

John Slifko Tree Fund

Administered by the Centre Park Historic District, Inc.

Fund Guidelines

Through his will, John Robert Slifko left money to the Centre Park Historic District, Inc. (CPHD) for the specific use of planting trees in the northwest section of the City of Reading.

To honor his wish, the CPHD Board of Directors established the John Slifko Tree Fund.

This fund has the following parameters for the use of these funds.

- In order to be eligible for this grant, the tree(s) to be planted must be within the boundaries established. Buttonwood St. is the southern boundary, Bern St. the northern, Sixth St. the eastern and Front St. the western. (see highlighted area on map).
- For the purposes of administration of the John Slifko Tree Fund it is assumed that all trees are shade trees as defined, administered and regulated under Chapter 555 in the City of Reading, PA Code of Ordinances as amended 7/13/2020. Under certain circumstances, trees that do not fall under the definition of a shade tree may also be approved for reimbursement. Those circumstances are at the discretion of the administrators of the John Slifko Tree Fund, but in all instances the tree(s) must be visible to the public.
- Property owners wishing to apply for grant money from the John Slifko Tree Fund must present a completed and signed John Slifko Tree Fund Grant Application Form and a Tree Care and Hold Harmless Agreement. When applicable, an approved City of Reading Shade Tree Work Permit Application and if required by the City of Reading, a completed and approved letter of agreement in the Adopt-A-Tree Program must also be presented. The required City of Reading forms must be obtained and returned to the City of Reading for approval first, CPHD cannot submit them for you.
- When applicable, the tree(s) to be planted must be listed on the City of Reading, PA Approved Street Tree List, or be approved by the City of Reading Arborist or other City of Reading appointed designee.
- It is preferable that an application to the CPHD John Slifko Tree Fund be submitted prior to any work being done. However, an application may be submitted up to three (3) months after the work has been completed as long as all requirements of approval and paid copies of expenses are presented to CPHD.
- Money from the grant can be used for the tree(s) as well as the planting, provided that the planting work is done by a company or contractor licensed in the City of Reading. Money will not be provided to a property owner for his/her labor to plant the tree(s).
- Under certain circumstances, partial funding may be available to remove a dead or dying tree provided that a new tree replaces the dead tree. In order to be approved for dead tree removal reimbursement, the property owner must have received a letter from the City of Reading stating that the tree and stump must be removed and/or received a permit for the removal of a tree. Under no circumstance will grant funds to remove the tree and stump exceed 50% of the cost charged to the property owner or a maximum of \$500.00.
- This is a reimbursable grant program. Grant funds will only be released when all work is completed and copies of paid receipts for all approved tree work at said location are presented to CPHD, Inc.
- Questions concerning the John Slifko Tree Fund may be directed to CPHD Executive Director Mike Lauter at mlauter@comcast.net or by calling 484-269-6718.
- As administrators of the John Slifko Tree Fund, CPHD, Inc. reserves the right to set a maximum limit on grant funds distributed in any calendar year.