Mt. Lebanon Arboretum Tree ID form

“Collect” a tree for the arboretum!

DIRECTIONS:
1. Visit only public parks, parklets and other municipal lands – not private property!
2. Print one information sheet for each tree you plan to document, and take the paper with you so you can collect information as you go.
3. Take:
   • Clipboard
   • Pen or pencil that will write in awkward positions
   • Quarter
   • Tape measure
   • Phone/camera
4. Use the tape measure to gauge the diameter of the trunk. Measure the straight-line distance from side to side of the trunk at “breast height,” or about 4 to 4.5 feet off the ground on uphill side of the tree.
5. Fill out as much information as you can on the information sheet.
6. Photo tips
   a. Before photographing a tree, take a picture of the completed information sheet for that tree. This organizes the photos and minimizes confusion later.
   b. Use your clipboard as a plain background for photos of leaves, flowers, nuts or seeds.
   c. Place a quarter next to items you are photographing, to show scale.
   d. Trees with a high canopy can be hard to photograph. Search the ground for fallen leaves, seeds or fruit to photograph if you cannot reach up to pick something.
   e. Take more photos than you think you need. Good photos will enable others to ID the tree.
Mt. Lebanon Arboretum tree documentation

In this box write the number of tree you are documenting. Is this your first, second, third or fourth tree? This will help you match your written information to your photos later.

Are leaves most like which of these?

Does tree bear needles or scales?

If needles, how long are the needles? Are they in bundles? Of how many? Are they sharp or soft? Round or flat?

If scales, are the foliage sprays flat?

Do leaves grow on the stem opposite from each other or on alternate sides? Is the edge of each leaf smooth? Toothed? Lobed?

Common name: ____________________________________________

Scientific name: ___________________________________________

Tree location (Latitude/longitude if possible, or else street address or detailed description):

Growing conditions (e.g. sun, shade, wet, dry, understory or canopy):

Diameter at breast height (for trees larger than about 12” diameter, measure in a straight line from edge to edge of tree): ________________

Other notes:

Check off your completed photos:

☐ Entire tree  ☐ Single leaf or needle(s)  ☐ Leaves/needles on branch  ☐ Flower

☐ Seed, nut, cone or fruit  ☐ Bark  ☐ Fall color  ☐ Other