



Moon Township Tree Management Statement

Issued 8/29/18

Moon Township recognizes the challenge of the loss of trees due to several construction projects in Moon Park. While it is the practice of the township to avoid disturbing our natural resources, sometimes it is necessary to remove trees to improve accessibility and outdoor recreation amenities and facilities to best accommodate the needs and demands of our community.

Township supervisors and staff are committed to sustainable management of our natural resources, including a tree management plan for all parks. Since the development of the Moon Park system in 1967, Moon Township has made conscious efforts to protect our trees and green spaces to enhance the health and beauty of our community.

As part of the tree management and invasive species reduction plan, the township Green Team recently partnered with foresters from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assess the tree health at Moon, Olson and Robin Hill parks. This assessment identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the health of our forests. Invasive, non-native trees and plants and over-browsing of deer are two concerns that result in a lack of regeneration and long-term health of our tree canopy.

The township is also tracking invasive, non-native pests and has developed management plans with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Spotted Lanternfly, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Emerald Ash Borer pests have resulted in infested trees and tree death across Pennsylvania. The Emerald Ash Borer insect is responsible for the loss of thousands of trees in Allegheny County. With over 300 acres of canopy lost between 2010 and 2015, Moon Township placed in the top 10 municipalities in the county.

To combat these threats and losses, Moon Township continues to plant native species trees and plants including riparian buffers in all our parks. In Moon Park, volunteers planted over 20 trees in the tennis court and parking areas near Clearview pavilion. The township also partnered with FedEx, Tree Pittsburgh, the Arbor Day Foundation and Columbia Sportswear Company to plant 20 larger native species trees near the Falconi pavilion and trailheads. Olson Park recently received 12 new deciduous trees, 10 pine trees and a few donation/memorial trees. Donation trees and plants are often planted at Robin Hill Park.

Moon Township is committed to sustainable management of our natural resources and seeks to provide partnership, stewardship and volunteer opportunities to plant trees and develop trails. Interested businesses, organizations and individuals should contact Amy Ottaviani, Community Engagement and Sponsorship Coordinator, at **412.262.1703 ext. 402** or **aottaviani@moontwp.us**.