



# Township of Neptune

## COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

An Action Plan for Community Forestry  
2017-2021

In Cooperation with:  
New Jersey Forest Service

Prepared by: Neptune Township Environmental and Shade Tree Commission  
Assisted by: William F. Brash Jr.  
NJ Certified Tree Expert, CTE #375

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# Community Forestry Management Plan

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## Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality: Township of Neptune

County: Monmouth

Address: Township of Neptune  
PO Box 1125  
Neptune, NJ 07754-1125.

Neptune, NJ

Contact Name and Title: Mindi Arcoleo, Chairperson, Environmental/Shade Tree Commission

Phone #: Municipal Contact: Christopher Bedrosian, Extension 249  
732.988.5200

Fax # and E-mail: 732.988.4259 , cbedrosian@neptunetownship.org

Organization Name: Neptune Township Environmental/Shade Tree Commission

Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McMillan-Mayor

Date of Management Plan Submission: September, 2016

Time Period Covered in Management Plan: 2017-2021

Community Stewardship  
Incentive Program (CSIP)  
Practices Identified in  
Management Plan

- CSIP #1 Training
- CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
- CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness
- CSIP #4 Arbor Day
- CSIP #5 Tree Inventory
- CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment
- CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment
- CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
- CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management
- CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection
- CSIP #11 Tree Planting
- CSIP #12 Tree Recycling
- CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Problem
- CSIP #14 Stormwater Management
- CSIP #15 Other

***Official Use Only  
Certification***

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
State Forester

Approved date \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Forestry Management Plan

## INTRODUCTION

The Township Committee determined in 2005 that it would be in the best interests of its residents and to provide more efficient government to combine the existing Environmental Commission and the existing Shade Tree Commission into one single commission known as the Environmental/Shade Tree Commission (hereinafter E/STC). The single commission was reestablished in order to be a more effective advocate for the residents and to reinvigorate the staff members while they serve their community in providing for the protection, development, or use of natural resources, including water resources, open land areas, areas of scenic, historic, aesthetic, or educational and scientific value within the Township of Neptune.

Neptune is organized as a Township Committee form of government and there are five elected Committee members on the governing body. The office of Mayor is not an independent elected position. The Mayor is selected by the elected Committee members each January 1st. The Mayor is the chief spokesperson for the Township Committee; however, has no additional voting power than the rest of the committee members.

Neptune Township stretches from the Atlantic Ocean west nearly to the Garden State Parkway (exit 100). The southern border is the Shark River estuary and the northern border is with the City of Asbury Park and Ocean Township. Neptune Township is a diverse community, both in terms of population and landscape and we thrive on that diversity. From the quaint seaside community of Ocean Grove, a national historic site; to Mid-town which is undergoing a municipal-led revitalization; to the riverside residential community of Shark River Hills; to the open spaces of Shark River Park and the commercial corridor on Route 66 in the west; Neptune truly has it all!

This plan has been designed to demonstrate the manner in which the Township of Neptune manages the community tree resources under its jurisdiction including trees along its streets, in parks, rights-of-way, and around Township buildings and other holdings. This plan will also outline how The Township of Neptune intends to improve its system over the next five years as implemented through the unified Commissions.

The Township of Neptune gets its name from the Roman god of the sea and was formed in 1879. It has a land area of approximately eight (8) square miles and is situated in the central-eastern part of Monmouth County, New Jersey. Neptune is a community with several diverse neighborhoods including Ocean Grove, Shark River Hills, Mid-Town, Bradley Park, the Gables, Shark River Island, and West Neptune. Due to these various neighborhoods, Neptune Township includes rural, suburban, urban, waterfront, and tourist sections.

### Mission Statement

1. The Township of Neptune desires to protect a sustainable and vibrant urban forest and shade tree
2. resource.
3. To support the responsible greening of all sections of the township through cooperative efforts.
4. To promote an awareness of the economic, ecological, social and aesthetic benefits conferred by an abundance of healthy trees.
5. To restore the trees lost during superstorm Sandy, (October 29, 2012).

*Planting trees has immeasurable benefits for our environment and personal well-being.*

*Julie Soleil  
Environmental and Shade Tree Commission Member*



## Liability Statement

The Township of Neptune (“Neptune”) recognizes the benefits provided to the community by its tree resources. This is evident in the Township Committee’s execution of the “Ten Cities Initiative” Memorandum of Agreement in October, 2004. As trees are living breathing entities, it is inevitable that as they mature they eventually require care, maintenance, removal and replacement. It is the intent of this plan to focus available Township resources to reducing tree hazards.

Since it is impossible to predict or prevent all hazardous conditions that may arise, Neptune is developing this plan to become more proactive in its tree maintenance. Proactive tree management should reduce the occurrence of hazardous events. Following this plan will demonstrate Neptune’s commitment to proper tree management within the Township’s rights-of-way and public holdings.

## B) Goals and Objectives

The following list consists of the goals and policy objectives of the Township of Neptune’s Community Forestry Management Plan.

1. To implement a tree inventory. This assessment will reveal the more recent large losses we have sustained, it will give us a better view of how to determine short and long term tree management and canopy goals, hazardous tree location and mitigation. It will also help identify tree health.
2. Create and Implement an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. Identifying Ash trees and the potential for treatment or removal.
3. Heritage Tree Ordinance. We wish to create an amendment to the tree ordinance to protect larger caliper trees from being removed. We will work with the Township Committee to get this created.

## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Township has been known as the “Crossroads of the Jersey Shore” due to the major corridors, which cross through and border the Township. Neptune Township is accessible from Garden State Parkway exits 100 and 102, with State Highways 18, 33, 35, 66 and 71 within its borders. Neptune Township is also accessible by New Jersey Transit trains (Bradley Beach/Neptune Station), and major bus routes and local taxi service. Neptune Township is home to Hackensack Medical Center, the Regional Trauma Center for Central Jersey. The Township is bordered by the City of Asbury Park to the northeast, Bradley Beach to the southeast, Township of Ocean to the north, Wall Township to the southwest, Neptune City to the south, Borough of Tinton Falls to the west, and Atlantic Ocean to the east. The greatest concentration of population resides east of Route 18, which bisects the Township.

Based on the current census data, the population in year 2010 was 27,935, . Table 1 indicates the population trends for the Township in comparison to Monmouth County and New Jersey. The Township experienced an increase in growth of nearly 60 percent from 1950 to 1960 and almost 30 percent from 1960 to 1970. Another major increase in population occurred in the 1920’s. Although these figures are not indicated in Table 1, the Township’s population grew from nearly 6,500 to almost 11,000. These figures relate to the age of the housing stock and infrastructure (roadways, drainage systems, sanitary collection system, and water lines) for the majority of the Township. Many of the older neighborhoods were developed in the 1920’s and 1930’s, where the “developments” were built in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

It is up to us to educate the residents on the importance of our tree canopy. Not only for the beauty, but for the environmental impact they make on the quality of our life, after all, the community forest is **our** habitat.

*Mindi Arcoleo  
Chairperson, Environmental/Shade Tree Commission*



The Community forest resource is composed of street trees planted at the time the residential subdivisions were constructed. Neptune Township lies adjacent to water, either the Atlantic Ocean (Ocean Grove) or along the Shark River. Street tree species include Silver maple, London planetree, Norway maple, and Red maple. The number of street trees resource is unknown but best estimates place the amount between 1000-2000. The health of the Community forest is fair with minor incidents of BLS, tent caterpillars and gypsy moth. Neptune Township has worked with Monmouth County in the past to be included in their spray program.

Since 1980, the population of the Township stabilized and has experienced a slight decline, where Monmouth County has increased annually about 10 percent.

The existing Master Plan was adopted in January of 2012 and does mention Community Forestry. The Chairman of the E/STC was a prominent member of the team that reviewed the current version of the Master Plan and ensured that the Community Forestry Management Plan goals and objectives were linked in the revised Master Plan.

The current Master plan is completed and there is a direct link between the two documents within the conservation element of the Master Plan. See link to Master Plan below.

[http://www.neptunetownship.org/sites/default/files/archive/documents/2012MasterPlan/01-13-12 Comprehensive%20Master%20Plan Neptune%20Township Amended%20January%202012.pdf](http://www.neptunetownship.org/sites/default/files/archive/documents/2012MasterPlan/01-13-12%20Comprehensive%20Master%20Plan%20Neptune%20Township%20Amended%20January%202012.pdf)

There currently is an *Open Space Plan*, and a *Recreation and Open Space Inventory*.



*We are planting trees from which we will never feel the shade.*

Peter Longo  
Environmental and Shade Tree Commissioner



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Local Unit: Township of Neptune County: Monmouth

NOTE: All lands held for recreation and conservation purposes (1) must be described by their block and lot identification numbers as shown on the current, official tax map and (2) keyed to a current, legible, official map of the Local Unit and current tax map of Local Unit. The official map used for this ROSI is named Key Plan-Recreation and Open Space Inventory and is dated January 26, 2016.

**Developed and Partially Developed Lands Held for Recreation and Conservation Purposes**

(\*If necessary, use the first page following & after Page 4 for additional developed and partially developed lands)

<u>Key</u>	<u>Municipal Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Funded/Unfunded</u>
1.	Sh. 2	Memorial Park (Monument Park)	256	1	0.34	Unfunded
2.	Sh. 5	West Grove	510	17	0.67	Unfunded
3.	Sh. 7	Liberty Court	701	20	1.90	Unfunded
4.	Sh. 8	Loffredo Field	816	17	7.19	Funded
5.	Sh. 18	Sunshine Park	1807	2	28.89	Funded
6.	Sh. 53	Riverside Drive (Volunteer Park)	5321	7	0.63	Funded
7.	Sh. 53	Beverly Way	5308	3	2.40	Unfunded
8.	Sh. 48	McDermott Road	4805	2	3.70	Unfunded
9.	Sh. 48	Riverside Drive	4813	2	1.64	Unfunded
10.	Sh. 4	Bradley Park	402	16	1.75	Funded
11.	Sh. 30	Jumping Brook	3001	29	10.28	Funded
12.	Sh. 16	Gables Park	1608	1	2.34	Unfunded
13.	Sh. 54	SRH Memorial Park	5417	1	0.57	Funded
14.	Sh. 32	Jumping Brook Ballfields	3201	74	9.82	Funded
15.	Sh. 53/54	Shark River Municipal Marina	5322 5317 5316 5306	1,2,3 5 7 10	6.47	Funded
16.	Sh. 32	Jumping Brook	3201	1	5.31	Unfunded

**Subtotal of Acres on this page** ..... 83.90

**Total Acres of developed and partially developed lands from all pages of this ROSI...** 109.78



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Local Unit: Township of Neptune County: Monmouth

NOTE: All lands held for recreation and conservation purposes (1) must be described by their block and lot identification numbers as shown on the current, official tax map and (2) keyed to a current, legible, official map of the Local Unit and current tax map of Local Unit. The official map used for this ROSI is named Key Plan-Recreation and Open Space Inventory and is dated January 26, 2016.

**Wholly Undeveloped Lands Held for Recreation and Conservation Purposes**

(\*If necessary, use the second page following & after Page 4 for additional wholly undeveloped lands)

<u>Key</u>	<u>Municipal Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Funded/Unfunded</u>
A.	Sh. 53	Pinehurst Drive	5311	2,6	0.90	Unfunded
B.	Sh. 53	Woodbine Drive	5312	1	1.97	Unfunded
C.	Sh. 53	Glendale Pl.	5319	1	1.52	Unfunded
D.	Sh. 53	Beverly Way	5313	3	1.46	Unfunded
E.	Sh. 53	Melrose Ave.	5320	1,3,5	1.47	Unfunded
F.	Sh. 53	Hawthorne Way	5314	1	2.43	Unfunded
G.	Sh. 53	Melrose Ave.	5318	1, 13	1.24	Unfunded
H.	Sh. 53	Hillcrest Ave.	5314	10	0.50	Unfunded
I.	Sh. 53	Beverly Way	5307	1	1.60	Unfunded
J.	Sh. 48	McDermott Rd.	4806	3, 5	2.52	Unfunded
K.	Sh. 48	Bennett Road	4807	10,7	1.91	Unfunded
L.	Sh. 48	Norwalk Pl	4815	1,3	2.59	Unfunded

Subtotal of Acres on this page ..... 20.11

Total Acres of wholly undeveloped lands from all pages of this ROSI..... 102.23

**CERTIFICATION:** I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Exhibit 1 to Declaration, comprising 4 total pages, is a complete and accurate listing of all lands held by the Local Unit, as of this 27th day of January, 2016, for recreation and conservation purposes during the time of receipt of Green Acres funding. This ROSI is being submitted to Green Acres as part of the project entitled Shark River Marina Improvements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer of Local Unit  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Board Chairperson (or equivalent)  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_





RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
(Continued)

**Wholly Undeveloped Lands Held for Recreation and Conservation Purposes**  
(\* Alphabetical Key)

<u>*Key</u>	<u>Municipal Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Funded/Unfunded</u>
M.	Sh. 48	Norwalk Place & Grammercy Ct.	4812	1, 2	2.32	Unfunded
N.	Sh. 48	North Riverside Grammercy Ct.	4810 4811	11 1,3,5	3.40	Unfunded
O.	Sh. 30	Old Corlies	3001	30	14.70	Funded
P.	Sh. 45	Dianne Drive	4501	33	9.48	Unfunded
Q.	Sh. 44	Gully Rd.	4401	22	13.72	Funded
R.	Sh. 30	Fletcher Dr.	3001	31	3.62	Funded
S.	Sh. 34	30 Hill Drive	3401	22	22.13	Funded
T.	Sh. 24	Sunnyfield Park	2401	18	2.47	Unfunded
U.	Sh. 29	Fairview Ave.	2905	1	1.30	Funded
V.	Sh. 29	Fairview Ave.	2903	1	0.50	Unfunded
W.	Sh. 53	5 Riverview Court	5304	4	0.115	Unfunded
X.	Sh. 30	Old Corlies Avenue	3001	4	5.45	Unfunded
AA.	Sh. 47	Westwood Place	4712	1	0.63	Unfunded
BB.	Sh. 30	Old Corlies Ave.	3001	13	1.01	Unfunded
CC.	Sh. 7	Oxonia Avenue	701	5	2.80	Unfunded

Subtotal of Acres on this page ..... 83.64



**Developed and Partially Developed Lands Held for Recreation and Conservation Purposes**

<u>Key</u>	<u>Municipal Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Funded/Unfunded</u>
17.	Sh. 2	50 Fletcher Lake	101	11	.50	Unfunded
18.	Sh. 2	100 Fletcher Lake	101	10	5.3	Unfunded
19.	Sh. 1	Wesley Lake	101	1	9.44	Unfunded
20.	Sh. 11	Lake Alberta	1119	1	3.46	Unfunded
21.	Sh. 6	West Lake Ave.	615	5	.72	Unfunded
22.	Sh. 30	703 Old Corlies Ave.	3001	14	6.46	Funded

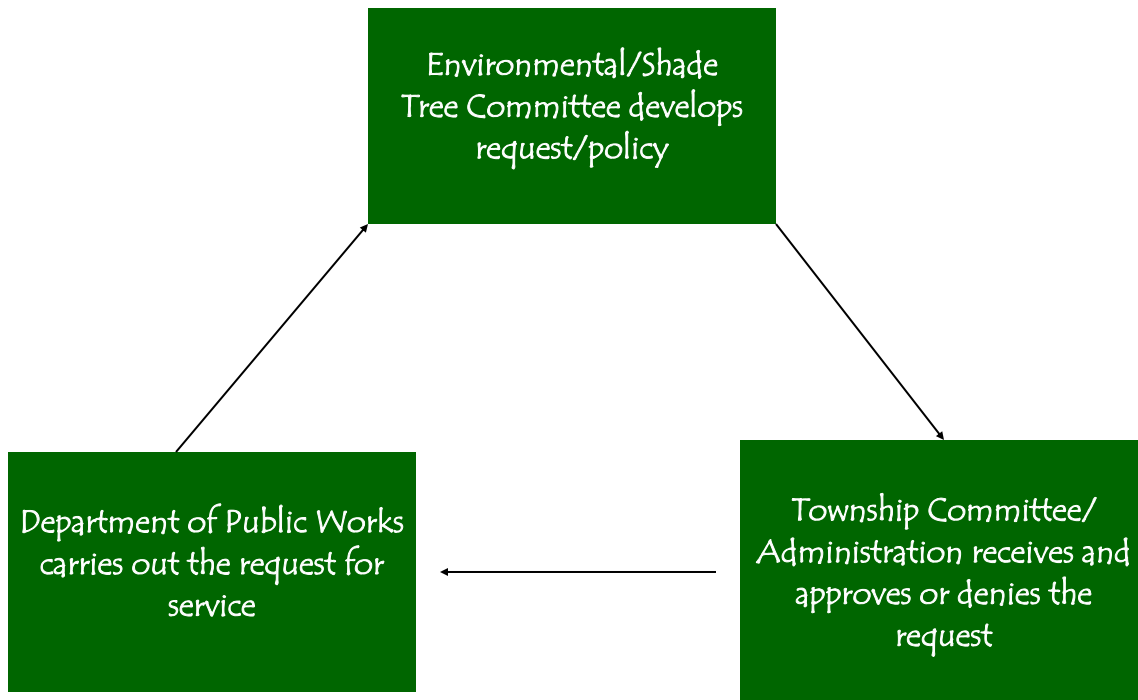
Subtotal of Acres on this page ..... 25.88





#### 4) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

##### Shade Tree Decision Matrix



PRO-

#### GRAM ADMINISTRATION

##### **Township Committee:**

The Township Committee is responsible for appointing the 9 members of the Environmental /Shade Tree Commission. The Township Committee reviews the policies, procedures and plans of the Environmental/Shade Tree Commission and is responsible for approving the budget.

##### **Environmental/Shade Tree Commission (E/STC):**

The E/STC is a group of nine resident volunteers who are appointed by the Township Committee. As per NJSA 40:64-1 The E/STC's roles in administering the Shade Tree program is to develop a vision, recommend policies and provide guidance to the Public Works Department (DPW) on the care and maintenance of the Township's tree resource. The E/STC provides input to the DPW on the proper planting, care and beautification of the Townships facilities and properties.

The E/STC provides comment and knowledgeable input to the Zoning Board and the Planning Board on the care and management of the tree resource potentially impacted by development within the community.

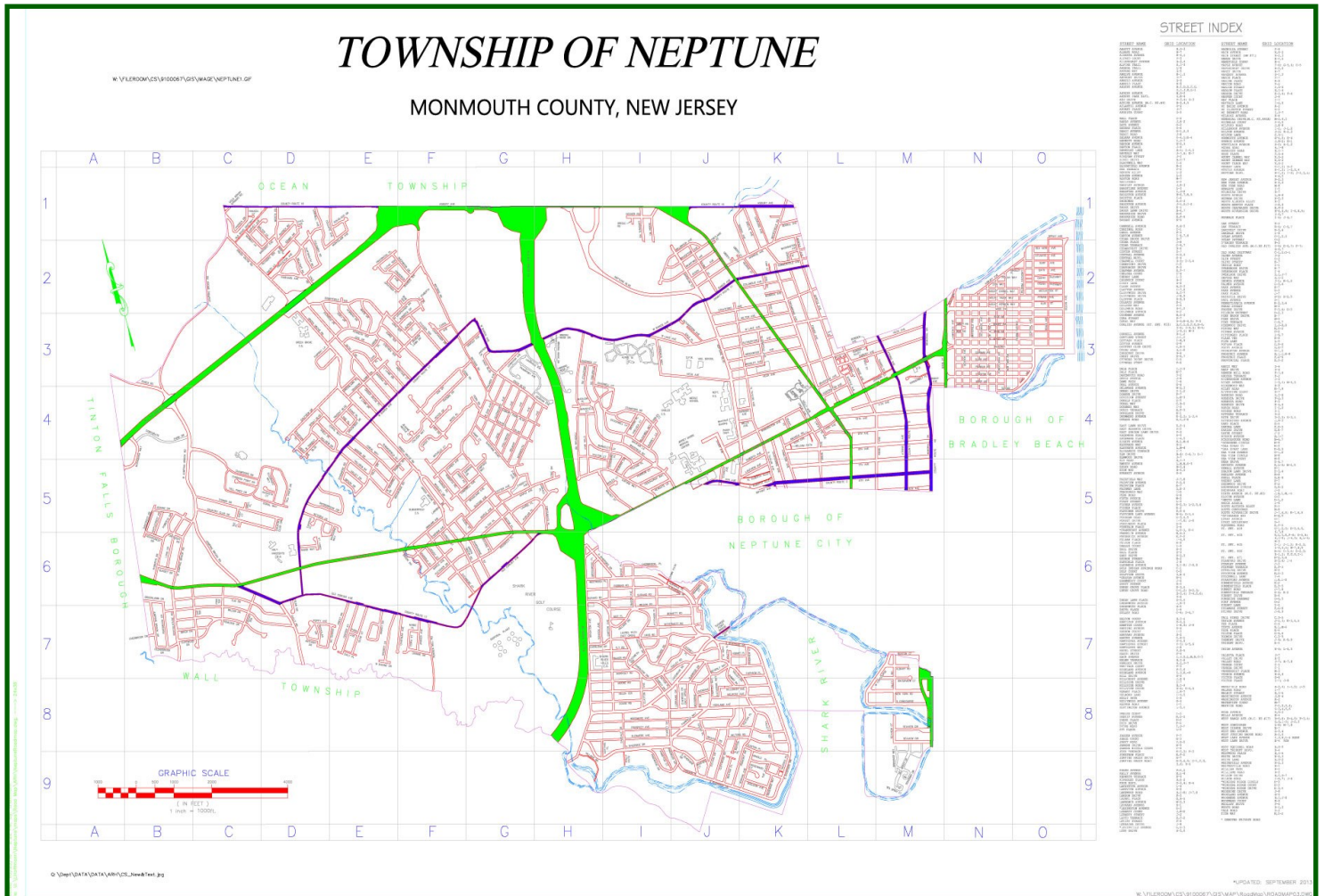


**Department of Public Works (DPW):**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) reports to the Township Committee and works cooperatively with the E/STC to care for the tree resource in Neptune Township. The DPW is responsible for the day to day operations of the Shade Tree Management Program. The tree planting that occurs in the Township's Parks and along its streets is conducted by the DPW under the supervision of the Director of Public Works, Mr. Wayne J. Rode.

When tree service requests on Township Property come in they are logged in by DPW and then put on a list for work to be performed. Trees "at-risk" on private property are the owner's responsibility. Trees "at-risk" in the Township right-of-way (ROW) must be inspected by DPW prior to homeowner pruning or removal.

**Community Map**



## 6) TRAINING

The Township currently has a dedicated Environmental/Shade Tree Commission and a Mayor that is aware of the Community Forestry Program and is actively seeking to meet the training requirements. The training goals of the Shade Tree Program are as follows.

- Encourage members to stay involved and knowledgeable about standards and programs that will benefit the community forest.
- Continue to provide opportunities for as many members of the Commission to be CORE trained as budget limitations allow and to encourage participation in continuing education units, (CEU) opportunities.
- Satisfy the requirements of the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, making the Township eligible for Community Stewardship Incentive Program funding and limiting liabilities under the Tort Claims provisions of the Act.

### Existing Training Programs

The Township currently meets the criteria for CORE training for volunteers and has the DPW Staff attend the Shade Tree Federation annual Meeting in October.

- The Township budget currently provides for continuing education for members of the Shade Tree Commission and the DPW employees.
- The present Environmental/Shade Commission contains knowledgeable individuals that are dedicated to the proper management of the Township's tree resource.

### Current Training Needs

The Township throughout their monthly meetings has identified the following areas where on-going or additional training is needed.

- Tree hazard reduction
- Planting site analysis and species selection. (Right tree for the right spot).
- Township-wide tree inventory.

## 7) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The Township of Neptune has completed the planting of a Municipal Arboretum that has involved many volunteers from among its residents. The Township provided municipal services and staff to assist in the tree planting and is working hard to train volunteer and staff members alike in tree related topics. The Environmental/Shade Tree Commission would like to continue to conduct public education and awareness events and have decided on 3 goals during this 5-year management plan.

In 2016 a registered American Chestnut seedling will be planted in the park adjacent to the Hackensack Medical Center with a sign for recognition and a fence for protection.

### Goals

The Neptune Township comprehensive public education awareness program should:

- Increase or continue the support by residents for the Shade Tree Program.
- Encourage public participation in protecting public trees and beautifying the Township.
- Encourage the proper care of trees on private property, which in turn will benefit the entire community.

Our job as Neptune Township's Environmental and Shade Tree Commission is to inform the public about the importance of the forest canopy to the community.

*Joseph Halifko*  
*Member, Environmental and Shade Tree Commission*



## Existing Programs

1. Arbor Day/Earth Day tree planting program at the Township Arboretum
2. Homeowner Tree Planting Assistance Program for Hurricane Sandy
3. Annual tree seedling giveaways.
4. Rain Garden program.
5. Maintain the *Space Shuttle "White pine"*.
6. Continue the CFMP goals by preserving Open Space.
7. Continue the Tree City USA certification first received in 2015.

## 2017-2021 Objectives

1. CORE Train 1 E/STC member and 1 DPW member in 2013.
2. Maintain the Tree City USA status by 2013.
3. Continue the Arbor Day Tree Plantings and tree seedling Give-aways.
4. Establish an educational document that reinforces the goals and objectives of the E/STC efforts in the community and make it available for distribution at each annual Neptune Day event and update it as needed.
5. Offer and/or continue programs and projects to educate and involve the public in tree-related events such as Memorial Day Tree Plantings and the Neptune Township Shade Tree Memorial / Arboretum Park project. Publish a list of Neptune Township preferred plantings for parks and street tree plantings.

## 8) TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

The E/STC recognizes the need to inventory and assess the existing tree resource. Baseline data and an efficient way of recording needed and completed maintenance activities are necessary to improve the effectiveness of the program. It is the E/STC's intent to complete a comprehensive inventory for this purpose. The size and quality of the inventory will be a function of the availability of funding and/or volunteers to perform the inventory.

### Goals

1. Use the baseline data for making sound management decisions.
2. Identify tree/sidewalk conflicts and promote tree planting that reduces these conflicts.
3. Produce a "Right Tree for the Right Spot" guide for Township residents interested in planting trees.

### Existing Programs and Procedures

1. The Township has a sample inventory of its tree resource completed during the first five year plan.
2. Based on the best estimates of the E/STC the public tree resource consists of an estimated quantity of trees comprised of mainly Pin oak, Silver maples, Norway maples and London planetrees.
3. The majority of the street tree population is less than 50 years old.
4. Neptune Township provides guidance to developers for incorporating native species into their landscape designs.

### Objectives

1. A decision was made to include street trees plus Township Park and other public trees within the inventory.
2. Determine how to best use and inventory data and how to keep it current.
3. Investigate inventory system (i-tree) for updated collection.
4. Develop the procedures and data to be captured.
5. Keep the inventory updated especially related to hazardous trees.



## 9) HAZARD TREE MANAGEMENT

### Goals

The goals of the hazard tree management program are to ensure public safety while maintaining the aesthetic quality of the Township's street tree resource.

### Existing Programs

The Township currently has no formal systematic program for reducing hazardous trees. Hazardous conditions are reported by:

1. Service requests from residents.
2. Public works employees noticing a problem tree during their normal work activities.
3. Storm damage assessment on Township property is conducted following major storms.
4. Identified tree hazards were identified after the last CFMP via a tree inventory.
5. E/STC reporting to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

### 2017-2021 Objectives

1. Tree hazard evaluation training (2017-2021)
  - A. CORE train the responsible decision-makers to further advance their abilities to recognize and evaluate potential tree hazards using the latest information and techniques.
2. Tree hazard inspections, abatement and record keeping by (2017-2021)
  - A. Develop and improve procedures for prioritizing and scheduling tree inspections, service requests and work for hazard tree reduction.
  - B. Integrate the procedure with the proposed Township tree inventory.
3. Hazard abatement work (2017-2021).



*In anticipating Neptune Township growth, the most beneficial results occur when our Community Forestry Management Plan, tree inventory and Master Plan are synthesized into a focused objective - enacting 'smart' tree planting to benefit our citizens and ecosystem.*

*Will Heyniger  
Environmental and Shade Tree Commission*

A. Seek CSIP funding to complete high and medium priority hazard tree reductions.

#### 4. Five year evaluation

- A. At the end of the current 5-year management period, analyze the records collected to determine trends in; quantity, species, age, location, prior work history etc.
- B. Use the results to adjust pruning cycles and better target management techniques to reduce future hazards.

## 10. WILDFIRE PROTECTION

There are no plans to pursue wildfire protection in Neptune Township due to the protective nature of the waterways surrounding Neptune Township and the reduced fuel hazard rating on the vegetation. This could change in the future as risk changes.





## 11. TREE PLANTING

The purpose of the tree-planting program is to plant the right trees in the right locations. The Township of Neptune is home to many trees of size that result in some sidewalk, and utility conflicts. The tree planting program will emphasize proper replacement where needed of a species of shade tree selected for ease of maintenance and reduction in sidewalk and utility conflicts.

### Goals

The goals of the tree-planting program are as follows:

1. Achieve the goal of ensuring that for every suitable planting location there will be a tree planted.
2. Develop a list of 'suitable trees' to be planted in areas of conflicts i.e. narrow sidewalk planting areas or under utility lines. Trees will be selected for this list by utilizing the NJ Shade Tree Federation publication "Trees for New Jersey's Streets" and the "Street Trees Factsheets".
3. Improve species diversity.
4. Minimize future maintenance requirements.
5. Improve aesthetic appeal, seasonal variation and environmental benefits to adjacent properties and the Township overall.

### Existing Programs, Policies and Procedures

1. The Township of Neptune E/STC plants trees in Township Parks, and on other Township owned properties in conjunction with community groups.
2. Planting sites are identified by E/STC surveys, as well as Township DPW and property owner requests.
3. Species used for planting are selected by the Environmental/Shade Tree Commission.
4. Post planting maintenance includes watering, staking and pruning as required.
5. Contract or in-house personnel accomplish tree plantings.

### 2017-2021 Objectives

1. Update the list of the Right Tree for the Right Location
  - a. Utilizing the aforementioned publications and others the Environmental/ShadeTree Commission will Continue to update a list of suitable trees for planting in a variety of locations.
  - b. Trees that protect the shoreline and prevent property damage will be researched.
  - c. Trees suitable for planting within utility rights-of-way will be revised as needed to keep with current cultivars.
  - d. Trees with reduced maintenance requirements that also fulfill the other planting site restrictions will be favored.
2. Trees meeting the right tree for the right location criteria **only** will be selected for planting.
3. Complete a successful tree planting proposal for the Township by utilizing the Community Forest Council's grant program. (2017-2021)
4. Existing soil and growing conditions are considered prior to species selection.



Our community must recognize the immeasurable value provided by our trees and defend them . We must act to prevent their needless removal from residential, commercial and public lands.

*Denise Summer  
Environmental/Shade Tree Commission*



# 5) BUDGET

## Department of Public Works (DPW) Budget

- ◆ Maintenance of Township Grounds \$117,766.00
- ◆ Tree and Brush Pick-up \$ 75,000.00

**Sub-total \$192,766.00**

## Environmental/Shade Tree Commission Costs

- Training \$ 1,525.00
- Office supplies \$ 350.00
- Administrative support \$ 1,000.00
- Postage \$ 75.00
- Legal advertising \$ 96.00

**Sub-total \$ 3,046.00**

## Volunteers: #'s 2144 Hours x \$21.20 hour

- E/STC Meetings \$ 4,579.00
- Special Projects Tree planting, Arbor Day, Training \$ 40,873.80

**Sub-total \$ 45,873.80**

**Total Amount Tree Budget: \$ 241,265.00**

**Available Tree Preservation Fund \$ 132,586.16**

God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods, but he cannot save them from fools.

*John Muir quote shared by Beth Miller  
Environmental and Shade Tree Commissioner*



## 12 TREE RECYCLING

The goals of the waste recycling program are to:

- Reduce the cost of tree waste disposal.
- Provide beneficial recycled products to Township residents and for use on Township properties.

### *Existing Programs, Policies and Procedures*

- Neptune Township manages a recycling facility which is used to process leaf litter, tree waste materials.
- The facility accepts and stores leaf, tree and shrub waste from the Township work crews. Resident materials are stored and then removed to be recycled by others.

### **2017-2021 Objectives**

- Continue the on-going tree recycling program to provide residents with a cost-effective outlet for disposal of tree related waste products.

## 13 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

### **Goals**

- Neptune Township currently does not have a sidewalk replacement program but would like to implement a comprehensive “Right Tree for the Right Spot” program to reduce sidewalk/tree conflicts.

### *Existing Programs, Policies and Procedures*

- The township currently has no sidewalk maintenance program. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining existing sidewalks and their property.

### **2017-2021 Objectives**

- Reduce the number of potential trip hazards through proper tree selection and planting.

## 14 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Neptune Township has a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan and realizes the importance the urban forest plays in reducing urban runoff.
- Neptune Township maintains its public tree resource for the runoff reduction benefits that result.
- Neptune Township will continue to plant trees and seek funding opportunities to increase tree planting for the purposes of increasing overall tree canopy within the Township.
- The E/STC understands the connection between sufficient tree canopy in the Township and residents quality of life.



## Year 1, 2017

- Continue to seek training opportunities for both EC volunteers and DPW staff to increase CORE training and obtain CEU's to maintain "Approved Status".
- Continue to identify the most hazardous trees on Neptune Township property and systematically work to lower the risk to residents by removing those trees.
- Maintain Tree City USA status.
- Apply and submit a CSIP grant for hazard tree removal when funding becomes available..
- Continue to review site plan applications
  - Inventory existing trees for protection, planting the right tree in the right location
  - Continue to monitor the 60% native tree requirement on submitted site plans (60% native to mid-Atlantic region)
- Continue to submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service on time.

## Year 2, 2018

- Continue with an early pruning cycle program starting at the 3+ year of growth. Train DPW staff on Natural target pruning. All pruning to be from the ground.
- Continue with tree planting projects. Continue yearly Public Relations activities, such as Tree City USA recertification, Arbor Day celebrations, and write two website articles .
- Continue attendance at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Meeting (Environmental commission and Department of Public works). Continue in-house training of Public works employees.
- Continue cooperative effort with Monmouth County Shade Tree to establish an annual pruning cycle on county roads in Neptune.
- Submit Annual Accomplishment Report to the New Jersey Forestry Service.
- Maintain Tree City USA status.
- Continue tree-related Community activities.

*Neptune Became a  
Tree City USA in 2015*



### **Year 3, 2019**

- Hazard tree removals / pruning will be prioritized by windshield assessment.
- Continue training program with attendance at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Meeting (keep up with CORE and CEU requirements). Continue in-house training with Public works, address any training needs that may present themselves as we work through the plan or as other things happen.
- Pursue tree planting grants.
- Continue cooperative effort with Monmouth County Shade Tree to establish an annual pruning cycle on county roads in Neptune.
- Submit Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- Maintain Tree City USA status.

### **Year 4, 2020**

- Tree Planting goals should remain the same as in previous years, with possible adjustments considering the number of removals necessary as part of the hazard removal program and availability of grant money.
- Review the existing tree conservation ordinance and revise or write an ordinance with current science driving the ordinance.
- Work towards ordinance adoption.
- Submit Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service-Community Forestry.
- Maintain Tree City USA status.

### **Year 5, 2021**

- Continue with; Arbor Day celebration, and Sunshine Law notification and 2 articles in local newspaper (one of these should be a review of accomplishments in following the Management Plan over the past 5 years).
- Training goals will also remain the same as last year, with a focus on specific topics/problems that may arise as a result of working through this management plan, or topics that may be seen as necessary to move forward through the next 5 year plan.
- Continue cooperative effort with Monmouth County Shade Tree to establish an annual pruning cycle on county roads in Neptune.
- Submit the Annual Accomplishment Report to the NJ Forest Service-Community Forestry.
- Continue monthly meetings with site plan review.
- Maintain Tree City USA status.



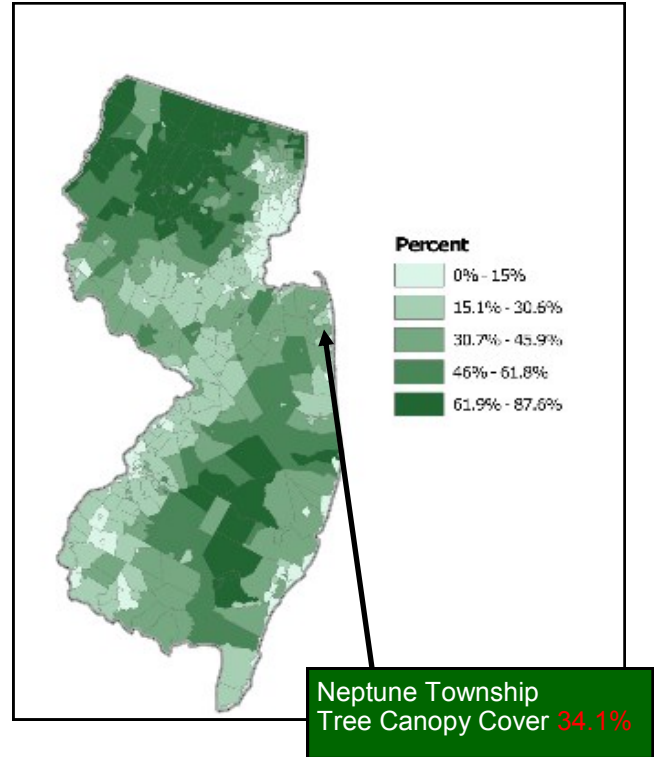
## Neptune Township Tree Canopy Cover:

Neptune Township currently has a tree canopy of **34.1%**.<sup>1</sup> and has a desire to increase the tree canopy. This year in pursuit of that goal Neptune Township will strive to plant 36 trees on public land. These 36 trees will increase the number of trees in the Neptune Township tree canopy to help reach the 40% goal throughout the Township.

**2000** (Estimated Existing Tree Population) = approximately **34.1%** tree canopy along streets

American Forests recommends a tree canopy of 40% (east of the Mississippi) a population of 2353 trees. Neptune Township would need to plant a total of 353 trees over the next 10 years to meet this goal of a 40% tree canopy on public lands.

To reach this goal Neptune would need to plant 36 trees/year on public lands and encourage additional plantings on private lands to increase the canopy level to the American Forests recommended level for towns in the Northeast.



1. *Urban Forest Data for New Jersey*, David Nowak, Eric Greenfield, GTR-NRS #47, USDA-Forest Service, Newtown Square, PA, 2009.



## **COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CSIP)**

The following is a summary of how each of the fifteen Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) practices is addressed by this Community Forestry Management Plan.

**CSIP #1: Training**

This practice is addressed on page 13.

**CSIP #2: Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment**

This practice is addressed on pages 18-20

**CSIP #3: Public Education and Awareness**

This practice is addressed on page 13-14.

**CSIP #4: Arbor Day**

This practice is addressed on pages 13-14

**CSIP #5: Tree Inventory**

This practice is addressed on pages 14

**CSIP #6: Hazard Tree Assessment**

This practice is addressed on pages 15,

**CSIP #7: Storm Damage Assessment**

This practice is addressed on page 15.

**CSIP #8: Tree Maintenance and Removals**

This practice is addressed on pages 15,18.

**CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management**

This practice is addressed on page 13,14,15

**CSIP #10: Wildfire Protection**

This practice is addressed on page 15.

**CSIP #11: Tree Planting**

This practice is addressed on pages 16.

**CSIP #12: Tree Recycling**

This practice is addressed on page 18.

**CSIP #13: Sidewalk Maintenance Problem**

This practice is addressed on page 18.

**CSIP #14: Stormwater Management**

This practice is addressed on page 18.

**CSIP #15: Other**

This practice is addressed on page 18.



**Opportunity is  
missed by most  
because it is  
dressed in  
overalls and looks  
like work.**

*Thomas Edison*



# APPENDIX



## *Tree Removal Permit*

\*As per the Township of Neptune – Land Development Ordinance, Section 525 "Tree Removal and Tree Cutting":

- (a) No person shall remove or destroy or cause to be or allow to be removed or destroyed any-tree without first obtaining a tree removal permit. Tree removal permits shall be issued by the Land Use Department or designee. A permit is required for the removal of all trees of four (4) inch caliper or larger.
- (b) Existing single family residential property shall be exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance, provided that said homeowner is clearing one acre or less of area.

**Three (3) copies of an accurate plan for trees to be preserved and/or removed (as per ordinance requirements) must be submitted or the application will be returned unprocessed.**

1. Location of property for which tree removal permit is desired:

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Present Use of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Proposed Use of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Criteria for tree removal (check one):

The tree is located in a parcel for which preliminary or final subdivision approval has been obtained, and it unreasonably restricts the economic enjoyment of the property and cannot be relocated on the site because of its age, type or size.

The tree is dead, diseased, injured, in danger of falling, interferes with existing utility service, created an unsafe Condition, or conflicts with any other ordinances or regulations.

7. Number of trees to be removed:

Trees to be Removed: Caliper (measured 4 feet above ground)	Number of Trees to be Removed
Greater than 6" & up to 12"	
Greater than 12" & up to 18"	
Greater than 18" & up to 24"	
Greater than 24"	

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8. Has the above premises been the subject of any prior application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment or Planning Board to the applicant's knowledge? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, state date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution # (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Name and profession of individual preparing tree removal/preservation and landscaping plans:

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant certifies that all statements and information made and provided as part of this application are true to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief. Owner/Applicant authorizes permission for the Conservation Officer or Designee of the Township of Neptune to enter property for inspection.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant (individual)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Applicant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Owner's Name

*Payment shall be made at the Office of the Administrative Officer to the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Fees are to be made payable to the: Township of Neptune.*

----- FOR OFFICE USE -----

**Escrow Fee: \$500.00 for review in accordance with fee schedule. Application Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per 12-3.8**

**Replacement Tree Calculation Fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per 12-3.7g**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt#: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Picatagi Conservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Appendix A

## 12-4 TREE REMOVAL AND TREE CUTTING. #10.04

### 12-4.1 Purpose.

Indiscriminate, uncontrolled, and excessive destruction, as well as the removal and cutting of trees on lots and tracts of land within the Township, may cause:

- a. Increased drainage control cost;
- b. Increased soil erosion and sedimentation;
- c. Decreased fertility of the soil;
- d. Degradation of water resources;
- e. Decreased groundwater-recharge;
- f. Increased buildup of atmospheric carbon;
- g. The establishment of a heat island effect;
- h. Increased dust and pollution;

The singular or cumulative effect of any of the foregoing could adversely impact the character of the Township, decrease property values, render the land unfit and unsuitable for its most appropriate use and negatively affect the health, safety and the general welfare of the inhabitants of the Township. The Township desires to regulate and control indiscriminate and excessive cutting of trees within the Township. The Township strives to preserve the maximum possible number of trees in the course of development of a site as well as protect larger, older specimens of trees. Additionally, the Township seeks to encourage innovative design and grading, promote the preservation of existing trees and provide a plan for replacement of trees. It is recognized that there is a strong relationship between the integrity of the Township's water resources, development on steep slopes, tree removal, soil disturbance, stormwater management and the general use of the land resources. Therefore, the Township finds that the appropriate management of these resources is an important health, safety and general welfare concern.

Trees are declared to be an important cultural, ecological, scenic and economic resource. Proper management of this resource will ensure its maintenance and result in economic returns. A management program is intended to meet the objectives of preserving, protecting, enhancing and maintaining trees and providing opportunities for the continued use of forest resources and are compatible with the maintenance of the environment. This will be accomplished by ensuring management of forest and trees through the application of sound management practices.

(Ord. No. 10-04)

### 12-4.2 Establishment of Conservation Officer.

There shall be appointed and designated, an official whose formal title shall be that of Conservation Officer or designee of the Township of Neptune. This official shall be charged with the inspection of sites upon which there is an application for site plan approval or for subdivision approval in regard to the provisions of this section, and with the inspection and enforcement of the tree removal and protection requirements of this section.

(Ord. No. 10-04)

### 12-4.3 Cutting or Removal Restricted.

Subject to the exemptions set forth, no person shall cut or remove, or cause to be cut or removed, any tree with a diameter at point of measurement (DPM) of four (4") inches or greater upon any lands within the Township, unless the cutting or removal is accomplished in accordance with the provisions of this section. (Ord. No. 10-04)

### 12-4.4 Tree Removal.

#### a. *Permit Required.*

1. No person shall remove or destroy or cause to be or allow to be removed or destroyed any tree without first obtaining a tree removal permit. Tree removal permits shall be issued by the Zoning Officer or designee after appropriate inspection by the Conservation Officer. A permit is required for the removal of all trees of four (4") inch caliper or larger.
2. Existing single-family residential property shall be exempt from the requirements of this section, provided that said homeowner is clearing one (1) acre or less of area.



- b. *Permit Application.* Application for a permit shall be made to the Zoning Officer and shall contain the following information:
1. The name and address of the applicant.
  2. The name and address of the owner of the property from which the tree(s) are to be removed.
  3. Location on the property of the tree(s) to be removed, indicated on a plan as follows:
  4. The plan shall indicate all tree(s) to be removed, specifically by an assigned number, and the caliper of each tree.
  5. The plan shall indicate all tree(s) to remain, specifically by an assigned number.
  6. The plan shall indicate a limit of disturbance line (i.e., where the four (4') foot high standard wood snow fence will be erected if required by the Conservation Officer).
  7. For any clearing greater than (3) three acres, a representative five (5%) percent of the wooded areas proposed to be cleared shall be inventoried. The representative five (5%) percent shall be determined by agreement between the Conservation Officer and the applicant. Where less than (3) three acres is proposed to be cleared, all trees to be removed shall be inventoried.
  8. All trees greater than twenty (20") inches in caliper or any specimen trees (i.e. any unique or remarkable tree or species) to be removed shall be indicated on the plan. All reasonable efforts shall be made to preserve such trees, including but not limited to, if feasible, relocation of infrastructure, roadways, and buildings. Removal of such trees shall require the specific written approval of the Conservation Officer.
  9. Any other information which may reasonably be required to enable the application to be properly evaluated.
- (Ord. No. 10-04)

#### **12-4.5 Inspection Required.**

The Conservation Officer or designee shall inspect the trees which are the subject of the application, the drainage incidental thereto, other physical conditions existing on the property, and the impact upon adjacent properties. (Ord. No. 10-04)

#### **12-4.6 Zoning Permit Requirements.**

Where an application is made in connection with the construction of a building or other land use improvement, no zoning permit shall be issued until the tree removal permit has been granted, or an exemption granted. (Ord. No. 10-04)

#### **12-4.7 Replacement Tree Requirements.**

- a. Existing Residential Property. If the application is on behalf of an existing homeowners' association and it is disclosed that the total number of trees to be removed or destroyed on the property or open space area in question, which are the subject of the application, is ten (10) or less, the permit shall be issued without replacement trees required. Within a one (1) year period, permits may be used for removal of no more than ten (10) trees on the same property without replacement trees being required. Any tree removal occurring where a homeowners' association exists must obtain formal approval by the ruling body of the association prior to obtaining a tree removal permit.
- b. New Residential Development.
  1. If the application is for a new residential development (subdivisions or site plans), up to fifty (50%) percent of the trees may be removed for the sole purpose of clearing for the building envelope, driveways and yard space for said building lots only without replacement trees required.
  2. For new residential development where tree removal is to occur within public or private roadways or rights-of-way, drainage facilities, parking areas or proposed open space, all trees are not subject to replacement in accordance with this section.
- c. Agricultural Operations. Agricultural operations are exempt from replacement requirements providing the property in question is farmed for a minimum of five (5) years after the date of clearing. An application must be submitted prior to clearing. If the property is developed for any other use before the five (5) years expire, the replacement obligation shall be enforced according to the new use of the property.



- d. Nonresidential Development. All commercial and industrial developments are required to replace all trees removed in accordance with this section.
- e. Sparse Land/Major Subdivisions and Site Plans. In regard to major subdivisions and site plans, lots with tree cover less than thirty (30%) percent shall be required to plant a minimum of 1.5 trees per ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less of open field. The owner/applicant shall have a qualified professional calculate the total required trees to be distributed in accordance with a landscape plan of the entire project, which shall be approved by the Conservation Officer.
- f. Tree Escrow Fund Established. Tree Escrow Fund shall be established by the Township to promote environmental enhancement programs such as tree planting, tree preservation, park development, landscaping and/or other related projects on or within municipality-owned properties or facilities. A separate trust account shall be established for this purpose under the supervision of the Township Treasurer. Appropriations from the Tree Escrow Fund shall be authorized by the Mayor and Township Committee and shall be used for a municipal purpose pursuant to the recommendations of the Zoning Officer, the Conservation Officer, the Township Planner and/or the Shade Tree Commission.
- g. Replacement Tree Value Calculations.
  - 1. The replacement value of all trees to be removed where replacement trees are required by this section shall be calculated as follows:

**TABLE 5.11: REPLACEMENT TREE CALCULATIONS**  
**Replacement Trees**

Trees to be Removed: Caliper	Number	Caliper	Dollar Amount
Greater than 6" & up to 12"	1	2-2-1/2"	\$240.00
Greater than 12" & up to 18"	3	2-2-1/2"	\$660.00
Greater than 18" & up to 24"	6	3"	\$2,440.00
Greater than 24"	8	3"	\$3,680.00

- 2. Dead and diseased trees are not counted as trees to be replaced.
- 3. The applicant will receive a one and one-half (1 1/2) for one (1) replacement tree credit should stands of eight (8) or more trees greater than four (4") inches in caliper be preserved within tree removal areas.
- 4. All replacement trees shall be planted on site unless one or more of the following conditions exist: (A) the site in question cannot physically accommodate the total replacement amount of trees. The applicant shall contribute an amount equal to the calculated monetary value of the removed trees minus the value of the proposed landscaping to the Township Tree Escrow Funds, as required herein; (B) due to unique site conditions, the Conservation Officer and applicant agree in writing that the applicant shall make payment to the Township Tree Escrow Fund based upon the above chart.
- h. Trees replaced according to the foregoing calculations shall not be construed to satisfy other street tree and landscaping quantity requirements contained elsewhere in this chapter.  
 (Ord. No. 10-04)



**12-4.8 Fees.**

Upon application for a tree removal permit, the applicant shall be charged the following fees:

- a. For new resident building lots: fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per tree up to a maximum of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars per lot.
  - b. For all other properties: fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per tree up to a maximum of six hundred (\$600.00) dollars for each acre.
- (Ord. No. 10-04)

**12-4.9 Time Limit.**

All tree removal permits shall be limited to one (1) year from the date of issuance. If the approved tree removal has not occurred within one (1) year, a new permit must be applied for and is subject to the payment of new fees. (Ord. No. 10-04)

**12-4.10 Criteria for Tree Removal.**

The Conservation Officer may approve the removal of a tree if any of the following criteria apply:

- a. The tree is located in a parcel for which preliminary or final subdivision approval has been obtained, and it unreasonably restricts the economic enjoyment of the property and cannot be relocated on the site because of its age, type or size.
  - b. The tree is dead, diseased, injured, in danger of falling, interferes with existing utility service, created an unsafe condition, or conflicts with any other ordinances or regulations.
- (Ord. No. 10-04)

**12-4.11 Enforcement.**

The requirements of this section shall be enforced by the Conservation Officer, who shall inspect or require adequate inspection of all sites upon which there is an application for site plan or subdivision, all applicable tree removal or destruction and soil removal incidental thereto, and for compliance with other pertinent conditions of approval from the Planning Board/Zoning Board. Upon ascertaining a violation of this section, the Conservation Officer shall refer charges in the Municipal Court as provided in this section. In addition to other remedies, the Director of Code Enforcement and Construction, Zoning Officer or other proper municipal official may institute any appropriate legal action to prevent a continuing violation of the terms of this section. (Ord. No. 10-04)

