

**Report #2019-2  
August 7, 2019**

**Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees – Report to the City Council**

**Subject: Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree**

The Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) has noted the ongoing interest in the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree. There were at least three recent Greenbelt News Review letters as well as a discussion about the subject at the City Council meeting on June 17.

ACT members voted at their recent July 23, 2019 meeting to support another planting of an Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree. It is our understanding that Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Greenbelt Center Elementary School before it became the Greenbelt Community Center. The Greenbelt Community Center is a hub of activity for many Greenbelt residents. We thus think that a new Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree would be better positioned near the Greenbelt Community Center, than on its small fenced plot obscurely positioned along the side of Crescent Road. It is suggested that other City of Greenbelt groups, such as the Greenbelt Museum personnel, be contacted to provide input for the siting of a new Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree.

We understand that Eleanor Roosevelt liked the ash tree. Unfortunately, the emerald ash borer insects in the past decade have caused significant damage to ash trees around the State of Maryland. In the City of Greenbelt, many green ash trees are dying or dead as a result of the emerald ash borer insects.

Because of these present-day insect problems with ash trees, we recommend planting of a hardier memorial tree for Eleanor Roosevelt, such as an American holly, a dawn redwood, or a bald cypress.

**Summary: At their most recent meeting, ACT members voted to support the planting of another Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree, this time near the Greenbelt Community Center.**