

# LEGACY-TREES DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

## What is the Legacy-Trees Diversity Champions Program?

The Legacy-Trees Diversity Champions Program is a way to connect individual property owners to the greater good of a diverse urban forest for the entire community. Emerald Ash Borer is a great example of why we need strategic diversity plans within our communities. Ash trees were a cheap and abundant replacement for the American Elms that we lost by Dutch Elm Disease. By encouraging property owners to adopt a diversity strategy on their individual properties and connecting that strategy to the public spaces within their community, Legacy-Trees is committed to setting the stage for individuals to maximize diversity at home and then to donate trees to achieve maximum diversity in their community.

## Diversity Champions Program Guidelines:

The Diversity Champions Program is offered to all clients through the process of visioning the property, but it is not required.

The Diversity Champions Program does not include existing trees on the property. Most urban trees have compromised root systems based on traditional production methods and planting techniques; therefore Legacy-Trees does not look at those trees as sustainable long-term canopy for the community.

The Diversity Strategy is defined by Silver, Gold, and Platinum level goals based on the property size. The levels state the number of Tree Genera on the property.

Tree classifications in scientific nomenclature are typically listed by genus and species. For example, *Fraxinus americana* is the White Ash. *Fraxinus* is the genus, *americana* is the species. Emerald Ash Borer destroyed all species of Ash within the genus *Fraxinus*. This is why diversity at the genus level is far more powerful than diversity at the species level.

### LEVELS OF DIVERSITY: TREE GENERA PER ACRE



	0.5 ACRE	<2 ACRE	>2 ACRE
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PLATINUM</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>

For properties that are 0.5 acres the silver level of diversity is achieved by planting 4 different genera on the property. The gold level is achieved by planting 6 different genera on the property. Finally, the platinum level of diversity is achieved by planting 8 different genera on the property. This also represents a reasonable three phase tree planting plan for a residential property.

The Platinum level of participation results in the designation of "Diversity Champion" for the property owner. Once Diversity Champion status has been achieved, a tree will be planted on public property within the client's community. Legacy-Trees donates the tree and the Network Company provides the labor and equipment for the tree planting.