



# GOSHEN TREE TENDERS GAZETTE

## Fall 2020 - Winter 2021

dedicated to growing the tree canopy of East and West Goshen

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### The Land of Goshen

- 1681 The “Goshen” portion of the Welsh tract is bought by Westtown Twp from William Penn.
- 1704 Goshen Township is established.
- 1788 The Borough of West Chester is carved out of Goshen Township.
- 1817 The Township is divided into East and West.

**A vision to guide some of us:** residents and workers of Goshen enjoy a good life of sufficiency within our ever more productive, regenerative, biodiverse 22-square miles.

“*What canst Thou say?*” asked Quakers of old at Goshen Friends Meeting, Paoli Pike/N. Chester Rd.

### Take the Next Step

Would you like to create a more vibrant, life-sustaining, water-absorbent landscape, or perhaps you would like a shadier, cooler spot? Whether you are a resident, a homeowner association, an apartment complex owner, school, small business owner, house of worship, government or corporation, reach out to Goshen Tree Tenders! We can facilitate your woody-cover planting (<https://goshentt.wordpress.com/> or [elatoad64@gmail.com](mailto:elatoad64@gmail.com))!

### Pruning 101

The main reasons for pruning include safety, health, aesthetics and production.

Pruning for *safety* involves removing branches that could fall and cause injury, or trimming branches that interfere with drivers' lines of sight and utilities.

Pruning for *health* involves removing diseased or insect-infested wood and encouraging trees to develop a strong structure.

Pruning for *aesthetics* involves enhancing the natural form and character of trees or stimulating flower production.

Pruning for *production*, which will be discussed in a future issue of the *Gazette*, involves altering the tree's form to provide materials, fuel, fruit and nuts in the most accessible, desirable manner. To encourage the development of a strong, healthy tree, consider the following:

## General Guidelines

- Prune first for safety, next for health, and finally for aesthetics.
- Never prune trees that are touching or near utility lines. Consult the utility co. instead!
- Assess how a tree or shrub will be pruned from the top down (not from the bottom up).
- Use the following decision guide for size of branches to be removed:
  - 1) under 3 inches diameter - go ahead;
  - 2) between 3 and 5 inches diameter - think twice; and
  - 3) greater than 5 inches diameter - have a good reason.
- Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch.
- To support plant health, do not remove more than one-quarter (25%) of the branches at one time. If it is necessary to remove more to maintain size, do it over several years.

## When to Prune

**Trees and shrubs in which the flowers are not showy (like Maples and Oaks):** prune in the late fall and winter dormant season when the trees are not in leaf. This will maximize healthy wound closure in the growing season after pruning and reduce the risk of disease. It will also be easier to visualize the plant's structure at this time.

**Ornamental flowering trees and shrubs:** prune those that flower in summer or early fall during the late fall and winter dormant season for the same reasons stated above. However, prune those that flower in early spring (Redbud, Dogwood, etc.) immediately after flowering to preserve as much flowering as possible.

**Evergreens and Conifers** may be pruned any time of year, but pruning during the late fall and winter dormant season is also beneficial. Their metabolism slows down in the cold, thereby minimizing sap and resin flow from cut branches.

**Dead or Damaged Branches:** Dead or damaged branches on any plant can be carefully pruned or removed altogether at any time of the year.

## Pruning Cuts

Pruning cuts should be made so that remaining plant tissue is not damaged.

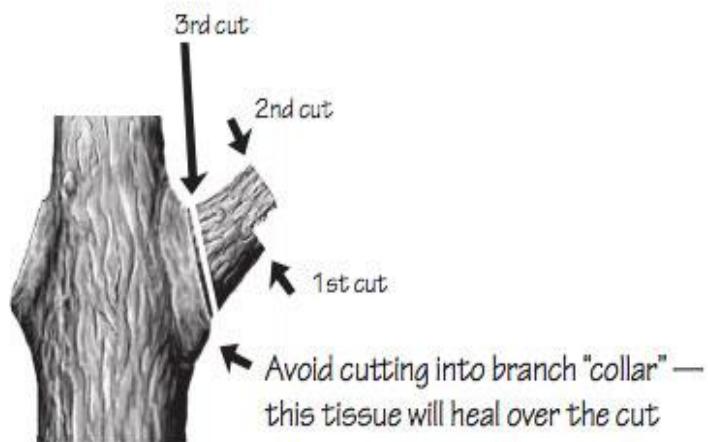
To find the proper place to cut a branch, look for the "branch collar" that grows from the stem tissue at the underside of the base of the branch. A proper pruning cut does not damage the collar, which allows the wound to seal in the shortest time possible.

Branches large enough to require saws should be supported with one hand while the cuts are made.

If the branch is too large to support, make a three-step pruning cut to prevent bark tearing:

1. The first cut is a shallow notch (about 1/3 of the way through) made on the underside of the branch, outside the branch collar. This cut will prevent a falling branch from tearing the stem tissue as it pulls away from the tree.
2. The second cut should be outside the first cut (toward the end of the branch), from the top down, all the way through the branch, leaving a short stub.
3. The stub is then cut just outside the branch bark ridge/branch collar, completing the operation.

**3-step cut** for large branches  
(to avoid tearing bark as the branch falls):



Swansons Nursery, Seattle WA

## Pruning Tools

Proper tools are essential for satisfactory pruning. The choice of which tool to use depends largely on the size of branches to be pruned and the amount of pruning to be done.

- Hand pruners are used to prune small branches (under 2 inches diameter).
- Slightly larger branches (up to 5 inches diameter) that cannot be cut with a hand pruner may be cut with small pruning saws.
- Chain saws are preferred when pruning branches larger than about 5 inches diameter. Chain saws should be used only by qualified individuals. To avoid the need to cut branches greater than 5 inches diameter, prune when branches are small!

To ensure that satisfactory cuts are made and to reduce fatigue, keep your pruning tools sharp and in good working condition.

To help prevent disease spread, tools should be also clean and sanitized. Especially after using on potentially diseased plants or branches, sanitize pruning tools with either 70% rubbing alcohol, or with a dilute solution of 1 part liquid household bleach to 9 parts water.

*The above was obtained and adapted from information provided by:*

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry**

## CALENDAR

Fall thru Winter: Tree Tending, as possible

**22<sup>nd</sup> of mo.:** GTT Education-Advocacy Day Recruitment (EAR) Day

October's Work Day & Tree Planting: cancelled

October 24: Honeylocust treatment at Hamlet Crest)

November 21: TreeVitalize Tree Planting (Barker Park)

December thru February: Pruning (numerous locations)



*November 21<sup>st</sup> Planting at Barker Park*

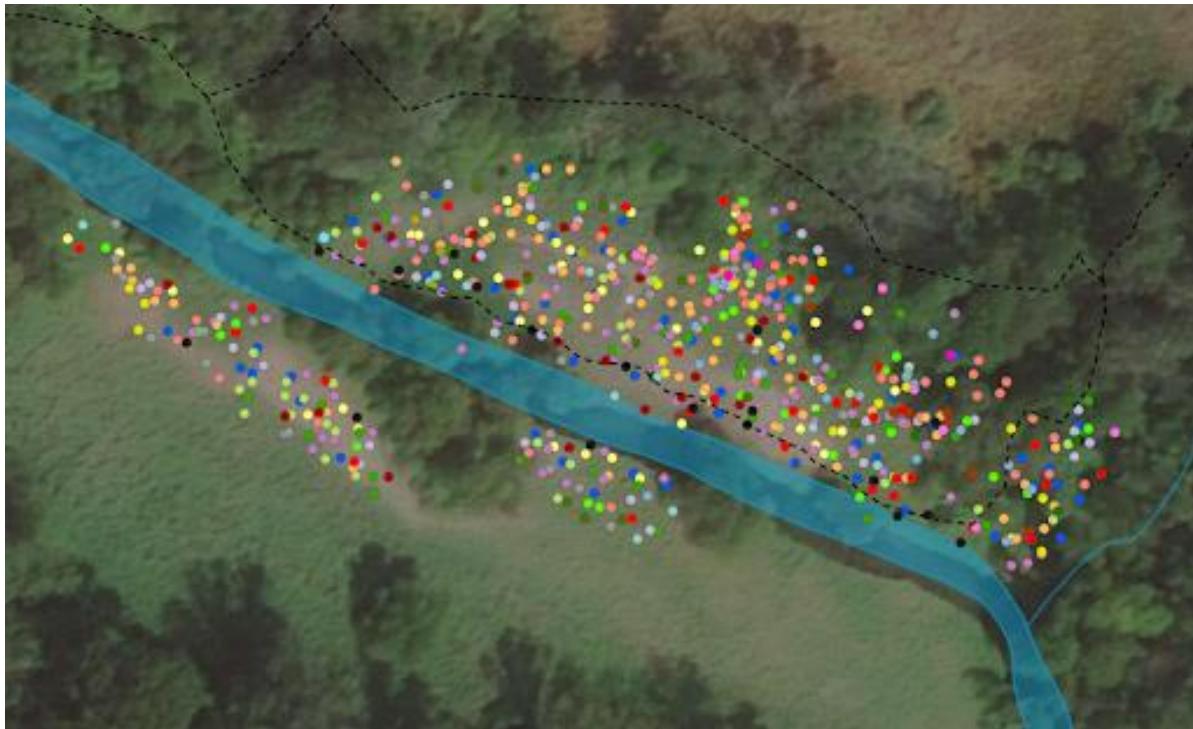
Planting trees is your ticket to *treemendous* benefits for your property! Trees add beauty; provide food and habitat for wildlife and wind-breaks; lessen temperature extremes; enhance stormwater control; sequester carbon; build healthy soil through the associated essential fungal network; and feed other plants by the minerals and other nutrients released as leaves break down. Lastly, *what* is childhood in Eastern North America without playing in the leaves?

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## Tree Planting Showcase: Ashbridge Preserve

“Mapping the Ashbridge Tree Planting” by Evan Hunt, Conservation Associate with Willistown Conservation Trust, documents the work of the Trust in cooperation with Goshen Tree Tenders and many others. See the full article of Sept. 23, 2020 at <https://wctrust.org/ashbridge-tree-planting/>

Evan writes of the maintenance necessary to protect tree plantings and ensure successful establishment. As he says, “The most important part of a tree planting usually comes after the trees are in the ground.” Thank you, Evan, for your fine documentation and for highlighting the importance of tree tending! Goshen TT looks forward to continuing the work in 2021 at the Ashbridge Preserve to complete this planting of an approximate 1,000 trees.



*Colors represent the 29 species planted on-site.*

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## **Skill-building for Nature: Basic Tree Tender Training (Virtual)** ***(This training to become a Certified Tree Tender is coming up soon!!)***

Learn how to plant and care for trees by becoming a PHS Tree Tender! Learn tree biology, identification, planting and proper care. You can choose between sessions on Wednesdays from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm or on Thursdays from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Each course is 4 sessions.

In this 4-week training, you will be sent a pre-recorded video presentation to watch each week on your own and then choose a one-hour, weekly time slot to speak with our tree experts in a small group and review that week's topics. Groups will not exceed 25 students, so, to attend a Tree Tenders class this winter, **please sign up soon** for the Wednesday (<https://phsonline.org/events/phs-tree-tenders-winter-2021-1-20>) OR Thursday (<https://phsonline.org/events/phs-tree-tenders-winter-2021-1-21>) course.

More information is available at <https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-tenders>.



## GOSHEN TREE TENDERS

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Growing Goshen's canopy together!

**A program of the  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**

Goshen Tree Tenders was formed in May 2018 to address the needs of existing trees, plant and support new ones and educate others about this vital work. Fully volunteer, all members have completed Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Basic Tree Tender training. The group also includes those with Advanced Tree Tender training, ISA Arborist certification, landscape design and Shade Tree Commission experience.



*Freeing company tree from mulch volcano*

Contact Eunice Alexander  
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