



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
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Independence National Historical Park Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

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Chestnut Trees to be Re- introduced at Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia – On Friday, October 30, from 12 noon – 1 pm, Independence NHP will host Trees NC, the American Chestnut Foundation, Morris Arboretum, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Charter High School for Architecture + Design for a historic tree planting event on Independence Square.

Independence Square, in Independence National Historical Park, runs along Chestnut Street, and yet as a result of the Chestnut blight that hit the east coast in 1904 can boast no Chestnut Trees ... until now!

WHAT: Chestnut Tree planting ceremony behind Independence Hall
WHEN: Friday, October 30, 12 – 1 pm
WHERE: Independence Square, Independence National Historical Park

Trees NC (in North Carolina), has donated two American Chestnut Trees to Independence NHP. Trees NC has created a program with the American Chestnut Foundation and the North Carolina Zoo to grow pure American Chestnut Trees where they once stood. This donation will re-establish a tree historically present on the Square. The event will be held on the south side of Independence Hall, with the striking view of the Hall in the background.

The program for the event will include comments by: Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park; Robert Wells, Morris Arboretum; Bryan Burhans, American Chestnut Foundation; Mindy Maslin, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; and special comments by Mr. John Bartram and Mr. Thomas Jefferson. The historical characters will be portrayed by Christian Johnson (Bartram) and Steven Edendo (Jefferson) of American Historical Theater. The planting will be led by Tim Womick of Trees NC with assistance from students at the Charter High School for Architecture + Design.

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