



The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is excited to announce the 2017 Geauga County BIG TREE Contest and is currently seeking nominations! This voluntary contest promotes the beauty and benefits provided by our county's biggest and oldest trees, along with their contributions to clean water and healthy soil. The 2017 featured tree species is the **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*). This versatile, fast growing, and long-lived tree is known for its brilliant red fall colors, its significance to Ohio's timber industry, and its abundance of acorns for wildlife.

Participants will submit a nomination for a Northern Red Oak tree which they believe might be the largest in the county. After all nominations are submitted, qualified personnel will verify the measurements using the ODNR Division of Forestry's Big Tree Program procedures. Each tree will receive a score based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height to determine the winner. In addition, the District will consider each tree's ability to capture stormwater along with other economical benefits. For example, one northern red oak tree with a diameter of 15 inches can absorb as much as 1,950 gallons of stormwater runoff each year.

The objectives of this contest are:

- To engage residents in the recognition, management, and enhancement of our county's tree populations
- To showcase the critical roles that trees play in sustaining healthy soil and clean water
- To recognize that each healthy tree in our county reduces flooding and improves water quality by soaking up stormwater runoff and filtering out pollutants

BIG TREE Contest Guidelines:

- Nominated trees must be Northern Red Oaks located in Geauga County.
(Visit the Ohio Division of Forestry's website forestry.ohiodnr.gov/redoak to review characteristics of the Northern Red Oak. Similar species include the Black Oak, Pin Oak, and Scarlet Oak, which also have pointed leaves and are in the Red Oak family.)
- Only one nomination per individual tree. The first nomination received will be entered into the contest.
- The tree does not have to be on the property of the nominator; however, permission from the landowner must be obtained prior to nomination.
- Nominations must be submitted to Geauga SWCD no later than **Friday, September 22nd - 3:30 pm**. Please email to gprunty@geaugaswcd.com or submit in person or through the mail to the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District, PO Box 410, 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021.
- Qualified District personnel will verify all nominated tree measurements and use the tree benefits calculator (treebenefits.com/calculator/) to provide the stormwater runoff reduction capability. The decision of the District will be final.
- Geauga County's BIG TREE will be recognized and awarded at the District's Annual Meeting in the fall.

For more information contact Geauga SWCD at geaugaswcd.com, 440-834-1122, or gprunty@geaugaswd.com.

2017 BIG TREE Nomination Form

1) Tree Species Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)

2) Owner Information

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

3) Nominator Information (if different than owner)

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

4) Tree Location/Address _____

City/Township _____ Zip _____

Location Description: Please attach a map or sketch of the tree's location on the property. If the tree is especially difficult to locate, please mark it and include any other information (GPS coordinates, photos etc.) that might be helpful in finding the tree.

Other remarks about the tree: (health, historical significance, etc.)

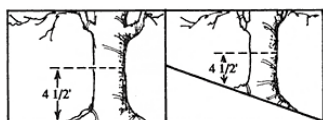
5) Annual gallons of runoff saved _____ Annual savings \$ _____

(This information can be found at www.treebenefits.com/calculator/)

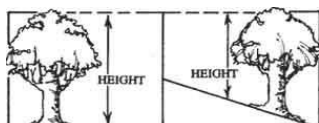
6) Estimated Tree Measurements Taken by: _____ Date: _____

Circumference of trunk (inches) _____

(Measure at 4 1/2 feet from the ground on uphill side of tree)

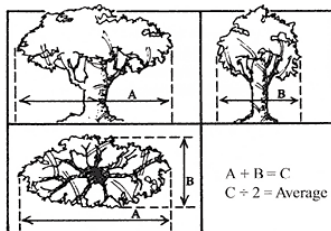


Total Vertical Height (feet) _____



Diameter of the Spread of the Crown (feet) _____

(Measure the spread of the crown in two directions and divide by two)



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Circumference (inches):

Height (feet):

Crown (feet):

Tree Index: _____

To calculate the Tree Index:

$$\frac{\text{Circumference}}{\text{in inches}} + \frac{\text{Height}}{\text{in feet}} + \left(\frac{\text{Spread}}{4} \right)_{\text{in feet}} = \text{Tree Index}$$

Notes: