducting business or involved with leisure time activities in the Borough.

The Borough Ordinance 9-33 give the STC the authority:

--To regulate the planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery upon and along the streets, highways, public places, parks and parkways of the Borough, except county parks or parkways, shall be exercised by and under the authority of the Shade Tree Commission.

--To direct owners of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the Borough to prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight feet above the surface of the street or sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The Borough shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight or interferes with the visibility of traffic control device or sign.

--No person shall do, or cause to be done, any of the following acts upon streets, highways, public places, parks and parkways, except county parks or parkways, within the Borough without the written permit of the Shade Tree Commission:

Cut, trim, break, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of, or otherwise injure, or spray with any injurious chemical, or remove any living tree or shrub, or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect such tree or shrub

Plant any tree or shrub.

Fasten any rope, wire, electric attachment, sign or other device to a tree or shrub or to any guard about such tree or shrub.

Close or obstruct any open space provided about the base of a tree or shrub to permit the access of air, water or fertilizer to the roots of such tree or shrub

Pile any building material, or make any mortar or cement within six feet of a tree or shrub

Top any street tree, park tree or other tree on public property except as may be authorized by the Shade Tree Commission. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to

such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree, disregarding trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions.

From Ordinance 9-35:

If any person shall continue to violate any of the provisions of this article, or shall neglect or refuse to comply with a lawful order of the **Shade Tree Commission**, a second or subsequent notification or order shall be construed as an additional notice of violation of this article, and each such additional offense shall subject the offending party, upon conviction, to the same penalty as provided by § 9-34 of this chapter together with the reasonable cost to the **Shade Tree Commission** to remediate the effect of the violation.