

# CHANNAHON REGISTER OF BIG TREES

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Channahon Register of Trees is to begin an inventory of the variety and number of trees in the community. It is hoped that while searching for these trees, citizens will become more aware of the value of trees, the diversity of plant material in the community and develop an interest in helping maintain this resource.

## DEFINITIONS

A tree is defined as a woody plant having one erect, perennial stem or trunk at least 9 ½ inches in circumference at a point 4 ½ feet above ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage and a height of at least 12 feet. If several stems from a single root have grown together to form a trunk, only the biggest stem will be considered. Trees must be expected to live at least ten years beyond the date of nomination to be considered.

## NOMINATIONS

In order to nominate a tree for this Register, it must first be located within the boundaries of the Village of Channahon. Different from the State Register, the Channahon Register will also track introduced or non-native species. The rest of the nomination requirements will follow State guidelines as follows:

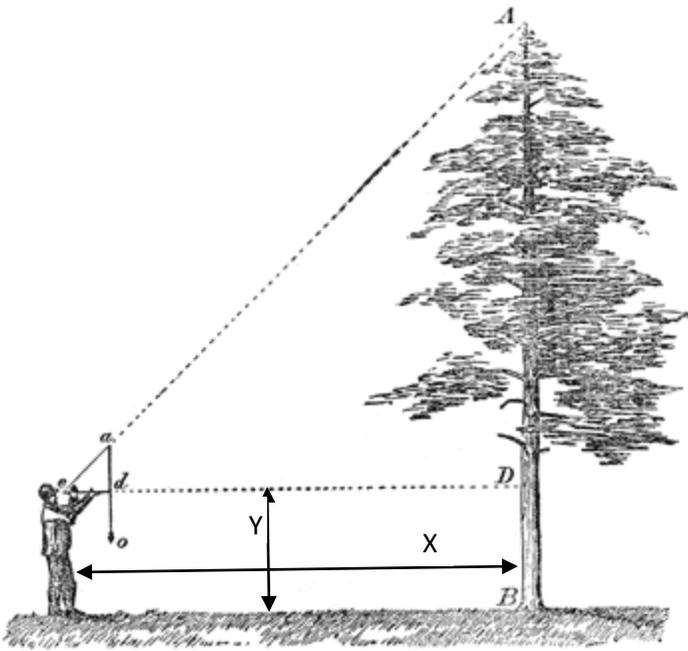
Nominations are to be made to the Village of Channahon Tree Board in writing, supplying the following information:

1. Correct species or variety name
2. The circumference of the tree 4 ½ feet above ground. If there is a limb at this point, measure the narrowest point below 4 ½ feet
3. Total vertical height to the nearest foot
4. Average diameter of the crown to the nearest foot
5. Date measured and by whom
6. Exact location of the tree: address, location on the property, etc. so that it can be located
7. Description of the tree's physical condition and state of preservation
8. Photograph of the tree with date written on back
9. Name, address and phone number of the nominator
10. Name, address and phone number of the owner of the property on which the tree is located

## HOW TO MEASURE TREES

The circumference of a tree is measured in inches at a point 4 ½ feet above the center of the base of the tree. In the case of a fork, growth or branch on the trunk at this point, the circumference is measured at the point below this where the circumference is the least. A note should be made of this adjustment on the nomination form.

Height of a tree is the vertical measurement in feet of the distance from the base of the tree to the end of the highest live branch. If the tree is a leaner, its topmost branches may not be directly over the base of the tree. Only the vertical distance from the tree top to a point level with the base of the tree is considered. A plumb-bob or weighted string may be needed for sighting to determine this point.



$X + Y =$  height of the tree

A simple instrument for measuring height is a straight stick 5 to 6 feet long. To use this method, hold the stick at arm's length so that the stick is vertical. The length of the stick above the hand should equal the distance from your hand to your eye. Move forward or backward until the top of the tree is in line with the top of the stick. The distance from your feet to the base of the tree plus the distance from the ground to eye level equals the height of the tree.

Crown spread is measured at two points, where it is the least and where it is the greatest. The average of these two numbers is recorded as the spread of the crown. A plumb-bob of weighted string may be used to sight the edge of the crown to the ground. Measure the widest spread of the crown and the narrowest. Add these two numbers together and divide by 2.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like more information on how to register a big tree, or if you have a big tree to register, please contact the Channahon Tree Board, Tina Lentz at 815-521-0787.

Trees listed on the Channahon Register of Big Trees are eligible to be passed on to the Illinois Big Tree Register and from there to the American Forests "National Registry of Big Trees" if they are of sufficient size.