

**Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
Removal Program**

PURPOSE

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Callery Pear Removal Program is an incentive program intended to defray landowner costs for removal of mature, standalone, landscape callery pear trees. The goal of this program is to help landowners practice better environmental stewardship by providing financial assistance for the removal of invasive pear trees that would not otherwise be removed without financial assistance.

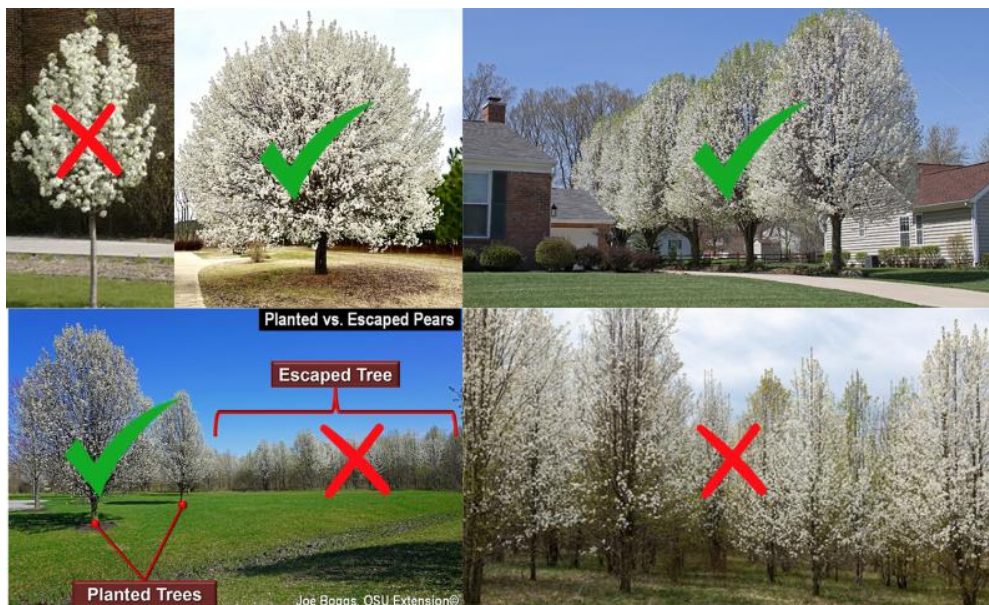
COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All lands within Hamilton County, except land owned by employees or supervisors of the District, are eligible for the removal program. Private land is prioritized for this program. All cost-share applicants must sign a Participant Agreement between the District and Landowner to be considered for cost-sharing. Eligible invasive species include all cultivars of *Pyrus calleryana*. Common names include, but are not limited to: Bradford, Aristocrat, Cleveland Select, Chanticleer. Landowner is responsible for evaluating any possible easements and/or gaining proper permissions for removal of any street trees. The maximum award is \$500 per property/landowner.

INELIGIBLE PRACTICES

The following are not eligible for this cost-sharing program:

- Practices required as a result of a court order;
- Practices required for compliance with local building permits;
- Practices associated with mitigation;
- Stands of pear trees in woodlands or naturalized areas; trees that have escaped cultivation. These areas qualify for our invasive species cost share program.
- Callery pear trees that are small enough to be removed by the landowner or a small crew (20 inch circumference or less at 4 feet off the ground) do not qualify. Small trees are good candidates for our native for invasive swap program which offers free native replacements for removed invasive species.



PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS

The Invasive Species Cost-Share Program is a matching grant. The Participant is required to contribute half of the project costs financially. However, several local tree companies have partnered with the SWCD to offer discounted rates to landowners removing invasive species. When you work with a contractor offering a discount for invasive removal, your cost share amount will be based on the full price estimate meaning you save money!

Example 1: Contractor

Estimate: \$800
Cost share amount (50%) = \$400
You pay \$800 upfront and you get \$400 back as cost share rebate.

Example 2: Supporting contractor

Estimate: \$800 - 20% Discount (\$160) = \$640
Cost share amount (50% of cost before discount) = \$400
You pay \$640 upfront & still get \$400 back as cost share rebate so you only pay \$240 in the end!

Supporting partners:



Engledow Tree Experts LLC
317-672-4307
www.EngledowTreeExperts.com



Nature's Canopy
Office: (317) 353-4944
andy@naturescanopy.com
www.naturescanopy.com



CLIMBING HIGH
TREE SERVICE
TREE REMOVAL. SHRUBS. TREE CARE.
317-646-5117
Climbing High Tree Service
317-646-5117

COST-SHARE APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Applications are reviewed and approved on a rolling basis until all funding has been utilized.

Interested parties should submit the online application which includes a photo of the tree(s), circumference measurements of the tree(s), and at least one quote from a tree removal company. It is up to the landowner to properly vet all contractors including assuring current insurance coverage.

Applicants will receive acceptance or denial of their application within 2 weeks of application. Once approved, the landowner has two months to submit the completion form showing a photograph of the removed tree(s) and an invoice/receipt showing full payment to the contractor. **Any costs incurred prior to approval of the grant are not eligible for reimbursement.**

PAYMENT PROCESS

Reimbursements of half the cost of removal of the callery pear trees up to the maximum amount outlined on the approval letter will be distributed via check after the SWCD board's next board meeting (3rd Thursday of each month). Cost share funds are considered taxable income and Participants will receive a 1099. **Practice reimbursement rates are based on actual costs but may not exceed the amount approved in the cost-share letter.**

PROJECT TIMELINES

Participants will have two months from the application approval date to complete their project and submit the required documentation. **The grant will be forfeited if the project is not completed in the two-month timeframe.**

The cost share committee and SWCD reserve the right to adjust policies, cost share rates, deadlines, and program structure at any time.

This program is grant funded by the Clean Water Indiana Program and will run until all grant funds are utilized.