

Lawrence Park Hilltop Association
100 trees for the next 100 years



LPHA Tree-Planting Initiative
November, 2, 2024

Investing in Our Future: The Importance of Preserving Our Hilltop's Tree Canopy

On May 21, 1890 William Van Duzer Lawrence purchased 86 acres of farmland from the estate of James Mino Prescott for \$43,000 (\$500/acre). The site included an Italianate-style mansion, two small barns and a gate house. Lawrence viewed what was to become Lawrence Park as an art colony similar to Barbizon in the Fontainebleau forest in France.

Lawrence hoped that Lawrence Park artists would be as influential as the Barbizon School had been in 19th Century Europe. Beyond his aspirations to establish an important artistic community, Lawrence envisioned an enclave pleasing to the eye, filled with clever, congenial, and interesting residents. The first four homes in Lawrence Park were completed in 1891. By 1910, the vast majority of Lawrence Park lots were occupied by fine homes and a vibrant community had been established.

The Lawrence Park Association was formed in September of 1937, with the goal of promoting and preserving the unique character of the Hilltop.

As we think about the next 100 years on the Hilltop, the LPHA and the Village at-large have become increasingly aware of, and concerned about the age of the current native tree population and the dearth of young native trees that can ultimately replace the current stock.

In the past decade alone, the Hilltop has lost several mature canopy trees to storms. We've also lost additional trees to construction projects, especially home renovations that expand the built environment and require the removal of trees, and to private decisions to cut down healthy trees. As our mature trees near the end of their natural lives, they become more vulnerable to disease and, for the safety of us all, sometimes need to be removed.

Please join our initiative to preserve the Hilltop's canopy, ensuring future generations can experience our neighborhood's enduring beauty and vibrancy.

Why is it important to ensure that our tree canopy will still be strong 25 and 50 years from now?

All trees, especially mature native trees, offer enormous ecological benefits:

- **Trees help fight climate change in two ways** by storing carbon in their biomass and in the soil, especially in their roots; and by transpiration, the process in which they take up water through their roots and release it through their leaves as water vapor that cools the air.
- **Trees reduce flooding** by absorbing large amounts of rainwater. Leaves and twigs hold rain for some time, delaying its journey to the ground and allowing more time for the water to be absorbed into the earth instead of running off into storm drains.
- **Trees clean our drinking water.** NYC's celebrated tap water (which Bronxville shares!) is made possible by thousands of acres of forested watershed, which filters out pollutants.
- **Trees remove air pollution and muffle sound.** Trees remove pollutants from the air, improving air quality and human health. They help subdue urban noise, making neighborhoods more pleasant to live in.
- **Trees provide privacy** and turn an ugly space into a beautiful one.
- **Trees that are native to our area provide food and habitat for local wildlife.** To begin to reverse alarmingly sharp declines in biodiversity across the planet, we need to add trees and other plants that have evolved along with local living creatures and are uniquely designed to provide their food and shelter.
- **Trees significantly increase home values.** A good tree canopy makes communities highly desirable places to live.
- **Trees contribute to our mental and physical well-being.** Commonsense knowledge that's now backed by scientific studies--and add immeasurable aesthetic appeal. They give us joy.

What is a native tree? A native tree is one that occurs naturally in a local ecosystem – not introduced by humans! They adapt well to their environment and don't require additional water while maintaining natural limits on their growth as not to overcrowd. They also provide many ecological benefits such as providing food and shelter for wildlife!

Native trees are the best trees for our area! Red & Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, River Birch, American Beech, White Ash, Sweet Gum, Tulip Trees, Magnolia, Black Gum, Black Tupelo, White Pine, Sycamore, White Oak & Northern Red Oak, American Elm, Black Cherry

Tree Planting Partnerships & Resources

Nature's Cradle Nursery and Landscape Design

Eastchester, NY- (914) 779-8723 - Contact Raffi Ishkanian or Mikenzie Norwood

For 2025, Nature's Cradle has partnered with the LPHA offer trees in a 2-2.5" caliper (typically around 8-10') for an "all-in" (tree, planting, and gator bag for slow-release watering) price of \$775 plus tax per tree:

- Acer rubrum (Red Maple) (asst varieties subject to availability including 'Red Sunset', 'October Glory', etc)
- Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple) (asst varieties subject to availability including 'Commemoration', etc)
- Betula nigra (River Birch - Multi-stem) ('Dura-heat', 'Heritage', etc,)
- Fagus grandifolia (American Beech)
- Liquidambar styraciflua 'Happidaze' (variety of sweetgum without spiky fruits) Nyssa sylvatica 'Wildfire' or other variety (Black Gum/Black Tupelo)
- Quercus rubra (Red Oak)
- Quercus alba (White Oak)

Additional Resources

Sav-A-Tree, Mamaroneck, NY -(914) 777-1399

In partnership with Site-One Nurseries

Price dependent on inventory

Westchester Environmental Tree Service, Hartsdale, NY - (914) 263-9272

Price dependent on inventory