



Protecting and Growing West Chester's Urban Forest

Will Williams
Sustainability Director
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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?

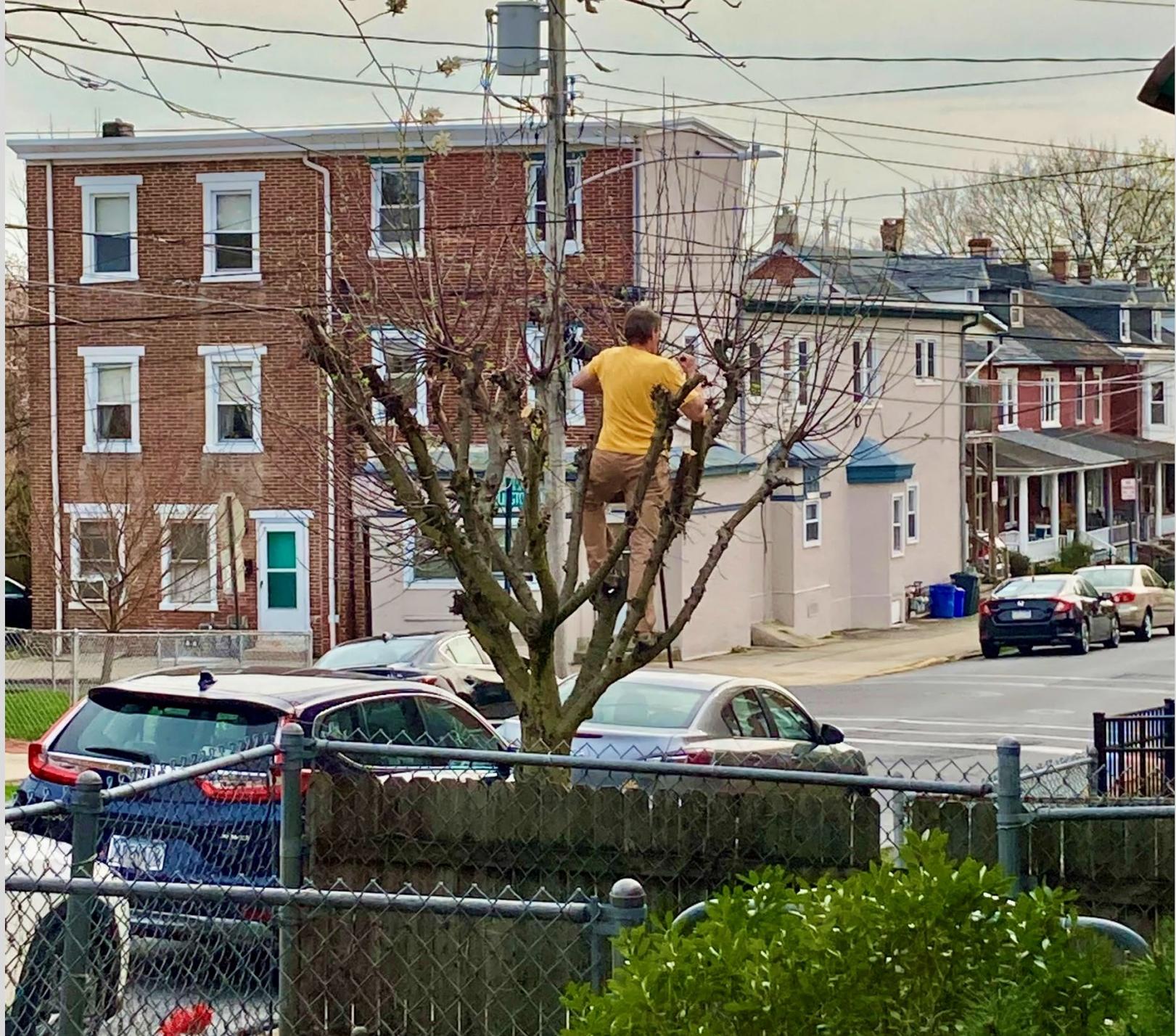




Challenges – a partial list

- “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







West Chester Borough Police Department

May 7, 2021

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



You and 262 others

95 Comments 382 Shares



Like



Comment



Share







momentum

$$\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$$

mass velocity

How to Protect & Grow?

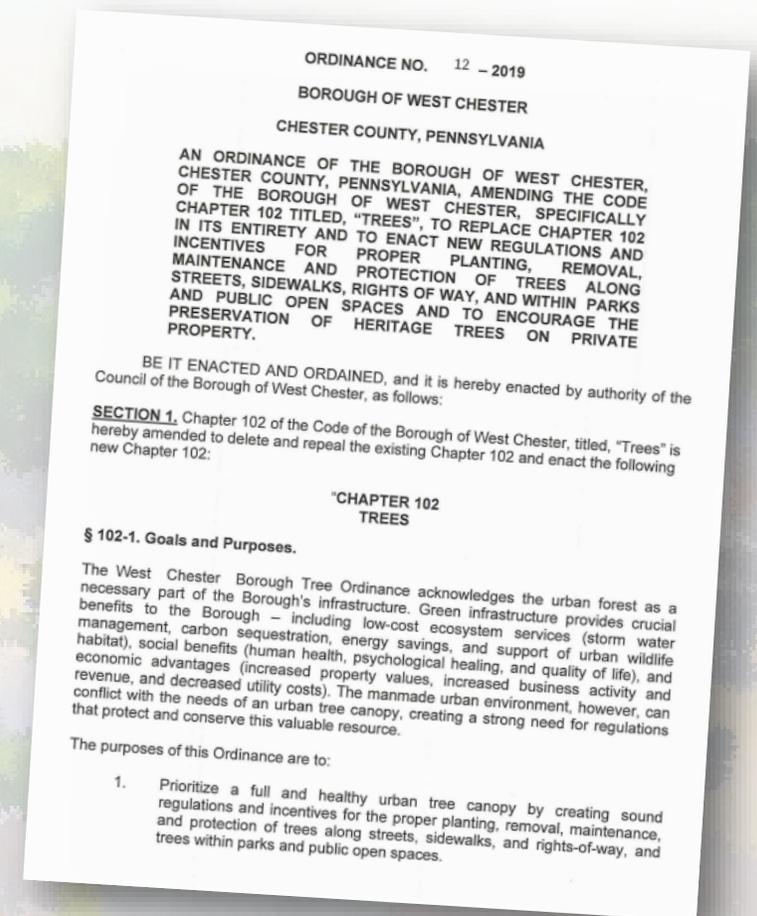
Tree Commission

- 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



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





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