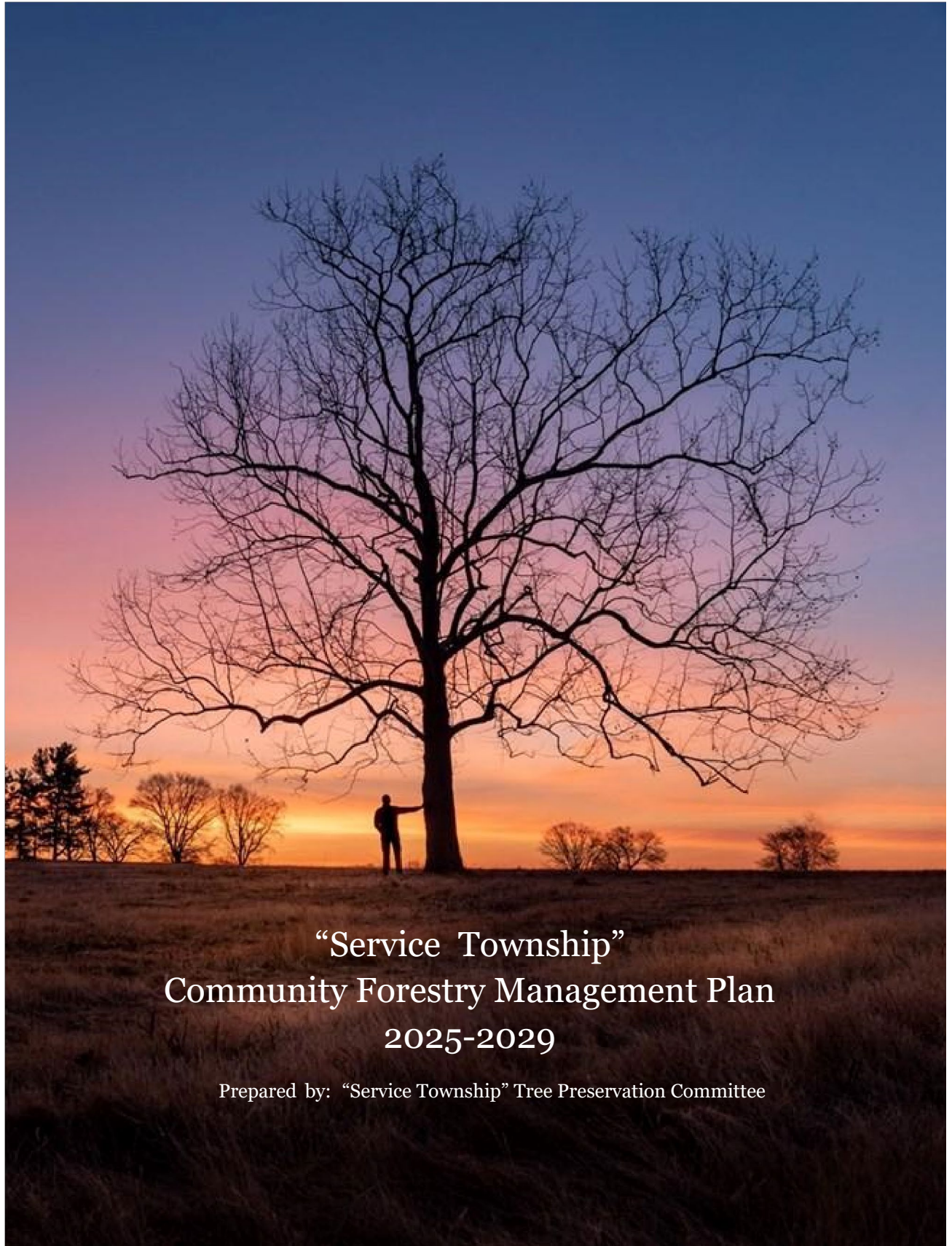




“Service Township”
Community Forestry Management Plan
2025-2029

Prepared by: “Service Township” Tree Preservation Committee

Credit to Original Authors

This is an example of a Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP). “Service Township” and “Community County” are fictitious places.

This plan was devised from a multitude of plans submitted to the New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS) under the new CFMP guidelines updated January 1, 2024.

The NJFS would like to thank Moorestown, Morristown, and Davey Tree Resource Group for their contributions to this example CFMP.

Table of Contents

1. Municipal Information Form p. 4
2. Introduction and Background p. 5
 - a. Mission Statement p. 5
 - b. Liability Statement p. 5
 - c. Community Overview p. 6
 - Overview p. 6
 - Maps p. 6-10
 - History, Accomplishment, Barriers to Success p. 10
 - d. Urban Forest Structure, Composition and Trends p. 11
 - e. Overall Program Goals p. 20
 - f. Plan Connections and Other Considerations p. 20
3. Community Forestry Program Capacity p. 23
 - a. Community Forestry Program Administration p. 25
 - b. Partnerships p. 26
 - c. Training p. 27
 - d. Budget p. 29
 - e. Equipment p. 30
4. Community Engagement and Well-Being p. 31
5. Plan Implementation p. 33
 - a. Elements, Objectives, Action Items p. 33
 - b. Activity Schedule p. 35
6. Exhibits p. 40

Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality: “Service Township”

County: “Community County”

Address: 123 Sycamore Street, “Service Township”, NJ

Contact Name and Title: Ryan Bellinger, Consulting Forester

Phone #: (555) 586-4737

Fax # and E-mail: ryan.bellinger@dep.nj.gov

Organization’s Name: The Township of “Service”

Mayor’s Signature: *Brian McDonald* Brian McDonald

Date of Submission: 4/25/2025

Time Period Covered: 2025 - 2029

Official Use Only

The above named municipality has made formal application to the New Jersey Forestry Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forestry Service has concluded that this plan meets the standards set forth by the State and NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed: _____

State Forester

Approved Date

Introduction and Background

a. Mission Statement

To continue to participate in the New Jersey Community Forestry Program by improving on our active tree program in order to protect and enhance our sustainable shade tree resource, and serve its residents' physical health, economic, environmental and social well-being through continued awareness and education.

b. Liability Statement

Although tree lined streets are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require care, maintenance, and eventual replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to planting "the right tree in the right place," help ensure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the area, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety. "Service" must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet every need of our community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources on the greatest needs and to work systematically towards a healthy forest with commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

"Service" is focusing on public engagement, online and traditional media, and continuous education and training on tree management. We feel, by taking these logical steps and others outlined in the plan, we will garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment, public safety and township beauty.

We also want to become more proactive in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and hazard assessment, we will position our community to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree-related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions can be predicted. Good maintenance and care will reduce the probability, but unexpected events may still occur.

Following this management plan will demonstrate that "Service" is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner and responsible approach to reduce the number of tree-related incidents and thereby reduce the township's exposure to liabilities and increase public safety.

c. Community Overview

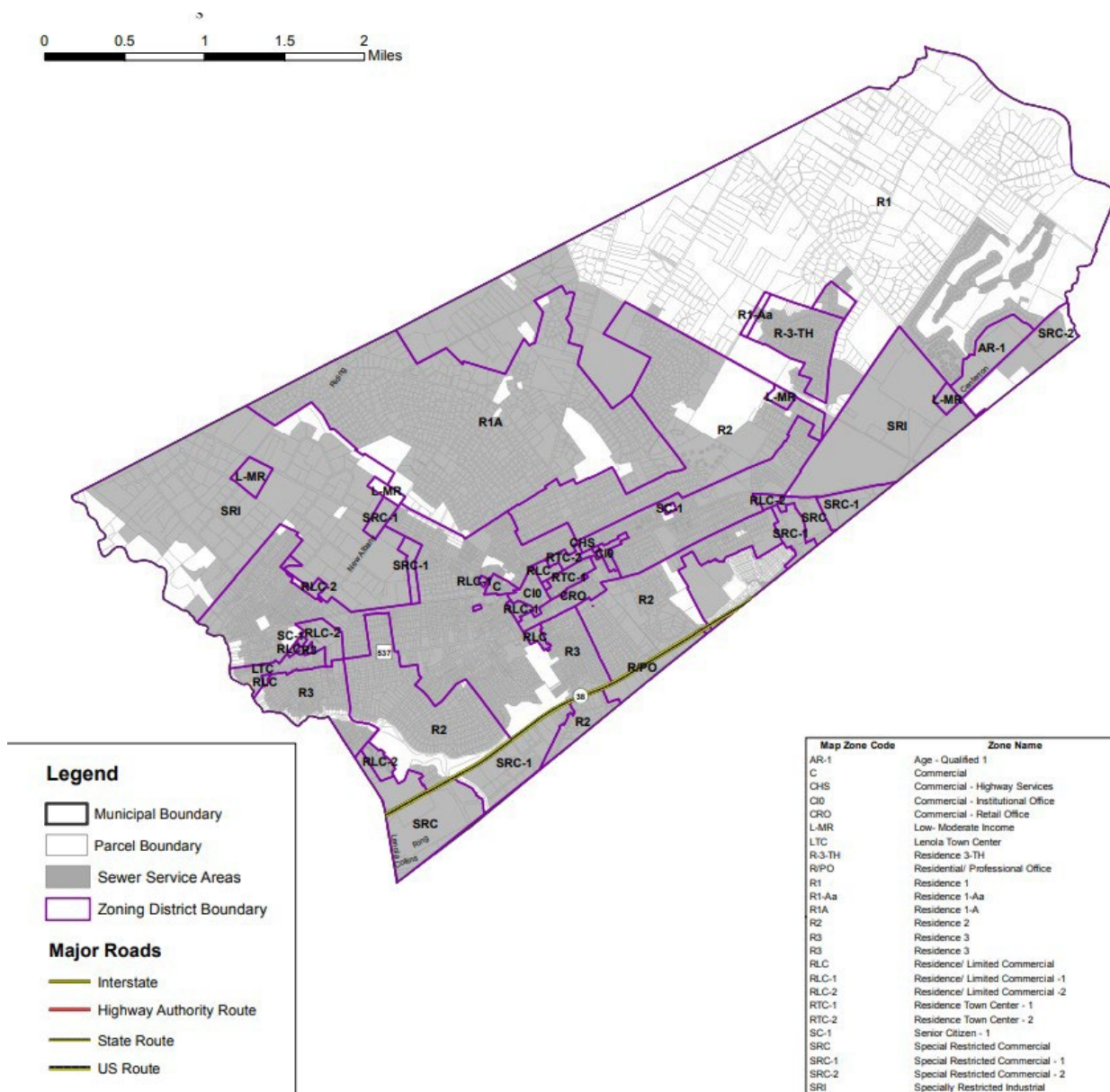
Celebrating our 34th year as a Tree City USA community, “Service” continues to respect and cherish its trees for their social, economic and aesthetic benefits. Homeowners and township leaders realize that community trees and parks are an essential part of “Service’s” identity and contribute to the economic value of the town. Township officials continue to encourage residents to maintain a tree in their right-of-way and educate them on planting, watering, mulching and regular upkeep. Located in the densely populated western part of “Community County”, “Service” strives to maintain its natural beauty and large street trees through many avenues: public awareness and volunteerism, a partnership among the Tree Committee, Public Works and the Town Council, and a vigilant tree program that strives to maintain the health of, and increase the population of our trees. See appendices for tree ordinance or click <https://ecode360.com/10347517>.

Most of “Service” is residential neighborhoods interspersed with industrial zones and recreational fields and clearings, with agricultural land and waterways making up a minimal portion of the township. While there isn’t much designated forested land, this leads us to making the planting and maintenance of street trees in residential areas a priority to maintain a healthy urban canopy.

“Service Township” Canopy Map



“Service Township” Zoning Maps



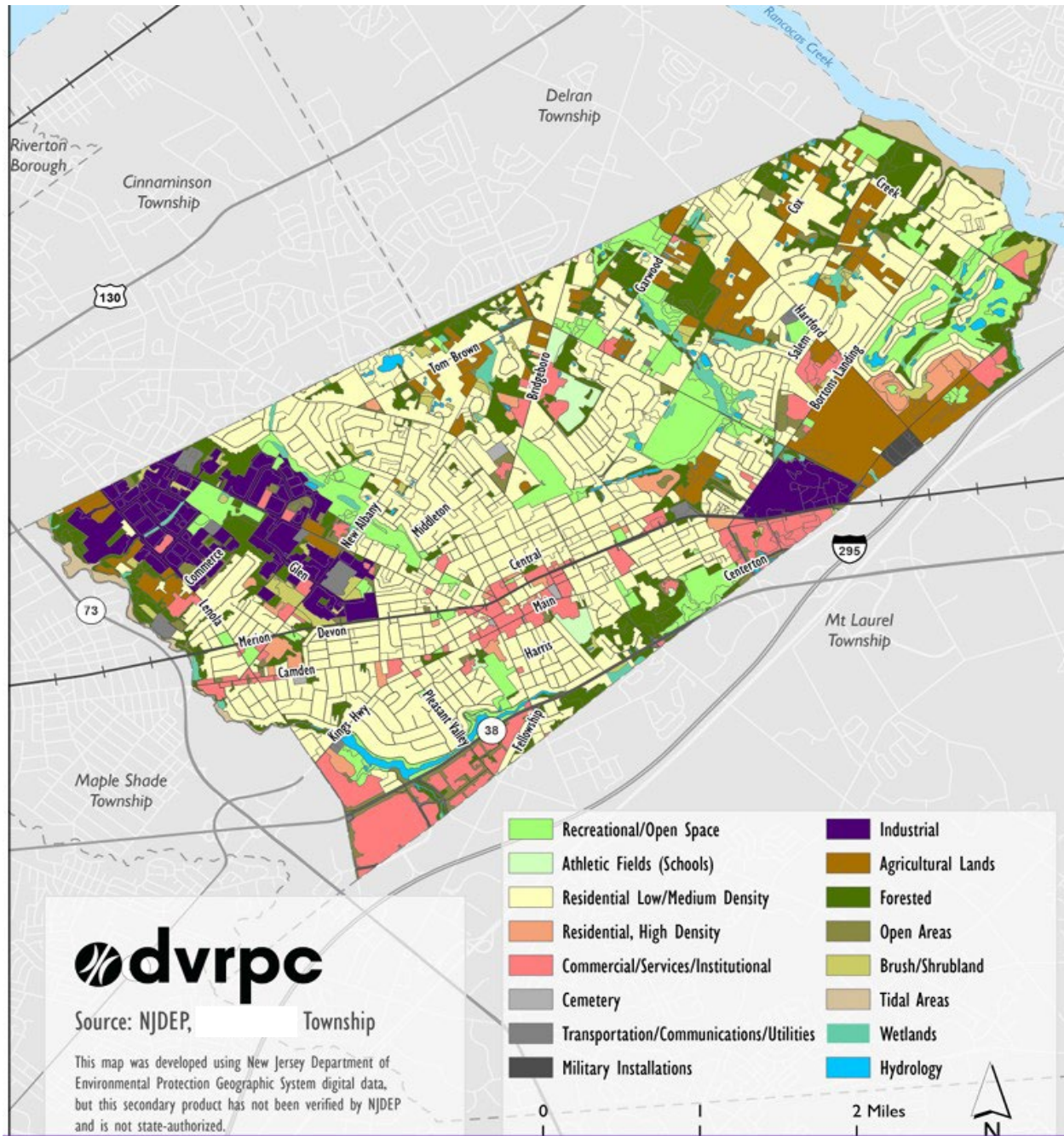
“Service Township” Overburdened Communities Map



7/1/2025, 2:27:39 PM

Overburdened Communities and Adjacent Block Groups (Effective as of 01-31-25)

- OBC
- Municipalities



“Service Township” Boundaries Map



History, Accomplishments, and Barriers to Success

With the cooperation of Public Works, the township committee and volunteers, our tree program has been very successful. These groups recognize the importance of trees not just aesthetically but economically as well. Although we plant and remove many trees in-house, there is still a need for outside assistance when it comes to removing large trees or planting numerous trees as with a grant. Our Public Works Shade Tree Crew and Tree Committee volunteers identify possible hazardous or failing trees and these are further reviewed by our in-house LTE to determine if they need to be removed.

We have an active Tree Committee, Public Works Shade Tree Group and Town Council that recognize the importance of trees in our community. Goals of previous management plans that were accomplished include Tree Committee input into township construction projects such as a new townhome complex, streetscapes, and the former library site. The Tree Committee also repeatedly sends Tree Committee members to the annual shade tree convention, does light pruning in the right-of-way, and updates the tree inventory with plantings and removals. A further goal was to keep the public informed, which we did through annual Arbor Day festivities. We also partnered with Public Works and the township to develop a tree ordinance that enforces the illegal removal and destruction of township trees to include fines or replacement.

There have been some barriers to our success including team consistency, residential and commercial development, department budgets, as well as a lack of public knowledge of the program's activity. There have been numerous changes to Tree Committee, we've had a 50% turnover rate in the membership this past year due to life changes. Projects that were being researched or worked on have been shelved and it will take time for new members to be able to continue the process. While past plans have attempted to engage the community in a more active manner, continued lacking awareness and support from

local residents remains lacking. To remedy this, we aim to develop a new Facebook page on tree matters and informational news alerts on plantings, ordinances, pests, diseases, etc. Other considerations are of a more economic nature. Although the community is growing and new developments are ongoing, budgets have remained static when it comes to tree projects. Also, it is difficult in such a growing area to keep the focus on trees and not development. Builders are not necessarily focused on tree species, preserving existing trees, or planting the right tree for the right spot. We continue to use our previous CFMP to review our goals and objectives and because of this, we have taken steps to increase our ability to manage our tree resources.

d. Urban Forest Structure, Composition and Trends

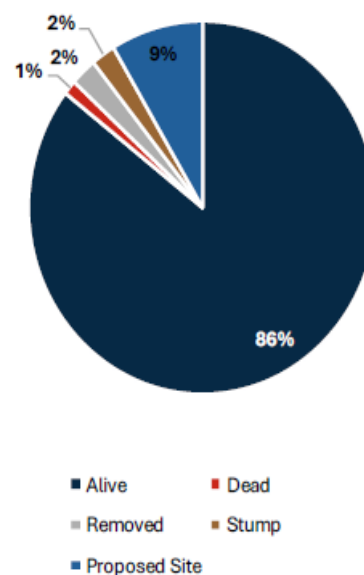
Tree Inventories are now required for CFMP development. The NJUCF Minimum inventory requirements can be found in Appendix 5 of the CFMP Guidelines. A model inventory can be viewed in this link: [ToddTown Invenotry.xlsx](#)

Note: This inventory data and accompanying charts were created and supplied by Davey Resource Group Inc.

Public street and park trees in “Service”, NJ were inventoried in May and June of 2022 by PlanIt Geo arborists. As part of this inventory project, a full Public Tree Inventory Summary Report was provided to the town by the consultant. However, in the years since this inventory was conducted, the “Service” Tree Preservation Committee has updated the inventory data as trees were removed and planted. The information provided in this section of this Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) is based on updated inventory data as of March 14, 2025 provided to DRG’s Project Manager by the committee. Where possible, comparisons between the 2022 and 2025 data are drawn to show the progress “Service” has made toward the goals and recommendations laid out in the 2022 report.

Inventoried Sites

As of March 14, 2025, there were a total of 4,926 trees, stumps, and proposed planting sites included in the “Service” tree inventory. Most of the sites were live trees (4,213 trees, 86%) or planting sites (244 planting sites, 9%), with smaller portions of dead standing trees (62 trees, 1%), removed trees (119 trees, 2%), and stumps (110 stumps, 2%). Between 2022 and 2025, there was an increase in the total number of inventoried sites which included the addition of 244 trees, 147 planting sites, and 69 stumps (Table 1). It is likely that the inventory as of March 2025 does not fully reflect the work conducted between the initial 2022 inventory and the current time. TPC members only recently acquired full access to their tree inventory management software, so many tree and stump removals and some tree plantings have not yet been cataloged in the inventory system.



	2022		2025		Difference
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Tree	4,031	90%	4,275	87%	+244
Planting Site	394	9%	541	11%	+147
Stump	41	1%	110	2%	+69
TOTAL	4,466	100%	4,926	100%	+460

Table 1. Change in inventory totals between initial data collection by PlanIt Geo (2022) and CFMP creation (2025). For comparison, dead and live trees have been included under “Tree” in the 2025 data and removed trees and proposed sites have been compiled under “Planting Site”.

Species and Genera Diversity

Diversity within plant communities is important for increasing their resistance and resilience to disturbance. The 10-20-30 rule, first proposed by Santamour in 1990, is a common industry metric for tree population diversity in which a single species should compose no more than 10% of the population, a single genus no more than 20%, and a single family no more than 30%.

Figure 2 displays the species diversity of “Service’s” live public trees as of March 2025. Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), a known invasive species in New Jersey considered highly threatening to native plant communities (<https://dep.nj.gov/invasive-species/plants>), has decreased in abundance from 13% in 2022 to only 11% of the public tree population in 2025. It is the only species which exceeds the 10% rule. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), a native tree species, is approaching the 10% threshold and has not changed in abundance since the 2022 inventory. In total, 129 species are present within the public tree population in “Service”, an increase from the 116 species identified during the 2022 inventory.

Figure 3 displays the genera diversity of “Service’s” live public trees as of March 2025. Only one genus, maple (*Acer*) is overabundant, comprising 27% of the inventoried public trees. This represents a slight decrease in abundance from 28% at the time of the initial inventory in 2022. 61 genera were represented in the public tree population in 2025, a decrease from 62 in 2022.

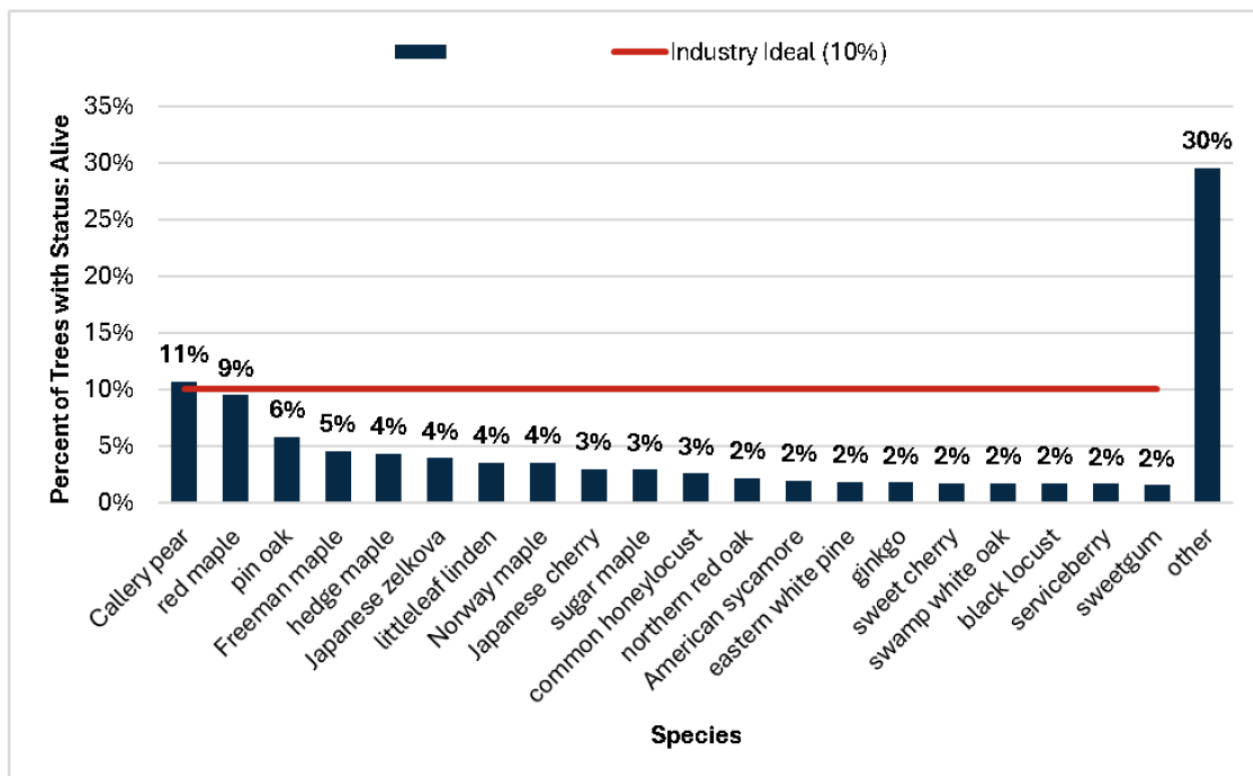


Figure 2. Species abundance as of 2025. All species which comprise at least 2% of the total inventoried tree population are included in the chart.

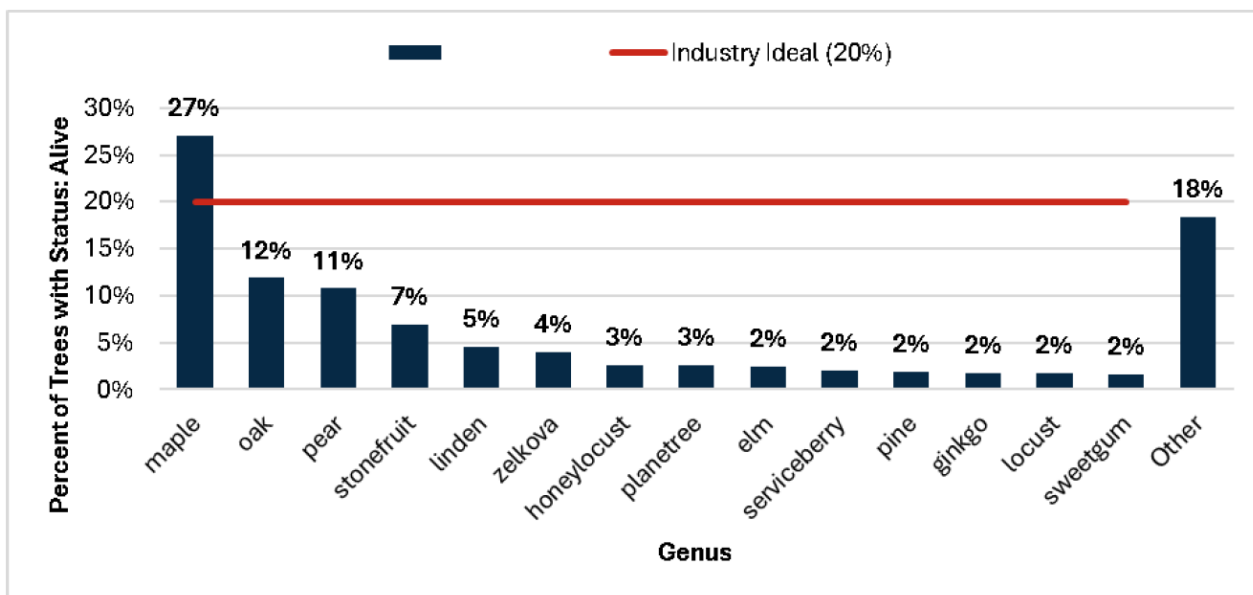


Figure 3. Genera abundance as of 2025. All genera which comprise at least 2% of the total inventoried tree population are included in the chart.

Pest Susceptibility

Early identification of tree pests and diseases can reduce the impact of infestations on the urban forest. Infestations which are caught while still limited to a small number of trees can be more easily and cost-effectively managed and further spread of the pest or disease prevented. Since pests and diseases have preferred host tree species and genera, the susceptibility of an urban forest to a pest or disease can be predicted based on its species and genera diversity. Figure 4 presents the percent of inventoried trees which are susceptible to pests and diseases of concern in New Jersey.

Pests and diseases with a wide host range, such as fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*), spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma deliculata*), spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*), Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), and verticillium wilt (*Verticillium dahliae*) have the greatest potential to damage “Service’s” public trees. Fortunately, most of these generalist pests and diseases are not primary causal agents of tree death, although they can weaken trees and predispose them to other pests and diseases. Approximately 12% of “Service’s” public trees are oaks, which are susceptible to a variety of pests and diseases including oak shothole leafminer (*Japanagromyza viridula*), scarlet oak sawfly (*Caliroa quercuscoccineae*), oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*), and bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*).

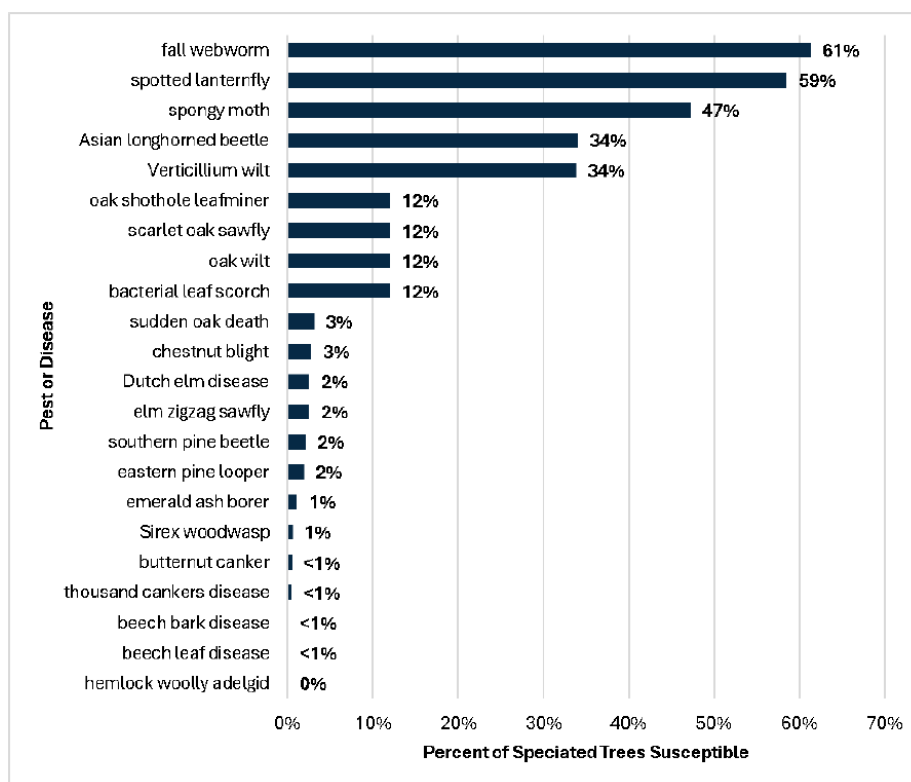


Figure 4. Percent of speciated public trees susceptible to pests and diseases of concern in New Jersey as of March 2025. Only trees which were identified to at least genus level were included in this analysis.

Relative Age

Analysis of a tree population's relative age distribution can be performed by assigning age classes to the diameter of inventoried trees. Although actual tree age cannot be determined by diameter alone, this method of approximation is an industry standard technique that can help identify potential challenges and maintenance needs of an urban tree population. The size classes (callout box) were chosen so that the inventoried trees could be compared to the ideal relative age distribution proposed by Richards (1983 & 1993), which holds that the largest portion of an urban tree population should be young trees, with smaller numbers of trees in the older age classes. This distribution helps ensure that young trees, which tend to have a higher mortality rate than older trees, are abundant enough to replace older trees as they decline and must be removed.

RELATIVE AGE CLASSES

Newly Planted: 0-6 inches diameter at breast height (DBH)

Young: 7-12 inches DBH

Established: 13-18 inches DBH

Maturing: 19-24 inches DBH

Mature: 25-30 inches DBH

Over Mature: 31+ inches DBH

Figure 5 compares the relative age distribution of “Service’s” inventoried trees to Richard’s ideal distribution. Overall, the current observed age distribution closely follows the ideal and has improved since 2022. During the initial inventory in 2022, there was a significant lack of newly planted trees (27% compared to the ideal 40% mark). As of 2025, 36% of the inventoried trees are in the youngest age category, highlighting the effort that the town and TPC have put forth to plant new trees in the past three years. Provided that current planting levels are maintained, the relative age distribution should continue to trend closely toward the ideal over time.

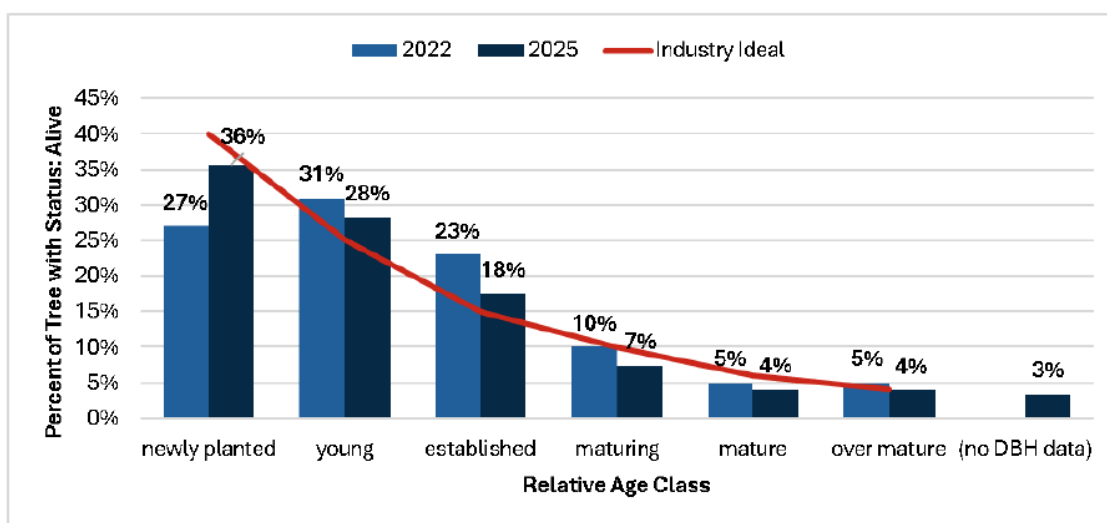


Figure 5. Comparison of the age structure of public trees in 2022 and 2025 to the industry ideal proposed by Richards (1983 & 1993).

public trees in 2022 and 2025 to the industry

Condition

During the 2022 inventory each tree was assigned a condition rating based on multiple factors including root characteristics; branch structure; trunk, canopy, and foliage condition; and the presence of pests or disease. Condition ratings included good, fair, poor, and dead. Figure 6 shows the condition ratings of live and dead trees as of 2025, and Table 2 compares the tree condition ratings between the initial inventory in 2022 and the updated inventory in 2025. There was generally little difference in tree condition ratings between 2022 and 2025, however, this may be due to a need for the condition data field to be updated rather than consistency in actual tree condition over time. More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the trees were in good condition at both points in time, with around $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$ of trees in fair condition. Smaller portions of the tree population were in poor or dead condition - 4% in 2022 and 5% in 2025. There were a number of trees which had presumably been added between 2022 and 2025 which did not have a recorded condition rating (6%).

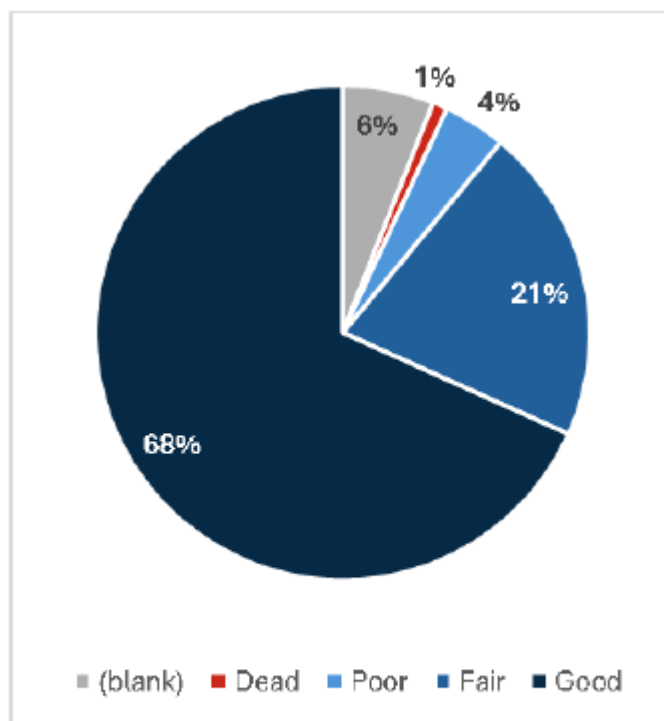


Figure 6. Condition ratings of live and dead trees as of March 2025.

Defects

During the 2022 inventory, arborists took note of defects observed in the inventoried trees. When the data was analyzed in 2025 for this CFMP, 2,114 trees (49% of trees, dead or alive) had at least one listed defect, and 2,161 trees (51% of trees, dead or alive) had no listed defects. 59% of trees with a listed defect had two or more listed defects, 33% had three or more, and 15% had four or more listed defects. Figure 7 and Table 3 identify the number of observations of each defect. Since some trees had more than one defect, the total number of defects identified does not match the total number of trees which had at least one listed defect. Codominant stems were the most common defect identified with 866 observations, followed by crown dieback (721 observations). The most common defects, including codominant stems, crown dieback, poor structure, and improper pruning, can all be rectified or prevented by routine maintenance such as young tree training and cyclical tree pruning, or by ensuring that routine maintenance is conducted by certified personnel with proper credentials and experience.

Defect	Count	Percent
Canker	256	6%
Cavity Decay	361	8%
Codominant Stems	866	19%
Crown Dieback	721	16%
Fungal Growth/Fruiting Bodies	35	1%
Girdling Roots	163	4%
Hardscape Damage	394	9%
Improperly Installed	1	<1%
Improperly Mulched	11	<1%
Improperly Pruned	454	10%
Included Bark	161	4%
Mechanical Damage	294	7%
Nutrient Deficiency	11	<1%
Pests	13	<1%
Poor Location	47	1%
Poor Root System	156	3%
Poor Structure	511	11%
Serious Decline	25	1%
Vines	41	1%
TOTAL	4,521	100%

Table 3. Number of observations for each defect and percent of total observations for each defect. Since many trees had more than one observed defect, the total number of observations is higher than the total number of trees identified as having at least one defect.

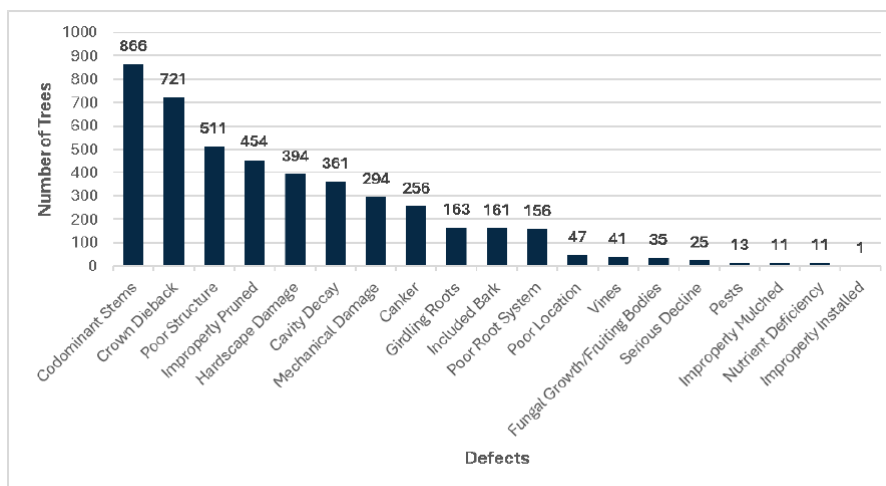


Figure 7. Prevalence of observed defects in inventoried trees.

Stocking Level

“Stocking” is a traditional forestry metric used to measure the density and distribution of trees. In an urban forest, stocking level is the ratio of street right-of-way (ROW) spaces occupied by trees to the total street ROW spaces suitable for trees. Park trees and other non-ROW public property trees are excluded from this measurement. “Service” has a total of 3,751 current and potential tree sites along streets (3,146 live trees + 377 planting sites + 73 stumps + 56 dead trees + 99 removed trees), only 3,146 of which are currently occupied by a live tree. Therefore, the town’s current stocking level is:

$$(3,146 \text{ live trees} / 3,751 \text{ potential tree sites}) \times 100 = 84\%$$

Canopy Cover

“Canopy cover” refers to the percent of an area which is covered by tree canopy. Canopy cover measurements can be derived in several different ways and used to compare urban forest coverage over time, between locations, or to an ideal or goal. Using the i-Tree Canopy tool, DRG conducted a basic assessment of the total canopy cover, both public and private, of “Service’s” as of 2025. Map 9 shows the location and landcover category of the 502 points used in the landcover categorization.

Figure 9 displays the percent of each land cover classification. “Service” currently has about 40% canopy cover, equating to around 1.22 square miles of trees and shrubs on both public and private property (Table 4). The next most common landcover class was grass/herbaceous cover, covering 0.55 square miles, followed by impervious cover other than buildings or roads (i.e. parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.). If the three impervious cover categories (buildings, roads, and other) are combined, impervious surfaces cover 37% of the land area in “Service”, equating to about 1.13 square miles.

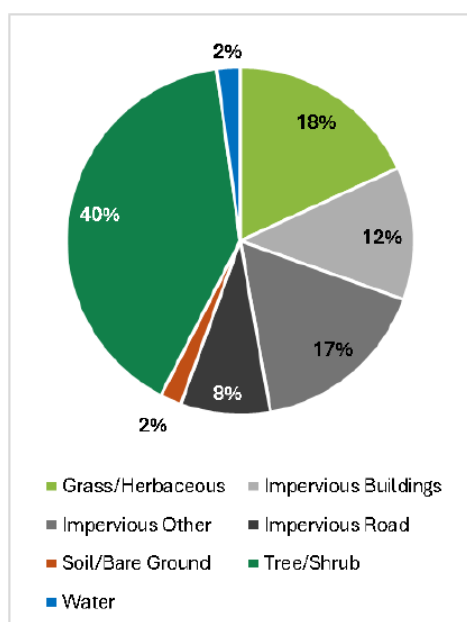


Figure 9. Percent landcover classification for as of 2025.

Cover Class	Percent	Area (sq miles)
Grass/Herbaceous	18%	0.55
Impervious Buildings	12%	0.37
Impervious Other	17%	0.51
Impervious Road	8%	0.25
Soil/Bare Ground	2%	0.06
Tree/Shrub	40%	1.22
Water	2%	0.07
TOTAL	100%	3.03

Table 4. Results of the i-Tree Canopy landcover classification of

Inventory Summary and Conclusions

“Service’s” inventoried public trees are very well managed at this point in time. The town’s inventory was expanded between 2022 and 2025, adding 244 more trees and 216 stumps and planting sites. The town has good diversity in its public trees, and the TPC has increased the overall diversity of the town’s trees while decreasing the overabundance of the invasive but historically popular Callery pear. “Service’s” tree crew and TPC stay up to date on pests and diseases of concern in the region and have demonstrated a strong response to pest problems such as emerald ash borer in the past. Nearly 90% of the town’s public tree resource is in fair or good condition, and proactive pruning and training cycles have been implemented to mitigate tree defects and resolve infrastructure conflicts in a timely manner. The town has an overall high stocking level of 84% and canopy cover of 40% - both excellent numbers that are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the TPC.

With the challenges identified during the 2022 public tree inventory resolved or being improved, the focus of the TPC has now turned to improving the town’s public parks, and specifically the forested land within the town’s parks. Many of these areas are impacted by invasive plant species, and restoration efforts are underway or in planning for parks around the township to remove invasive species and replant native species in their place.

e. Overall Program Goals

The goals of “Service Township” are multipronged. We want to reach out to the citizens of “Service” to educate them about the economic and social value of trees as well as to help them appreciate their beauty and emotional benefits. Another goal is to maintain the health of our tree canopy. From invasive species to past poor-planting practices to homeowners removing township trees, our natural resource is constantly being attacked by numerous factors. Finally, keeping current and implementing the latest tree management techniques and pest/disease problems and solutions will help us reach our goal of a healthy tree resource and a community-engaged tree program.

f. Plan Connections and Other Considerations

As well as having an approved Community Forestry Management Plan for the past twenty years, “Service” has other plans that focus on our environmental goals.

“Service” has a Stormwater Management Plan, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Stormwater Management Ordinance’s purpose is to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls to protect and safeguard the general health, safety, and welfare of the public residing within this jurisdiction. The Stormwater Management Plan discusses our strategy for addressing stormwater management and stormwater-related impacts related to land development by encouraging the planting and maintenance of street trees along areas with a high level of runoff so that stormwater is diverted towards these trees. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is also used to identify all potential pollution sources that could come into contact with stormwater leaving a site. It includes site map and descriptions, activities that could cause pollution, Best Management

Practices and control measures for preventing pollution, and procedures for monitoring and inspections. There are a few designs “Service” has implemented to aid in stormwater management; for example, a green roof was installed on the “Service” Town Hall and a rain garden was created in an area near the library. Because tree planting also greatly helps with stormwater management, as well as other factors including carbon sequestration, pollution removal and runoff, we are committed to increasing our current canopy. According to i-Tree, “Service’s” trees are responsible for almost \$2 million in benefits including carbon dioxide uptake, storm water mitigation and air pollution removal. If we increase the canopy area 10% we would add an additional \$136k in tree benefits.

The Master Plan serves to protect the land within “Service” and safeguard its natural heritage and secure the heritage of the township for future generations by preserving its cultural, social, economic, and architectural history. Part of this heritage includes “Service’s” ability to be awarded a tree city for 34 consecutive years. In addition to natural vegetative cover, trees located along streets and within parks and yard areas create an “urban forest” in the township, which is an important natural resource. “Service” is noted for its tree-lined streets and high branching canopy. As part of “Service’s” Master Plan section *Preservation of Vegetation and the Urban Forest*, we have outlined areas of importance to our tree resource. This includes

- Develop specific standards in the form of a development regulation to minimize tree clearing.
- Require new trees to be planted to replace those removed by construction activities.
- Require planting of native and well-adapted non-native species of trees and promote good installation practices.
- Request of the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee in an effort to map other significant tree resources in the township as resources permit.
- Maintain existing street trees along with other aspects of street infrastructure.
- Encourage citizens to replant street trees utilizing the Tree Remembrance Program or other means to raise public awareness of the need.
- Examine the feasibility of establishing a municipal tree farm for transplantation purposes.

Also part of the Master Plan, the Open Space Plan not only addresses new open space acquisitions and programs for open space preservation, but acquires land for open space that reduces the township’s vulnerability to certain hazards, such as flooding.

The latest addition to the Master Plan is the Tree Replacement Ordinance. Because Public Works and the Tree Committee were seeing members of the community illegally removing township trees, the township developed a detailed Tree Replacement Ordinance that requires tree replacement or levies fines against the homeowner. Before this ordinance took effect, we sent out notices in the local papers and online, sent letters to tree removal contractors and had public discussions at town council meetings. We

worked with Public Works and Community Development and have now had numerous successful fines levied against perpetrators who circumvent Public Works to remove a township tree. Recently there was an amendment to the Tree Ordinance that covers removal of private trees in compliance with NJDEP stormwater management. We are in the process of alerting the community about this new amendment.

In regard to Disaster Planning, the Township of “Service” Office of Emergency Management is the arm of our disaster planning for “Service”. We have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA in place as well as a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) group of trained volunteers. An Emergency Management Ordinance is being worked on and is estimated to be implemented in 6-12 months. Disasters that include downed trees are processed whereby Public Works is notified by citizens as well as police and notifications are logged and prioritized. The Tree Committee is then notified by the Public Works representative of the removals so that we can update our tree inventory accordingly.

The township has continued to provide tree recycling and composting services for the community. They provide curbside pickup of brush throughout the year and leaf collection in the fall. Additionally, residents are offered the opportunity to dispose of leaves and brush at the Township Composting Facility. Residents can also pick up free mulch at the recycling facility. The township also created a Municipal Quality Stormwater Ordinance that included yard waste collection specifying where and when yard waste may be placed at the curb.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM CAPACITY

a. Community Forestry Program Administration

Town Council

“Service Township” is run by a Council/Manager form of government. The Township Manager reports to the Township Council and the Mayor (who is a member of the Council). The Director of Public Works reports to the Township Manager. Responsibility for overseeing the management of the township’s trees rests with the Department of Public Works; Parks and Shade Tree Department. The Parks and Shade Tree Supervisor, David DeCredico, reports directly to Sam Hensen, Director of Public Works.

Tree Planting and Preservation Committee

In accordance with the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee Ordinance, Township Council appoints citizen volunteers to the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee (Tree Committee). The committee consists of seven regular members and one alternate member appointed for two-year terms, which are staggered so that at least three members’ terms expire on December 31 each year. The Tree Committee works directly with the Department of Public Works and the Township Manager on all matters relating to street and park trees in the township. The Committee also has a Town Council liaison who serves as an important connection to members of the municipal government. The Parks and Shade Tree Supervisor serves as an ex officio member of the Tree Committee.

Resident and Municipal Requests for Tree Service

When the “Service” Tree Committee or Public Works receives a request from a business, resident or municipal group, we have a member review the tree in question and bring it to the group at a monthly meeting for discussion. We also partner with Public Works representatives to again visit the tree to see if any action is warranted and how urgently. We also involve other committee’s representatives if necessary such as the “Service” Business Association and “Service” Appearance Committee. If a sidewalk has become hazardous due to roots, we will discuss with the homeowner if a new curved sidewalk is possible.

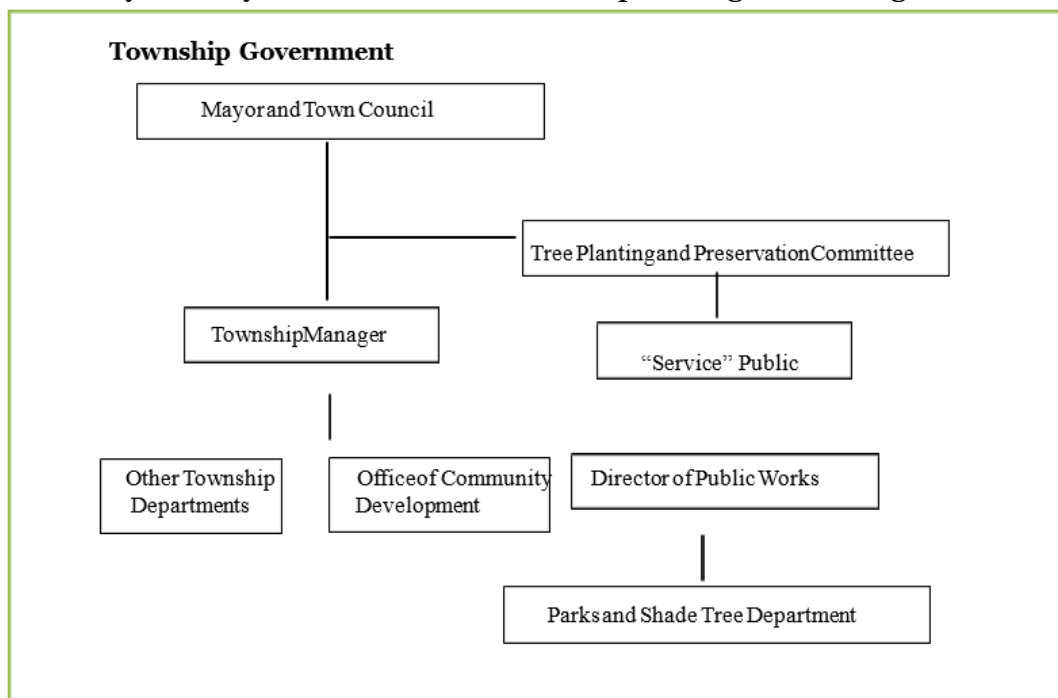
Although we are a Tree Planting and Preservation Committee, we work well with town council, the public and Public Works to ensure the safety and health of our tree resource. Along with Public Works, volunteers, and the public, we have a Licensed Tree Expert who goes into the community to review any trees that look in poor condition. At that time, he will assess whether or not they need immediate removal or can be put on a list for future removal. As well as working with Public Works on tree assessment, the Tree Committee helps with light pruning throughout the township on the right of ways and in parks throughout the late spring through early fall. This group of volunteers is

also another set of eyes when it comes to looking for decaying or dead trees in the community. They then relay this information to the Public Works shade tree team to assess.

Pruning before and after:



Trees in need of intense pruning or removal, are contracted out on an annual contract to a private tree care firm. Public Works performs some pruning, removals and all planting in-house. Committee members attend council meetings to update Council on municipal forestry management concerns or issues. Additionally, by taking an active role in the Township Manager's committee and board chairs' meetings, we hope to continue to keep community forestry issues at the forefront of planning and zoning board matters.



“SERVICE” TOWN COUNCIL

<i>Mayor</i>	Brian McDonald
<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	Michael Hart
<i>Members of Council</i>	Ryan Bellinger
	David DeCredico
	Grace Temple

“SERVICE TOWNSHIP” ADMINISTRATION

<i>Township Manager</i>	Cara Escalona
<i>Township Clerk</i>	Victoria Bec
<i>Finance Director</i>	Ezra Caspi
<i>Director of Community Dev.</i>	Anthony Burgos
<i>Director of Library</i>	Dylan Wiget
<i>Director of Parks and Recreation</i>	Chelsea Semper
<i>Director of Police</i>	William Zipse
<i>Director of Public Works</i>	Sam Hensen
<i>Municipal Court Administrator</i>	Terri Slack

TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman</i>	Patricia Shapella
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Mike Zsoldos
<i>Secretary</i>	Justin Gimmillaro
<i>Members</i>	Dominic Cappa
	Courtney Willet
	Delysse Leonard
	Jeremy Caggiano
	Lauren Siclare
<i>Public Works Representative</i>	Andrea Pfaff
<i>Town Council Representative</i>	Ben Pisano

Maintenance of township trees is handled by the Shade Tree Department within the Township Department of Public Works. The Shade Tree Department currently has one New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert, one senior tree climber, and one tree climber. The department is supplemented with additional part time assistance as needed. The township recognizes the importance of a program of regular maintenance and care for our public trees, supplementing the Shade Tree Crew's work with outside contractual services.

The Department of Public Works continues to visually inspect areas of the township on a periodic basis keeping written records of maintenance needs. Public Works also fields phone calls and emails from residents about trees in their neighborhood right-of-way that need to be inspected. Occasionally, if we have an abundance of trees to plant or remove, we will contract with vendors. Otherwise, the Shade Tree Crew will take care of removals, trimming, elevating, stump removal and planting.

B. Partnerships

The Tree Committee coordinates and collaborates with other township departments, boards and committees as needed. The sharing of ideas, concerns and input is always beneficial to expand our knowledge of and deeper understand the needs of the community and how we can better serve them. The Tree Committee has worked with the Planning Board and the Public Works to review the Committee's updated "Recommended Trees for 'Service' Streets", a guide for the selection and planting of trees in new developments. The Tree Committee has also worked with the township's Appearance Committee on recommendations for plantings in the business district of the township and with the township's Environmental Advisory Committee as needed on their projects. The Tree Committee works annually with the "Service" Garden Club and the "Service" Improvement Association on the Arbor Day celebration. The Tree Committee is also working with a newly organized group to provide guidance and assistance to the Municipal Arboretum located at the Perkins Property on Kings Highway in "Service". Finally, the "Service" Tree Preservation Committee (along with the township's Community Forestry Management Plan) was instrumental in helping the Sustainable "Service" Committee achieve nine silver status certifications as well as acquire grants from the state. We also invite other board committee members to attend our meetings to discuss ideas and trade information. Organizations outside "Service" that we have partnered with include the "Community County" Bridge Commission, NJ Tree Foundation and the NJ State Forestry Department. Through our engagements with other organizations, we have also acquired trees including 20 trees from the "Community County" Bridge Commission, 10 trees from the NJ Tree Foundation and 500 trees annually to give to residents from the NJ State Forestry Department to name a few.

C. Training

The Township of “Service” requires a high degree of technical knowledge to manage its shade tree resources. The township invests annually to train volunteers on proper management, pruning and hazard identification of our shade tree population through attendance at the annual Shade Tree Federation Conference and training courses. Shade tree management training for shade tree volunteers, Tree Planting and Preservation Committee members and employees responsible for tree maintenance and/or oversight responsibilities will be continued. This will increase the overall level of knowledge and maximize the technical capabilities to make sound and effective decisions.

CURRENT CAPABILITIES:

The Shade Tree Department, a division of Public Works, has one Licensed Tree Expert and two CORE trained employees on staff. The Tree Preservation and Planting Committee has seven regular members and one alternate member. Five regular members have been CORE trained and just this year, two regular and one alternate members were also CORE trained at this year’s annual Shade Tree Convention. Every year members of the Tree Committee as well as employees of Public Works attend the Shade Tree Convention. Public Works continually receives CEUs to maintain their LTE status. We strive to allow all members of the Tree Committee to attend the convention if they are available.

TRAINING NEEDS:

1. An ongoing training program to maintain the necessary professional development for committee members and staff of shade tree management.
2. Core training for new Shade Tree Department workers if required and any new Tree Committee members.
3. Maintain all tree worker safety-training needs to include electrical hazards, chainsaw safety, traffic control, etc.
4. Training in proper pruning techniques for the tree pruning volunteers.

TRAINING SOURCES:

1. New Jersey Community Forestry Council’s training and accreditation program
2. Rutgers University-continuing education
3. New Shade Tree Federation conferences
4. Rutgers Cooperative Extension
5. In-house training workshops
6. Trade publication such as the Journal of Arboriculture, Tree Care Industry NAA, etc. Jersey
7. Other outside sources

“Service” has met the requirements of training of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council and state accreditation program and is committed to continue its level of participation in all available training sources. The Township of “Service” appropriates approximately \$2,200 annually for participation in CORE and Continuing Education Unit Training.

D. Budget

Numbers submitted are dollar totals for a five year period (per year in parentheses).

Statement of 5-year Tree Budget		CFMP Budget
Administrative	Municipal Salaries	\$1,308,570 (261,714)
	Fringe	
	Indirect Costs	\$6,000 (1,200)
	Volunteer Contribution (Rate can be found at www.independentsector.org)	\$100,000 (20,000)
	Other	\$35,000 (7,000)
UCF Stewardship	Planting	\$60,000 (12,000)
	Pruning, Removal, Stump Removal	\$550,000 (110,000)
	Insect/Disease Management	\$5,000 (1,000)
	Other	
Education and Outreach	Training and Education (Municipal/County Employee)	\$3,500 (700)
	Training and Education (Volunteer)	\$10,000 (2,000)
	Public Outreach	\$1,500 (300)
	Other	
Total		\$2,079,570 (415,914)

E. Equipment

The equipment “Service” uses for tree maintenance include one bucket truck, one chipper, one stump grinder, one watering truck and one Vermeer stand on skid steer. Other equipment includes multiple chain saws, hand equipment, PPE requirements such as helmets, chaps, tarsal covers, ear protection, etc. When needed, we also use a Knuckle bucket truck for picking up debris. Our current equipment needs have been met. In addition to equipment, the Shade Tree Department is requesting an additional employee for tree related maintenance.

Community Engagement and Well-Being

“Service” has a vibrant tree program as evidenced through the many ways we focus on preserving their wellbeing. From partnering with other township groups in the planting, funding and maintenance our trees; the addition of a new tree replacement ordinance that provides clear procedures and strict fines for the destruction of township trees; the use of state grants to plant and remove township trees, and numerous public outreach interactions including press releases, community social events and group discussions, “Service” knows its trees are beautiful as well as beneficial to our community. This management plan, created through a partnership by the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee, an LTE, and Public Works, strives to enact the township’s current and future goals by continuing to work with the town council, the public and other committees. In this way, the communication and coordination of goals and objectives can lead to a more robust management of our tree resource.

The Tree Committee holds numerous outreach events and hands out materials to the community. For example, the Tree Committee works annually with the “Service” Garden Club and the “Service” Improvement Association on the Arbor Day celebration. These annual successful Arbor Day celebrations have included local schools, township officials, including the Mayor and Town Council, organization representatives and community members. Local groups including scouts, student councils and Rotary Clubs have volunteered to help in making Arbor Day a highly successful event. For the town’s 25th year as a Tree City USA participant, we hosted the NJ State celebration of Arbor Day 2015 by planting 76 trees in Wesley park with the help of over 50 volunteers. Out of the 76 planted, whose varieties included hardy rubber, maackia, elm, linden and oak, all but five are still thriving. In addition, we hand out materials such as the memorial tree/tree remembrance trifold which are posted on the website and placed in churches throughout town. This program encourages individuals and groups to make a contribution honoring a special person or event. We also deliver door hangers to homeowners in the community to encourage tree planting in their right of way.

All tree planting along township rights-of-way and in parks is currently performed by township personnel. The exception is in the newly approved developments where tree planting is the developer’s responsibility. Road reconstruction projects are evaluated in the planning stages and necessary tree planting is done by township personnel at the completion of the road project.

Tree planting along county rights-of-way is not done by the county, because an agreement between the county and the township allows for the township to plant trees in County right-of-way, with the township assuming all liability, after approval of a site plan by the County Engineer.

The Public Works Department also maintains an active list of requests from residents for tree replacements in existing or new sites. Public Works uses inventory information and resident requests to determine planting locations for the next annual tree planting program in the spring. Using the inventory results, we will continue to target homeowners and send letters to residents encouraging them to partner with Public Works and assist with maintaining a tree planting on the right of way in front of their property. However, we realized this method did not work for the west end of town. Although Public Works engaged by sending flyers to residents in that area for trees, there was very little interest in accepting a tree and therefore, a lack of new plantings. The Tree Committee realized that not only were many residents renting the homes, but it was difficult to reach some of the owners of the property and there was confusion on whether or not the renter was allowed to plant a tree. Eventually, a member of the Tree Committee went out into the community and through her outreach, contacted renters, homeowners, and property owners and through her engagement, managed to get numerous trees planted in that section of town.

As noted before according to i-Tree, Service Township's trees are responsible for almost \$2 million in benefits including carbon dioxide uptake, storm water mitigation and air pollution removal. If we increase the canopy area 10% we would add an additional \$136k in tree benefits. These tree-related benefits are valuable to residents, justifying the need for resources to care for the Service Township urban forest.

Plan Implementation

A. Elements, Objectives and Action Items

Overall Program Goals

1. Create community engagement and support for our township's tree resource
2. Maintain and improve the health and vigor of our township trees
3. Educate volunteers and staff on tree maintenance through training and classes 4. Collaborate with government and non-government agencies to increase resources, cooperation and information.

Elements, Objectives, and Action Items

Element 1: Public Relations

Objective 1: To reach more residents and give them a deeper understanding of the economic and social value of trees and therefore partner in the protection of "Service's" trees.

Action Item:

- Host the annual Arbor Day Celebration.
- Continue to utilize Local Annual Festivals to increase citizen awareness including, "Service" Day in June, Sustainable "Service" Green Fair in September, and STES (Save The Environment of "Service") Fair in October, and
- Utilize more online resources to contact a wider audience

Objective 2: Create Social Media Presence for Tree Preservation Committee.

Action Item:

- Create easy to remember profile names and submit for committee review
- Once approved, create promotional materials for handing out at events
- Post schedule annually

Element 2: Health and Maintenance of Tree Canopy

Objective 1: To be vigilant and proactive regarding numerous attacks to our tree population from manmade as well as natural sources.

Action Item:

- Invasive Species Mitigation by continuing to survey the area for Spotted Lantern Fly invasions and also looks for diseased trees for removal to ensure safety
- Using press releases and information on our website to educate residents about EAB and other tree pests and diseases
- Continue to plant trees on township property and county roads within the township
- Continue volunteer-based light tree pruning of trees in the right-of-way
- Continue to update the tree inventory with planting and removals

Element 3: Training of Volunteers

Objective 1: To ensure our team is up-to-date on the latest information and techniques on tree maintenance.

Action Item:

- Ensure all committee members become CORE trained
- Send Tree Committee members to training and educational programs, for example, NJUCF seminars/webinars and NJ Rutgers Continuing Education School in Landscaping, that includes pruning and hazardous tree courses
- Send Public Works and Tree Committee members to the annual Shade Tree Federation Conference
- Tree Committee members who have taken pruning courses are leading other volunteers out into the community to lightly prune township trees to create a healthier tree population

Element 4: Township Engagement

Objective 1: To work with other committees, township government, and contractors to enhance and encourage coordination with the Tree Committee pertaining to our tree resource.

Action Item:

- Work with Planning Board to learn of commercial/residential developments in “Service” and how we can be effective participants in the selection of trees for those developments
- Continued cooperation with the Sustainable “Service” Committee to encourage the use of trees in shaping sustainable urban environments.

Element 5: Disaster Planning

Objective 1: Work with Township Office of Emergency Management to ensure Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed and updated if necessary

- Action Item:*
- Email contact at Office of Emergency Management for status of township disaster plan
 - Continue and possibly increase reviewing township trees for possible hazards (poor planting, infestation, poor plant structure, etc.) by volunteers who took hazardous tree course

B. Activity Schedule

Ongoing Tree Committee activities:

1. Continue to train members of the Tree Committee and volunteers on pruning and hazardous tree identification.
2. Archive Tree Committee records by scanning agendas and minutes in a searchable format.
3. Ensure new plantings and removals have been added to tree inventory.
4. Ensure CORE training of new members and continued training at annual Shade Tree Federation Conference in October.
5. Coordinate annual Arbor Day celebration.
6. Continue tree removals and plantings throughout township properties.

2025

Public Relations

1. Develop program for Arbor Day to include schools and other local organizations, especially the Arboretum.
2. Create a database of local landscapers/tree companies.
3. Contact chairpersons of “Service” Day to secure space for the Tree Committee at their annual festival.
4. Create table/display for these festivals and assign volunteers to discuss with the public the need for a healthy tree population, EAB awareness, volcano mulching and other green initiatives.
5. Develop an educational tri-fold on the socio-economic benefits of trees for distribution to the public.
6. Provide township’s Facebook page owner information on Tree Committee activities i.e. pruning, EAB info, volcano mulching.
7. Update and maintain Tree Committee Facebook page.
8. Review what additional tree related information should be included on the township website.
9. Develop an email list of those residents interested in tree issues with a signup sheet at local festivals.
10. Submit quarterly educational articles to the township newsletter, online publications and “Service” Sun newspaper.

Health and Maintenance of Tree Canopy

1. Go into 5 new developments recently built in “Service” and note tree species, health, etc. for inventory records.
2. Beaver proof our trees at Straw Lake by putting wire around the trunk.
3. Develop news articles to inform residents of new tree ordinance and penalties that they could incur.

4. Provide residents who have newly planted trees in their right-of-way with care instructions.
5. Send site plan to County Engineer for approval of planting sites on County Roads, upon approval, plant trees during Spring planting.
6. Perform volunteer-based light pruning from May to October to keep sidewalks and road signs unobstructed.
7. Include trees to never plant in “Service’s” Recommended Street Trees guide.

Training

1. Send another Tree Committee member to a pruning course.
2. Send one Tree Committee member to Rutgers Hazardous Tree Identification course.
3. Send representatives to the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference.
4. Utilize Google Drive to have a repository that Tree Committee members can access key documents, minutes, events and information.

Township Engagement

1. Inform residents of the Tree Remembrance Program and Planting of Memorial Trees Policy.
2. Investigate feasibility of a formal review process with planning and zoning boards to have a greater input in construction projects throughout town.
3. Increase tree pruning volunteers.
4. Put tree planting request button on the Public Works website for residents to ask for a tree in their right of way.

Tree Ordinance and Information

1. Contact tree companies to alert them of new tree ordinance amendment regarding limit on removal of trees on private property.
2. Enforce new tree ordinance.
3. Alert public regarding new information about private trees and compliance with NJDEP stormwater management.

2026

Public Relations

1. Enhance our use of social media by linking tree related information into the Facebook page of the township.
2. Identify specific location of trees for photos to be used in tree directory.
3. Research tags for trees that can be scanned by phone for species information.

4. Create this year's display for annual festivals and secure a booth for the Tree Committee.
5. Submit quarterly educational articles to the township newsletter, online publications and "Service" Sun newspaper-Public Relations responsible.
6. Coordinate annual Arbor Day celebration.
7. Reach out to elementary school teachers on the feasibility of teaching students about trees and their benefits.
8. Develop a list of tree species to include in tree directory.

Health and Maintenance of Tree Canopy

1. Mass mailing to residents asking them to volunteer to maintain a tree in their right-of-way.
2. Continue to use social media to inform residents about tree pests.
3. Review i-Tree Storm for its applicability.
4. Review remaining ash trees for condition and report to Public Works.

Training

1. Send volunteer to Rutgers hazardous tree or tree pruning course.
2. Send representatives to the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference.

Township Engagement

1. Increase communication and sharing of information between Township Landscape Architect and Tree Planting and Preservation Committee.
2. If determined feasible, develop procedures for review of Planning and Zoning Board cases.

2027

Public Relations

1. Take photos of trees for tree directory.
2. Create this year's display for annual festivals and secure booth for Tree Committee.
3. Appoint one member as liaison between our group and other community groups such as Open Space, Appearance, Planning and Zoning, etc. to better foster cross communication on projects that we may share a common interest.
4. Submit quarterly educational articles to the township newsletter, online publications, and "Service" Sun newspaper.
5. Coordinate annual Arbor Day celebration.
6. Start to discuss ways to invite the public on a tree walk to view our township's most interesting species.
7. Choose interesting species of trees throughout town for informational tags.

Training

1. Send representatives to the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference.

Health and Maintenance of Tree Canopy

1. Utilize i-Tree Storm to determine pre-storm sample if appropriate.
2. Continue to evaluate effectiveness of EAB management and treatment plan.
3. Have volunteers who have been trained in hazardous trees course review (drive by) township trees and make notations to update tree inventory.

2028

Public Relations

1. Start to revise and draft next five year management plan.
2. Gather information for tree directory.
3. Create this year's display for annual festivals and secure booth for Tree Committee.
4. Submit quarterly educational articles to the township newsletter, online publications, and "Service" Sun newspaper.
5. Coordinate annual Arbor Day celebration.
6. Review township's "Planting Street Trees" Guide for any changes or updates.
7. Set up a program to annually go into local elementary schools and discuss the significance and relevance of our tree resource.
8. Finish tree tagging operation.

Health and Maintenance of Tree Canopy

1. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of EAB mitigation and treatment program.
2. Look into options for tree of heaven eradication.
3. Have volunteers who have been trained in hazardous trees course review (drive by) township trees and make notations to update tree inventory.

Training

1. Send volunteer to Rutgers hazardous tree or tree pruning course.
2. Send representatives to the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference.

2029

Public Relations

1. Publish tree directory.
2. Create this year's display for annual festivals and secure booth for the Tree Committee.
3. Submit next five year management plan.

4. Submit quarterly educational articles to the township newsletter, online publications, and "Service" Sun newspaper- Public Relations responsible.
5. Coordinate annual Arbor Day celebration.

Training

1. Send volunteer to Rutgers hazardous tree or tree pruning course.
2. Send representatives to the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference.

Exhibits

1. Township Preservation and Restoration of Existing Vegetation p. 41
2. “Service” Ordinance p. 53
3. Article 1 p. 54
4. Map of Parks and Open Spaces p. 55
5. Land Use Map p. 56
6. Tree Survey Map p. 57
7. Arbor Day Proclamation p. 58
8. Article 2 p. 59
9. Township Website/Tree Committee Page p. 61
10. Tree Remembrance Trifold p. 62

Township Preservation and Restoration of Existing Vegetation

Chapter 160

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF EXISTING VEGETATION¹

§ 160-1.	Legislative intent.	§ 160-6.	Replacement trees.
§ 160-2.	Definitions.	§ 160-7.	Transplanting existing trees and shrubs.
§ 160-3.	Applicability; preservation of existing vegetation.	§ 160-8.	Tree replacement alternatives.
§ 160-3.1.	Prohibited acts; stop-work orders.	§ 160-9.	Permit approval.
§ 160-3.2.	Emergencies; hazardous trees.	§ 160-9.1.	Fees.
§ 160-4.	Detailed requirements for site plans and subdivisions.	§ 160-10.	Duration of permits.
§ 160-5.	Protection of preserved vegetation and root zones from construction.	§ 160-11.	Exemptions.
		§ 160-12.	Violations and penalties.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Township Council of the Township of _____ 6-10-2002 by Ord. No. 2000-02. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Subdivision of land — See Ch. 158.

Zoning — See Ch. 180.

§ 160-1. Legislative intent.

- A. It is recognized that there is a strong relationship between _____ quality of life and the integrity of the region's water quality, air quality, indigenous landscape and aesthetic amenities.
- B. Destruction of _____ existing trees, woodlands, forests, meadows and other native natural plant associations contributes to increased soil erosion and sedimentation, increased stormwater runoff which results in increased costs to control runoff, decreased water quality, decreased groundwater recharge, increased greenhouse effects, increased dust and decreased property values. The appropriate management and use of existing vegetation resources are an important health, safety and welfare concern as per N.J.S.A. 40:48-2. [Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]
- C. Therefore, it is the intent of these regulations to protect and preserve the air, water, indigenous landscape and aesthetic quality of _____ Township by reducing the removal of trees, forests and woodlands and to restore trees when tree removal is necessary as part of land development or subdivision.
- D. Specifically it is the intent of the regulations to:

1. Editor's Note: Former Ch. 160, Sump Pump Disconnections, Art. I, Municipal Improvement Projects, adopted 5-23-1988 by Ord. No. 1416, as amended, was recodified as Ch. 155, Streets and Sidewalks, Art. IV, Sump Pump Connections to Stormwater Systems, 12-11-1989 by Ord. No. 1504-89. Former Ch. 160, Sump Pump Disconnections, Art. II, Sale or Transfer of Property, adopted 8-8-1988 by Ord. No. 1419, as amended, was repealed 12-11-1989 by Ord. No. 1504-89.

- (1) Reduce soil erosion and protect surface water quality by minimizing soil and tree root disturbance in existing woodlands, around tree masses or under individual trees.
- (2) Reduce stormwater runoff, velocity and volume by retaining woodland and forest areas where stormwater can infiltrate easily.
- (3) Increase groundwater recharge by retaining woodland areas where stormwater can infiltrate easily.
- (4) Improve air quality by conserving existing trees and other mature vegetation which produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- (5) Protect wildlife habitat.
- (6) Retain existing trees to provide wind breaks, shade and other microclimate benefits.
- (7) Retain trees and woodlands that are important to the history or beauty of Moorestown.
- (8) Preserve and enhance property values by retaining and properly protecting existing trees.
- (9) Replace trees removed for land development.
- (10) Identify trees for protection and to provide guidance for their protection and/or replacement. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (11) Preserve and protect all trees within the Township, including those located within Township-owned properties and rights-of-way. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (12) Clearly set forth prohibited actions, and define penalties for prohibited actions. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (13) Establish a uniform standard for assessing the replacement costs for unauthorized removal, damage or destruction by private parties to trees. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (14) Standardize and simplify procedures for receiving, reviewing, approving/denying applications to plant, maintain, remove or replace trees. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (15) Establish a permit fee of \$25 for administering permits required under this chapter. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

§ 160-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

AREA OF DEVELOPMENT — The portion of a lot or tract which is not specifically excluded from development by any federal, state, county or municipal law or ordinance. For purposes of this chapter, those lands specifically eliminated from consideration as areas of development include, but are not limited to, wetlands as defined by N.J.S.A. 12:9B-1 et seq., and stream corridors as defined in § 180-2. The area of development shall include setback, yard and buffer areas as prescribed in the Subdivision² or Zoning Ordinances,³ wetlands transition areas, and any areas covered by deed restrictions or covenants. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**

2. Editor's Note: See Ch. 158, Subdivision of Land.

3. Editor's Note: See Ch. 180, Zoning.

CALIPER — Standard measure of tree size for trees to be newly planted. The measurement is taken six inches above the ground level for trees four inches in diameter or less and 12 inches above the ground for trees over four inches in diameter.

CROWN — That portion of the tree comprised of branches.

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH) — Diameter of a tree measured 4 1/2 feet or 42 inches (forestry method) above the ground level on the downhill side for existing trees. Diameter at breast height may appear as the abbreviation "DBH." **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

DRIPLINE — A limiting line established on the ground by a series of perpendicular drop points marking the maximum radius of the crown of an existing tree, but not less than six feet from the trunk, whichever is greater.

ISA (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE) RISK ASSESSMENT — An industry standard for determining the risk a hazardous tree presents. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

MINIMIZE — To reduce to the smallest extent possible, given the allowed development. Minimize does not mean to "eliminate" but rather that the most substantial efforts possible under the circumstances have been taken to reduce the adverse effect of the proposed action (such as grading, clearing, building, etc.).

MULTISTEM TREES — Trees having two or more main stems arising from the roots or main trunk not more than six inches above the ground level. Measurement of multistem trees shall be the average DBH of all stems.

PERFORMANCE BOND — A sum paid by a person seeking to plant, maintain, remove or replace trees to guarantee that said person will perform the work in accordance with the permit and related documentation. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

PRESERVATION AREA — The area surrounding a Township tree, wherein its roots grow; generally, encompassing the area beneath its crown and such area whose regulation is necessary and appropriate to the health and maintenance of the tree. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

PRIVATELY OWNED TREE — Any tree located on privately owned property as designated on a map or plan filed with the Burlington County Clerk's office or on the Official Tax Map of the Township of **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

REPLACEMENT TREE — A nursery-grown certified tree, properly balled, marked with a durable label indicating genus, species and variety, and satisfying the standards established for nursery stock and installation thereof, set forth by the American Association of Nurseryman (AAN).

SIGNIFICANT EXISTING TREES — Healthy trees, as set forth in § 160-6. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

STEEP SLOPES — Slopes 15% or greater.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY — Lands which are owned by the Township of _____ or are within the right-of-way (ROW) of the Township's streets, highways (especially the area between the curbing and sidewalk), open space or under the control of the Township of Moorestown. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

TOWNSHIP TREE — Any tree situated on Township property or within the right-of-way as designated on a map or plan filed with the Burlington County Clerk's office or on the Official Tax Map of the Township of **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

TREE — Any self-supporting woody plant which reaches a typical minimum height of 12 feet or more at maturity with a distinct trunk and crown.

TREE BANK — The account for funds collected from an applicant in lieu of planting replacement trees. This fund has been established by the Township for administering, protecting, preserving, maintaining and replacing trees and encouraging best preservation practices as may be consistent with the Act and Community Stewardship Incentive Program as outlined in N.J.S.A. 13:1L-17.1. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

TREE CANOPY AREA — The ground area encompassed to the dripline of trees, tree masses or woodlands.

TREE COMMITTEE — The _____ Tree Planting and Preservation Committee. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

TREE MASS — A grouping of three or more trees whose canopies intertwine.

TREE REPLACEMENT ASSESSMENT — The amount paid by a person who removes, damages or destroys a Township tree without approval. (See § 160-6E.) **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

TRUNK — That portion of a stem or stems of a tree before branching.

TRUNK FLARE — The point of intersection between the tree roots and the tree trunk. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

WOODLAND — A plant community dominated by trees and other woody plants covering at least 10,000 square feet and containing a minimum of 100 trees with at least 50% of those trees having a two-inch DBH or greater.

§ 160-3. Applicability; preservation of existing vegetation.

- A. No significant existing tree in the Township of _____ shall be cut or otherwise removed unless done in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Certain exemptions are allowed under § 160-11 of this chapter.
- B. All subdivisions, site plans and any other land development shall be laid out in such a manner as to minimize the removal of or damage to healthy trees, shrubs and significant vegetation either on or off-site including but not limited to street trees, significant free-standing trees, tree masses, woodlands and forests.

§ 160-3.1. Prohibited acts; stop-work orders. [Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]

- A. No person, firm or corporation shall do, or cause to be done, any of the following acts with regard to Township trees without authorization obtained pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
 - (1) Cut, girdle, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of or otherwise injure, or remove any living Township tree; or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect a Township tree.
 - (2) Fasten any rope, wire, electrical attachment, sign or other device to a Township tree.
 - (3) Close or obstruct the preservation area around the base of any Township tree, including, but not limited to, excessive amounts of or improperly applied mulch.
 - (4) Close or obstruct Township property so as to prevent the planting of a Township tree if the Township property otherwise would be appropriate for such planting.
- B. The Township of _____ Department of Public Works or other Township designee may issue a

stop-work order for any of the above prohibitions. The order shall remain in effect until the Township issues a permit for said work. Exemptions to these prohibitions are covered in § 160-11.

§ 160-3.2. Emergencies; hazardous trees. [Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]

In case of emergencies, such as hurricanes, fire, windstorm, ice storm, flood, freezing temperatures or other disaster, or in the case of dead or diseased trees that pose an imminent threat to the safety of persons or property, the requirements of the regulations set forth in this chapter may be waived by the Department of Public Works or its designee upon determining that such waiver is necessary to remove the threat in order to protect public health and safety.

§ 160-4. Detailed requirements for site plans and subdivisions.

A. Tree inventory. A tree inventory shall be shown on the existing conditions or landscape plan according to the following:

- (1) The location, elevation, relative health and species of all significant trees on site. Within woodland areas, the number of significant trees may be approximated using the forest density survey method. This shall be done by a certified tree expert, a N.J. certified forester or other tree expert acceptable to the Department of Community Development. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**
- (2) All significant off-site trees, whose dripline is within 25 feet of proposed construction, shall be inventoried and shown on the plan. The inventory shall show approximate location, elevation, species and relative health of each significant tree.
- (3) The extent of the existing tree canopy area from individual trees, tree masses and woodlands on-site, and the approximate extent of the existing tree canopy from individual trees, tree masses and woodlands within 25 feet of proposed construction off-site, shall be shown.
- (4) Existing trees, tree masses and woodland areas shall be designated either to remain or to be removed on the landscape plan and soil erosion control plan. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**

B. Minimize removal of existing trees. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**

- (1) It shall be incumbent on the applicant to prove that removal of existing significant trees is minimized given the allowed development. If challenged by the Department of Public Works or its designee, the professional landscape architect, the applicant shall produce evidence such as testimony, written documents or plans certified by a landscape architect, arborist, or other qualified professional showing that no reasonable alternative layouts are possible and that no reasonable alternative clearing or grading plan would reduce the loss of significant trees given the proposed development. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- (2) No more than 60% of the overall existing tree canopy area in the area of development, as defined herein, shall be removed. Existing tree canopy comprised of the 40% minimum canopy area to be retained, plus any significant trees that may be in addition to the 40% minimum canopy area, shall be noted for preservation. The predevelopment and post development tree canopy areas shall be noted on the landscape plan.
- (3) In addition, no more than 10% of the significant existing trees, as defined herein, within the area of development shall be removed unless the applicant shall replace trees in accordance with

Table 1⁴ herein. A schedule showing the quantities of significant existing trees to be removed and replacement trees shall be shown on the landscape plan. For wooded areas, tree replacement will be based on the forest survey projection of average trees per acre.

- (4) Any tree, tree mass, woodland area, or other plants may be considered to remain only if either of the following criteria are met:
 - (a) The tree, tree mass, woodland area or other plants designated to remain appear in relative good health, the driplines are at least one foot from any proposed grading, construction of any kind, including installation of utilities, and the plant(s) do not obstruct any sight triangles, and do not by their apparent health, natural habit or location pose an undue threat to the general health, safety or welfare of the community; or
 - (b) Within the drip line area or within one foot of the dripline, grading and installation of utilities, driveways, parking areas and sidewalks may occur, provided that the applicant's landscape architect, arborist, engineer or other qualified professional provides testimony and/or a drawing that by using innovative techniques the existing tree, tree mass, or woodland area proposed to remain will not be severely injured by the proposed development.

§ 160-5. Protection of preserved vegetation and root zones from construction.

- A. Vegetation designated to remain shall be protected by a temporary fence at least four feet in height, such as a wooden snow fence or orange construction fence.
- B. The location of this fence shall be shown on the soil erosion control plan, demolition plan (if applicable), grading plan and the landscape plan.
- C. The fence shall be placed a minimum of one foot outside the dripline of the protected vegetation, or closer if Subsection B(4)(b) above is applicable, but no closer than six feet to the trunk. Chain link fencing may be required for vegetation protection if warranted by site conditions and/or rarity of the vegetation.
- D. If a tree or area of existing vegetation is proposed to remain and is within the limit of disturbance, then the fence shall completely encircle the tree or vegetation.
- E. If the tree or area of existing vegetation is proposed to remain and is beyond the limit of disturbance, then the fence shall be placed between the vegetation and the construction.
- F. A detail of the fence shall be shown on the plan labeling materials, sizes, and placement. The detail shall note that there shall be no construction, grading, trenching, storing or stockpiling of materials, dumping, vehicular traffic or parking of any kind within the fenced area.
- G. The fence shall be erected prior to major clearing or construction and shall remain in place until construction is complete. This shall be noted in the construction sequence of the soil erosion control plan. The fence shall be placed to prevent construction, grading, trenching, storing or stockpiling of materials, dumping, vehicular traffic or parking of any kind within the fenced area. The fenced area shall be posted "TREE PROTECTION ZONE--KEEP OUT."
- H. Significant trees located off site and whose dripline is within 25 feet of any proposed construction activities shall be protected by the fence when required by the Department of Community

4. Editor's Note: Table 1 is included in § 160-6A.

Development.

- I. Removal of the fence, or disturbance within the fenced area, except as noted below shall be subject to penalties outlined in § 180-116.
 - (1) The fence may be removed and construction or removal of vegetation performed if there is an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of the community. The Department of Community Development will be notified as soon as possible if this is required.
 - (2) The Department of Community Development has been given a written explanation of the need for construction or vegetation removal within the fenced area and has issued a letter of consent. When work within the dripline is necessary the following is to be adhered to:
 - (a) The grade of the land located within the driplines shall not be raised or lowered.
 - (b) No construction, grading, trenching, storing or stockpiling of materials, dumping, vehicular traffic or parking of any kind shall be permitted within the dripline or within six feet of any remaining trees, whichever is greater.
 - (c) Any clearing within the dripline, or within six feet of the trunk of a remaining tree, whichever is greater, shall be done by hand-operated equipment.
 - (3) Remedies for damage done within the tree protection zone shall include aeration, mulching, and if necessary, tree or plant replacement as determined by the Department of Community Development depending on the amount of damage done.
 - (4) Any significant tree which is seriously injured or removed without proper approvals from the affected areas, shall be replaced to the satisfaction of the Department of Community Development according to Table 1 below. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**
- J. Resource conservation standards for site preparation and cleanup. **[Added 9-22-2008 by Ord. No. 22-2008]**
 - (1) Protection of vegetation from mechanical injury. Where earthwork, grading, or construction activities will take place in or adjacent to woodlands, old fields or other significant vegetation or site features, the Planning Board shall require that the limit of disturbance be delineated and vegetation protected through installation of temporary fencing or other approved measures. Such fencing shall be installed prior to commencing of and shall be maintained throughout the period of construction activity.
 - (2) Protection of vegetation from grading change. Grade changes to occur at any location of the property shall not result in an alteration to soil or drainage conditions which would adversely affect existing vegetation to be retained following site disturbance, unless adequate provisions are made to protect such vegetation and its root systems.
 - (3) Protection of vegetation from excavations.
 - (a) When digging trenches for utility lines or similar uses, disturbances to the root zones of all woody vegetation shall be minimized.
 - (b) If trenches must be excavated in the root zone, all disturbed roots shall be cut as cleanly as possible. The trench shall be backfilled as quickly as possible and the area shall be revegetated with native species if the plants are destroyed.

(4) Protection of topsoil.

- (a) No topsoil shall be removed from the site.
- (b) Prior to grading operations or excavation, topsoil in the area to be disturbed shall be removed and stored on site.
- (c) Topsoil disturbed or moved on site shall be redistributed and stabilized immediately in primary and secondary conservation areas and within seven days in all other areas following the establishment of required grades for a project or project phase. All exposed earth surfaces shall be stabilized by hydroseeding on slopes of less than 10%, and by sodding, hydroseeding, or rip-rap on slopes exceeding 10%.
- (d) Grading and earthmoving operations shall be scheduled to minimize site disturbance during the period from November 1 to April 1, when revegetation of exposed ground is difficult.

§ 160-6. Replacement trees. [Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]

- A. Trees on property that require land development approval: Table 1. The number of replacement trees shown below are for trees on property that require land development approval for which a permit has been issued.

DBH of Removed Tree (inches)	Number of Replacements
12 to 18	1
Greater than 18 to 24	2
Greater than 24 to 30	3
Greater than 30 to 36	4
Greater than 36 to 40	5
Greater than 40	7

- B. Township trees: Table 2. The number of replacement trees shown below are for Township trees for which a permit has been issued. Due to the added benefits to the community as a whole, a smaller DBH range for Township trees is reasonable and necessary.

DBH Range (inches)	Number of Replacements
2.5 to 5	1
6 to 12	2
13 to 18	3
19 to 24	4
25 to 36	5
37 to 45	6

DBH Range (inches)	Number of Replacements
46 or more	7

- C. Replacement trees shall be nursery grown and comply with the AAN standards for nursery stock. Caliper shall be 1.75 inches to 2.5 inches.
- D. Replacement trees may be used anywhere on site, unless explicitly prohibited by law. However, the provisions of this chapter do not supersede an applicant's responsibility(ies) for street trees, as set forth and required under § 158-26B and C. The following may be considered as replacement trees, subject to approval by the Department of Public Works or its designee:
 - (1) Trees planted to meet requirements of other provisions (e.g., in buffer areas) of the Code of the Township of Moorestown.
 - (2) Trees planted as part of a reforestation plan for previously cleared areas of the site.
 - (3) Trees planted in a bioretention stormwater management basin.
- E. If the required replacement trees cannot be planted on the site because of practical physical difficulties or environmental constraints, a fee in lieu of tree replacement may be contributed into the tree bank in accordance with § 160-8B.

§ 160-7. Transplanting existing trees and shrubs.

Existing trees and shrubs on a site may be transplanted and used to fulfill other planting requirements such as buffers or street trees, if the following requirements are met:

- A. The tree or shrub meets the minimum standards required for that particular landscape requirement.
- B. The tree or shrub conforms to the minimum requirements for that species as outlined in the AAN standards for nursery stock.
- C. The tree or shrub will be transplanted when dormant if deciduous, or during the spring for evergreens, and shall be replanted and thoroughly watered within 24 hours of digging.
- D. A performance guarantee shall be submitted to guarantee survival of the transplanted material for three full growing seasons.
- E. All planting, transplanting, or any action affecting a Township tree, after obtaining the appropriate permit, shall meet and comply with the following standards: **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
 - (1) All nursery stock used for planting on Township property shall comply with ANSI Z-60.1, as amended, American Standard for Nursery Stock.
 - (2) All Township tree transplanting shall comply with ANSI A300 (Part 6) 2012, Planting and Transplanting.
 - (3) All Township tree trimming shall conform to ANSI A300 (Part I) 2008, Pruning.

§ 160-8. Tree replacement alternatives. [Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]

- A. All required replacement trees shall be planted on the site from which the trees were removed. Relief

from any portion or all of the on-site tree replacement requirement may be granted by the Department of Public Works or its designee. Any relief shall be based upon practical physical difficulties, environmental constraints, and undue hardship related to conditions of the site from which the trees are to be removed. The Department of Public Works or its designee shall solicit the comments and recommendations of the Township Engineer and landscape consultant in determining whether the relief requested by the applicant should be granted.

- B. In lieu of planting replacement trees, the applicant may be permitted to make a monetary contribution to the tree bank. The amount of the contribution shall be \$350 for each tree required for each replacement tree in accordance with § 160-6, Tables 1 and 2,⁵ herein, and shall be submitted to the Department of Public Works or its designee prior to cutting any trees or the issuance of a zoning permit, whichever occurs first.
- C. The cost of replacement trees shall not exceed 5% of the project cost (including but not limited to buildings, structures and site improvements), as determined by the Township Engineer. For determining the cost of replacement trees, the actual replacement cost or \$350 per tree, whichever is less, shall be used. All costs shall be adjusted every three years after in accordance with the federally regulated cost of living index.
- D. All funds collected from an applicant as a contribution in lieu of replanting trees shall be deposited in a dedicated account clearly designated as the Township tree Bank. All funds so deposited shall be used exclusively for the planting or maintenance of trees. This bank may be used to plant trees on public property and rights-of-way, including but not limited to public parks, public schools and public buildings. A quarterly report, detailing the expenditure of any of the funds, shall be submitted to the Township Council by the Chief Financial Officer.

§ 160-9. Permit approval.

- A. A tree removal permit is required from the Department of Community Development for removal of any significant tree as regulated in this chapter. Review and issuance of said permit shall be based on the standards in § 160-4 through § 160-8 above. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02]**
- B. Where the permit application is submitted as part of an application for development, the time for decision on the application shall be governed by the requirements applicable under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.
- C. Where the permit application is not submitted as part of an application for development, a decision on the application shall be made within 60 days of the receipt of a complete application, or within such additional time as is agreed to by the applicant.
- D. No action shall be taken on any significant existing tree until written authorization is received from the Department of Public Works or its designee and a permit issued. If permission is granted to remove said tree, the property owner may be responsible for a tree replacement in addition to paying for the cost of removing the permitted tree (e.g., removing a perfectly good tree to install a driveway). See § 160-6A and B for Tree Replacement Tables. **[Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

§ 160-9.1. Fees. [Added 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]

- A. An administrative fee of \$25 will be required upon issuance of a permit for the above approvals.

⁵ Editor's Note: Tables 1 and 2 are included in § 160-6A and B.

- B. All fees collected for tree assessment replacement will be collected by the Department of Public Works or its designee, deposited into the Tree Bank account and maintained by the Township Finance office.

§ 160-10. Duration of permits.

- A. If granted for a lot or parcel of land for which no building permit is required, the tree removal permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- B. If granted for a lot or parcel of land for which a building permit is required, but for which no approval is required from the municipal agency, the tree removal permit shall be valid until an expiration of the building permit.
- C. If granted for a lot or parcel of land for which an approval is required from the municipal agency, the tree removal permit shall be valid for as long as the approval is valid pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.
- D. Once a tree removal permit expires, a new application must be submitted for review and new permit issued.

§ 160-11. Exemptions.

The following shall be exempt from this chapter

- A. All lot owners, on properties that require land development approval, may remove two significant privately owned trees per year per acre of the lot. **[Amended 6-24-2002 by Ord. No. 2006-02; 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- B. Lots containing single-family or two-family dwellings and vacant lots zoned for same, where the lot area is less than twice the required minimum lot area for the zone in which the lot is located.
- C. Trees directed to be removed by municipal, county, state or federal authority pursuant to law.
- D. Removal of trees which are dead, dying or diseased, trees which have suffered damage or any tree whose angle of growth makes it a hazard to structures, roads or human life.
- E. Removal of trees which are causing structural damage to buildings, foundations of structures, or public water and/or sewer infrastructure. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- F. Pruning of or removal of trees within the right-of-way by utility companies for maintenance of utility wires or pipelines, the pruning of trees within sight easements, and Township trees which are obstructing the sidewalk. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**
- G. Developments that have received preliminary or final approval within three years prior to the effective date of this chapter, unless a substantial change in the development occurs requiring a revised preliminary approval.
- H. Tree nurseries, orchards and properties with a state-approved forest management plan.
- I. Cemeteries.

§ 160-12. Violations and penalties.

- A. Penalties. **[Amended 4-23-2018 by Ord. No. 3-2018]**

- (1) Any person that shall violate any provision of this chapter or do any act or thing therein prohibited or refuse or fail to do any act or thing therein required to be done or refuse or fail to comply with an order of the Department of Public Works or its designee, shall, upon conviction thereof before any judicial officer authorized to hear and determine the matter, forfeit and pay such fine not exceeding the sum of \$1,500 as shall be imposed by such judicial officer in his discretion and if the party so convicted is a natural person, shall be sentenced to perform a maximum of 90 hours of community service or both, as in his discretion, shall be determined, not exceeding the maximum limits hereinbefore fixed.
 - (2) In addition to the above, the violator may also be required to bear the costs of correcting such violation(s) in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:64-12. Condition, location and variety of trees removed shall aid in the determination.
- B. Every day such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate and independent violation of this chapter.

“Service” Ordinance

TOWNSHIP OF

ORDINANCE NO. 13-2024

AMENDING CHAPTER 160 ENTITLED “PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF EXISTING VEGETATION” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TO MAKE THE ORDINANCE LANGUAGE CONSISTENT WITH STATE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, as part of the MS4 Tier A permit stormwater requirements, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires municipalities to adopt an ordinance in conformance with its model ordinance regulating the removal and replacement of trees on all privately-owned properties; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has reviewed the Township’s ordinance and has found same to be in substantial conformance with its “model ordinance” with one exception; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Community Development has recommended that Chapter 160, Section 11 be amended as recommended by the NJDEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of _____ the County of _____ State of New Jersey, that Chapter 160 entitled “Preservation and Restoration of Existing Vegetation” be amended, as follows:

Section 1. Section 160-11 Exemptions shall be amended to delete Paragraph B and replace same as follows:

~~B. — Lots containing single family or two family dwellings and vacant lots zoned for same, where the lot area is less than twice the required minimum lot areas for the zoning in which the lot is located.~~

B. Residents who remove less than four (4) trees per acre that have a DBH of 36” or less within a five-year period. The number of trees is a rolling count across a five-year period.

Section 2. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency only.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 20 days after passage.

Section 6. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as Ordinance 13-2024.

Article 1

[Community Corner](#)

How To Get Free Tree Seedlings In

5 seedlings per household will be given as part of NJ's effort to restore trees damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy.



Josh Bakan, Patch Staff

Posted Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 3:36 pm ET | Updated Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 4:21 pm ET



Communities throughout New Jersey will give away five free bare root tree seedlings to e interested state resident to celebrate Arbor Day. (Shutterstock)

NJ — Communities throughout New Jersey, including Moorestown, will give away five free bare root tree seedlings to each household to celebrate Arbor Day.

The New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign assists communities in the restoration of the tree canopy damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy.

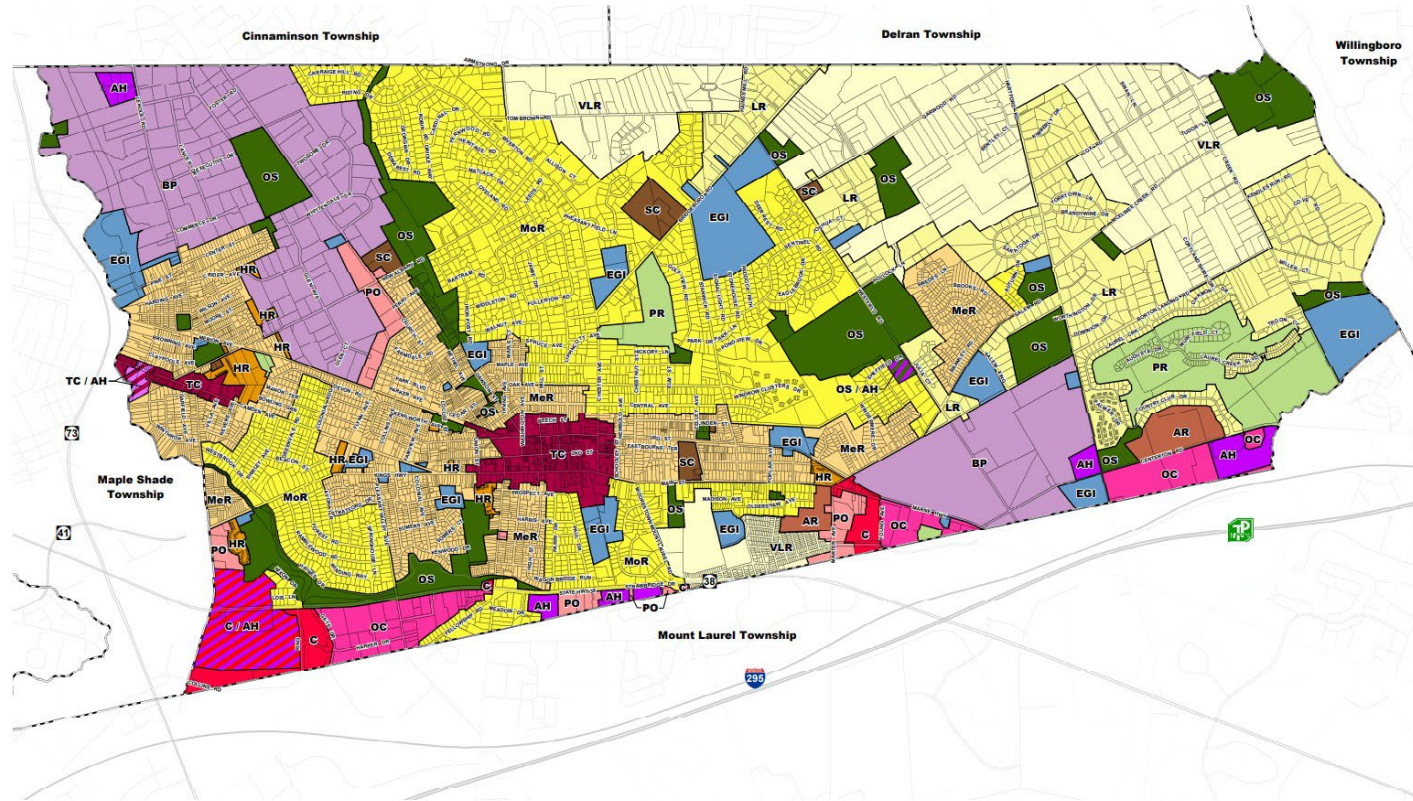
To date, more than 500,000 trees have been distributed around New Jersey through this program. The New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign partners with the New Jersey Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation.



will make seedlings available at 9 a.m. April 29 in the Town Hall parking lot (111 W 2nd St.). For more pickup locations, [click here](#).

Arbor Day is April 28.

Land Use Map



Legend

VLR - Very Low Density Residential	TC - Town Center
LR - Low Density Residential	C - Commercial
MoR - Moderate Density Residential	PO - Professional Office
MeR - Medium Density Residential	OC - Office Campus
HR - High Density Residential	BP - Business Park
AR - Age-Restricted Residential	OS - Open Space
SC - Senior Citizen Residential	PR - Private Recreation
AH - Affordable Housing	EGI - Education, Government and Institutions



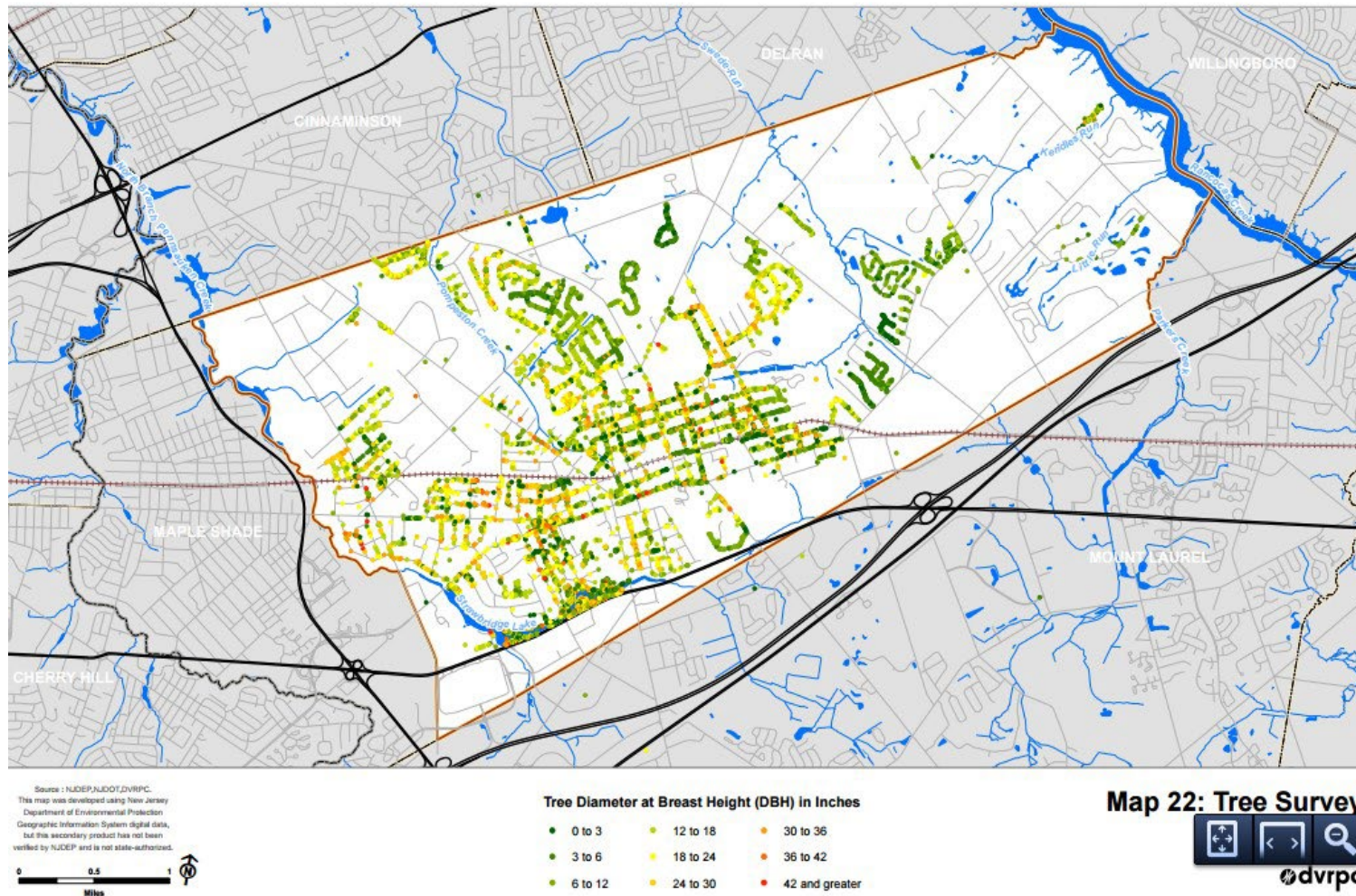
Land Use Plan

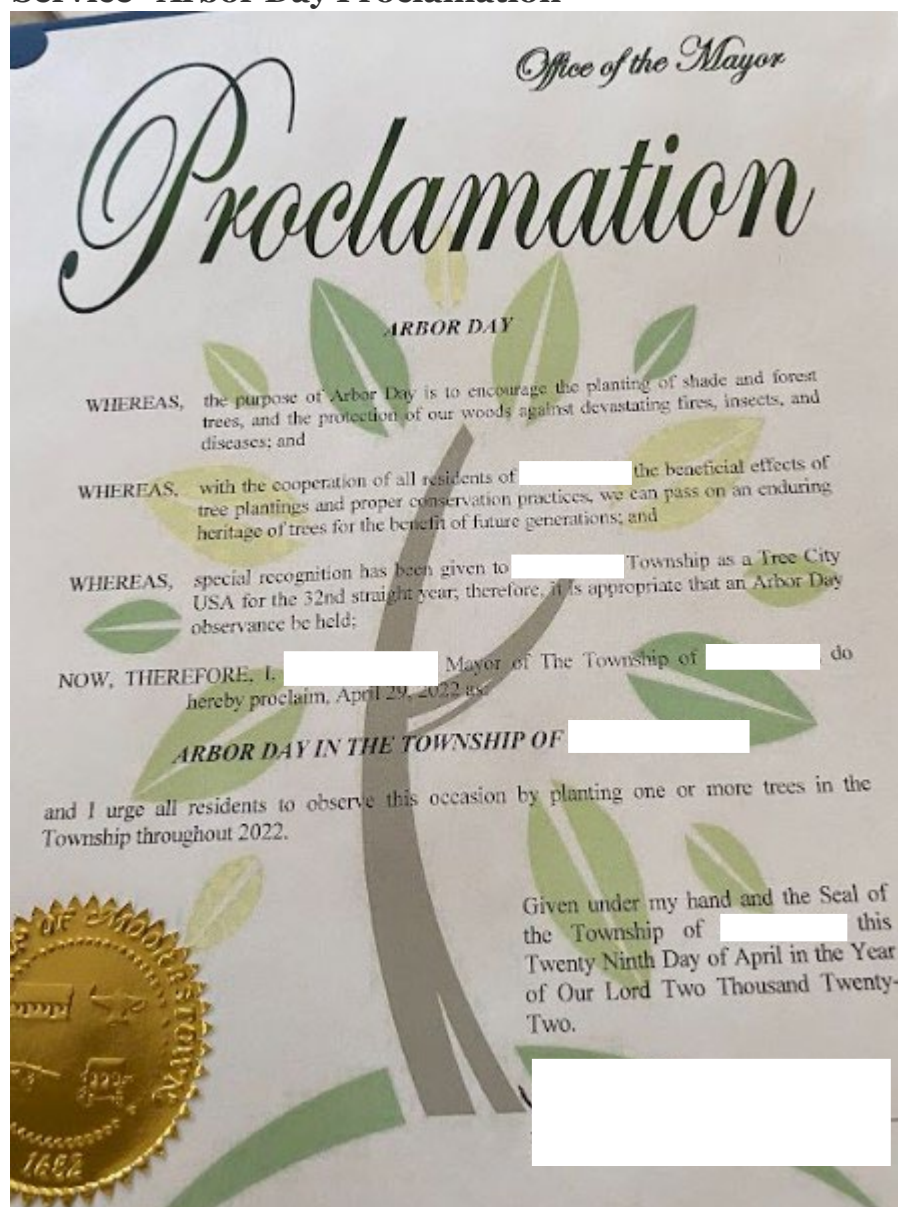
LOCATION:

DATE:
April 2019

Clarke Caton Hintz ● ● ● Architecture Planning Landscape Architecture

Tree Survey Map



“Service” Arbor Day Proclamation

Article 2

THE SUN NEWSPAPERS
TOWNS
HS FOOTBALL R



University of
Pittsburgh - Titusville
Titusville, PA • College

Home » News » Township marks Arbor Day with tree seedlings for residents

Township marks Arbor Day with tree seedlings for residents

By CHRISTINE HARKINSON April 18, 2024

Share Facebook Twitter Email Print



Special to The Sun

Tree seedlings will be available to residents as part of the New Jersey Forest Service's New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, which has distributed more than 826,000 seedlings in the state over 11 years.

The following story is being reprinted from last week to include the addition of Elementary School students as performers in the celebration.

will host an Arbor Day celebration at 10 a.m. on Friday at Adams Park. Attendees are encouraged to park at Dawson Park for the rain-or-shine event.

"We want to raise awareness of the park's history

"We want to raise awareness of the park's history and the township's effort to revitalize it ..." said Gibson, chair of the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee.

Students from elementary school will perform and there will be a presentation on the background of the holiday. Free tree seedlings will be distributed on the 26th and the following day at 9 a.m. in the town hall parking lot.

The seedlings will be available to residents as part of the New Jersey Forest Service's New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, which has distributed more than 828,000 tree seedlings to state residents over the course of 11 years. The program is an effort by the township and related agencies such as the New Jersey Forest Service and the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

"We have some people come back and say, 'When I was a kid, we planted this tree and look at it now, it's really big,'" Gibson noted. "So that's always nice to hear, things like that."

Seedling distributions will be first come, first served, with instructions on how to store, care for and plant the trees. The guides help residents choose the right place on a property to plant a tree while keeping in mind its future growth. Seedlings should be planted within two days after they are obtained to prevent roots from drying out.

When properly planted and maintained, trees can be assets to a community by improving the visual appeal of a neighborhood or business district, increasing property values, reducing home-cooling costs, removing pollutants and providing wildlife habitats.

"Nowadays, one of the more important things is that they (trees) help with water runoff," Gibson explained. "In the last month, how many times have we heard that this area flooded or that area flooded because of a lack of a place for the water to go? ... Well, trees help that. They take up a bunch of the water."

Arbor Day – celebrated on the last Friday in April – is an internationally recognized event. It's a day to plant new trees, care for existing ones and educate others on their role in benefiting the environment, according to the Tree Philly website.

The Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972, 100 years after J. Sterling Morton

THE SUN NEWSPAPERS

foundation has become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees and engages in many different programs to green communities across the country.

is a 34-year member of the Tree City USA program, one of the Arbor Day Foundation's oldest programs. According to arborday.org, municipalities can receive program recognition by meeting four standards: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

"Trees provide shade, they cool your house (and) they add value to your house," Gibson noted. " ... I really think that trees add a lot to the community. A lot of people come to Moorestown because of the trees."

TAGS Arbor Day Arbor Day Foundation Elementary School maple-dawson-park Tree City USA Yancy-Adams

Stay Connected

 1,508 Fans

 2,094 Followers

Current Issue



TOWNS ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ CONTACT

LATEST



Lillie Mae Robinson
November 14, 2024



John I. Rigolizzo Jr.
November 14, 2024



Frances Rose Mattia
November 14, 2024



Margaret Rachel Bendorf
November 14, 2024

Township Website



Appearance Committee

Better Together Committee

Board of Trustees of Free Public Library

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Environmental Advisory Committee

Ethical Standards Board

Green Team - Sustainable Moorestown

Open Space Advisory Committee

Planning Board

Recreation Advisory Committee

Tree Planting & Preservation Committee

Zoning Board of Adjustment

[Home](#) - [Government](#) - [Boards & Committees](#) - Tree Planting & Preservation Committee

Tree Planting & Preservation Committee

Meetings

- 7:30 p.m. - 2nd Tuesday of the Month
- Donut Room, Library, 111 W 2nd Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Members

Mission

It is the mission of the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee to encourage and assist the community of _____ to successfully implement a tree management program by providing information and assistance to the Township Council and Management to sustain and enhance our community forest resource.

What We Plant

The Tree Planting and Preservation Committee is often asked, "Why do you plant so many different species of trees? We just want big trees along our streets."

One explanation can be found in Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*:

"... A generation or more ago, the towns of large areas of the United States lined their streets with the noble elm tree. Now the beauty they hopefully created is threatened with complete destruction as disease sweeps through the elms, carried by a beetle that would have only limited chance to build up large populations and spread from tree to tree if the elms were only occasional trees in a richly diversified planting..."

Contact Information

For more information, [email the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee](#).

Informational Documents

- [Ash Tree Identification](#)
- [Emerald Ash Borer Info for Webpage](#)
- [Insecticide Options for EAB](#)
- [NABBB Decision Guide](#)
- [Recommended Trees 7/8/19](#)
- [Tree Inventory Results](#)
- [Tree Remembrance Program](#)
- [Urban Forest Benefits \(PDF\)](#)

Arbor Day 2017

Children Preparing to Sing

Deputy Mayor Jordan & John Gibson

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Create a Website Account - Manage notification subscriptions, save form progress and more.

Website Sign In

New Jersey

[Government](#)

[Services](#)

[How Do I...](#)

[Community](#)

[Live Meetings](#)

[Township Meetings](#)

[Trash & Recycling](#)

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Tax & Utility Payments](#)

[Report a Concern](#)

[Permits & Applications](#)

Contact Us

[Contact Us](#)

Helpful Links

- Contact Parks and Rec.
- Staff Directory
- Mayor's Office
- Hours of Operation

Using This Site

- Home
- Site Map
- Accessibility
- Copyright Notices

Tree Remembrance Trifold



Tree Planting & Preservation Committee

Township Policy for Planting of Memorial Trees Summary

- Requests made in writing, approved by immediate family and Township Manager.
- Cost to purchase, install and/or replace a tree paid by Requestor. Maintained by Township.
- Type, size and location of tree determined by Public Works Director, primarily in parks.
- Plaque may be placed at the base of the tree. Cost of plaque, installation and maintenance paid by Requestor. Restrictions apply.
- Contact Township Manager for details at 856-235-0912

Please note: This Policy is separate from the Tree Remembrance Program.

Tree Remembrance Program



Give a Gift of Remembrance or Celebration

The Township of [redacted] recognizes that trees add to the quality of life and the beauty of our town. Tree-lined streets, parks and wooded areas attract people who realize trees are an essential part of the environment and contribute to the economic value of our town. Since 1990 Moorestown has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

In order to promote the planting of new trees and continue the maintenance of our existing trees, the Moorestown Township Tree Planting and Preservation Committee has established the Tree Remembrance Program.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to make a contribution honoring a special person or event. All donations are tax deductible.

Your gift enhances the quality of life now and for generations to come!

This program is ideal for celebrating:

- Births & Birthdays
- Weddings & Anniversaries
- Organization & Company Milestones
- The Memory of Loved Ones

Upon receipt of a donation, you will receive an acknowledgement and a certificate will be issued to commemorate your gift.

The proceeds will be used to supplement [redacted] tree planting program, not to plant a specific tree, due to varying costs of trees (\$250 - \$500)

If you would like to plant a memorial tree, please see the summary of the Township's Policy for Planting of Memorial Trees on the back of this brochure, or contact the Township Manager at 856-235-0912.

Contact the Tree Planting & Preservation Committee at moorestowntrees@gmail.com or through the Public Works Department at 856-235-3520.



[redacted] Township Tree Remembrance Program

Enclosed is a donation of:

\$ _____

This donation is: (Choose one)

- ☐ In Remembrance of:
☐ In Celebration of:

(Name or Event here)

This gift is from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to:

Township of [redacted]

Tree Remembrance Program

Detach this panel & mail to:

