

# HALL COUNTY CHAMPION TREE NOMINATION GUIDELINES

## TREE MEASUREMENTS

Tree circumference, height and crown spread are combined using a point system as explained below.

A tree is defined as a woody plant having an erect, perennial stem or trunk. The trunk must measure at least 9½ inches in circumference (approximately 3 inches in diameter at breast height). The tree must have a definitely-formed crown of live foliage and a height of at least 13 feet.

**Circumference:** Measure around the trunk at a point 4½ feet above the ground. If the tree is on a slope, measure the tree from the average ground level. If a swelling, branch, flare or other obstruction occurs at 4½ feet, measure the smallest circumference below the obstruction. If the tree forks or branches below 4½ feet, measure the largest fork.

**Height:** Height can be measured by using a yardstick. First, pace off or measure 100 feet from the base of the tree, preferably on the level. Next, hold the yardstick vertically 25 inches from your eye (about an arm's length). Site along the zero-inch mark to the base of the tree. Then, read the inch mark that aligns with the tree top. This reading in inches, multiplied by four, gives you the tree's height in feet. A leaning tree's height is measured vertically from the ground to the top of the tree, not along the leaning trunk.

**Crown Spread:** Crown spread is the average width of the tree's crown. This measurement should be taken from one edge of the crown, through the tree's trunk to the opposite edge.

Determine where the crown's edge is by hanging a weight from a string and sighting up the resulting vertical line. Move back and forth until the string lines up with the crown's edge.

The tree's widest and narrowest crown spread should be measured to the nearest foot. Add these measurements and divide by two to get the average crown spread.

**Total Points:** Champions are determined by assigning points based on trunk circumference, height, and crown spread. One point is assigned for every inch of stem circumference, one point for each foot of height, and 1/4 point for each foot of average crown spread. The point total is the sum of the points from circumference, height, and crown spread measurements.

The tree with the most total points is the "Hall County Champion" for that species. If two or more trees are within 2 percent of each other, they will be declared Co-Champions.

## Hall County Champion Tree Application

Nominator Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Owner is same as nominator      YES              NO

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner City \_\_\_\_\_

Owner State \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Characteristics

Tree Species \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )Feet

Circumference of Trunk at 4.5 Feet \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )Feet

Crown Spread \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )Feet

**Contact Us:** *Grand Island Parks Division*

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# HALL COUNTY CHAMPION TREE PROGRAM



The Hall County Champion Tree Program is administered by the Grand Island Tree Board. The purpose is to promote public awareness of Nebraska's forest and tree resources by searching for our county's largest trees.

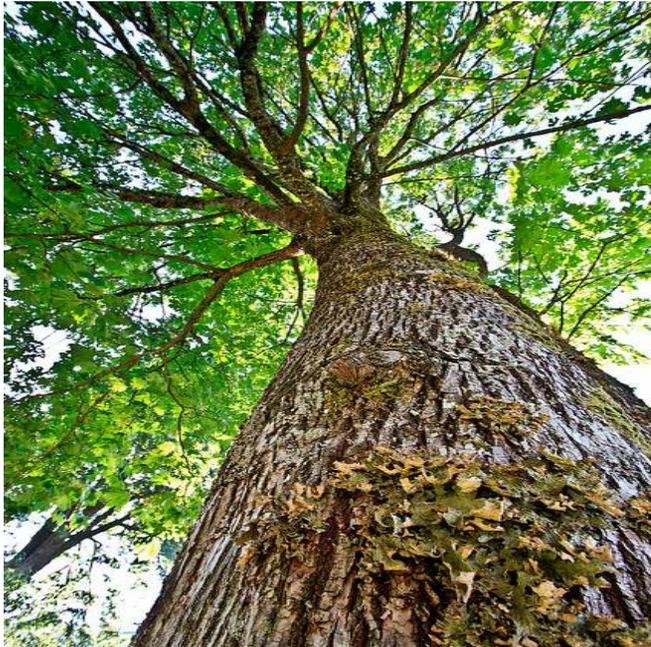
## Hall County Tree Register

### Nomination Procedure

Anyone can nominate a tree for inclusion in the Hall County Champion Trees Register. The tree must be located and growing in Hall County. Nominations are accepted year-around, but are only measured during the field season (May-August).

Record the tree's measurements. Fill in the name, address, and phone number of the owner(s) and nominator(s), the tree's location, and its species. Give complete information, particularly tree location. Indicate if the circumference was measured at a height other than 4½ feet and, if so, why.

A member of the Grand Island Tree Board will confirm the tree's species, check the current register to see if the tree is a possible Champion, and if so, officially measure the tree to determine its exact score. If the tree is a new Champion, it will be entered into the Hall County Champion Tree Register. The owner and nominator will receive a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Grand Island Tree Board President, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, and the Hall County Board President.



Arborvitae, American  
Ash, Blue  
Ash, Green  
Ash, White  
Aspen, Quaking  
Bald cypress  
Birch European, White  
Birch, Paper  
Birch, River  
Boxelder  
Buckeye, Ohio  
Butternut  
Catalpa, Northern  
Cherry, Black  
Chestnut, American  
Chokecherry  
Coffee tree, Kentucky  
Cottonwood, Eastern  
Crab Apple  
Elm, American  
Elm, Rock  
Elm, Siberian  
Elm, Slippery or Red  
Fir, Concolor (White)  
Fir, Douglas  
Ginkgo  
Golden Raintree  
Hackberry  
Hawthorn  
Hickory, Bitternut  
Hickory, Shagbark  
Honey locust  
Hophornbeam, Eastern  
Horse chestnut  
Juniper, Rocky Mountain  
Larches  
Linden, American  
Locust, Black  
Magnolia, Saucer  
Maple, Amur  
Maple, Norway  
Maple, Red  
Maple, Rocky Mountain  
Maple, Silver  
Maple, Sugar  
Mulberry, Red or White  
Oak, Black  
Oak, Burr

Oak, Chinkapin  
Oak, Dwf. Chinkapin  
Oak, English  
Oak, Northern Red  
Oak, Pin  
Oak, Shingle  
Oak, Swamp White  
Oak, White  
Osage Orange  
Pagoda Tree, Japanese  
Pawpaw  
Pear, Ornamental  
Pecan  
Pine, Austrian  
Pine, Eastern White  
Pine, Jack  
Pine, Limber  
Pine, Pinyon  
Pine, Ponderosa  
Pine, Scotch  
Popular, White (Silver)  
Redbud, Eastern  
Red cedar, Eastern  
Russian Olive  
Spruce, Black hills  
Spruce, Colorado Blue  
Spruce, Norway  
Spruce, White  
Sweetgum  
Sycamore, American  
Tree of Heaven  
Walnut, Black  
Willow, Black  
Willow, Weeping

