

## Central Park Offers Christmas Tree Recycling



County residents can follow the signs to the tree drop site.



Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation employees grind Christmas trees into free mulch for public pick-up.



Monies collected will fund the native plant nursery in Central Park.

County residents can participate in an environmentally-friendly way to dispose of their Christmas trees by dropping them at the Lancaster County Central Park mulching site between dawn and dusk December 26 through January 31.

The park mulching program is for Christmas trees only – no other yard waste will be accepted. Trees must be free of decorations, lights, plastic bags and hardware, including nails in the trunk. There is a three-tree limit per vehicle. Commercial haulers are strongly advised to contact their local municipalities for their respective Christmas tree recycling locations.

There is a suggested donation of \$1 for each tree. Donations go towards the operation of the Dr. John Moss Native Tree Nursery in Central Park. Trees from the nursery are utilized throughout the County Park System.

Dr. Moss, a former Professor at Franklin and Marshall College and a founding member of the Lancaster Environmental Action Federation (LEAF), worked to promote the conservation of natural resources for the improvement of the environment of Lancaster County's public parks and open spaces. In 2000, LEAF donated funds to the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation for the creation of a nursery in memory of Dr. Moss.

According to park officials, residents drop off about 1500 Christmas trees each year, which produce 22 tons of mulch. The mulch is ideal for acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas, and many deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs that require slightly acidic soil conditions. The mulch will be available to residents on a first-come, first-served basis after January 4, near the tree drop off site. Persons desiring free mulch should bring a pitchfork or shovel, and a bag or a trailer to transport it home.

Park and Recreation Administrator Paul D. Weiss commented that, "The Department has been offering this program as long as I can remember. It is a great way to promote environmental stewardship, and the funds received support the future planting of trees."

For more information about the Christmas tree mulching program, residents may call the Park Office at 299-8215, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. To learn more about the County Park System, visit [www.lancastercountyparks.org](http://www.lancastercountyparks.org).