

Community Forestry Management Plan

Township of Teaneck, Bergen County, New Jersey

2016-2020

Township Mayor and Council

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Elie Katz, *Deputy Mayor*

Henry Pruitt, *Deputy Mayor*

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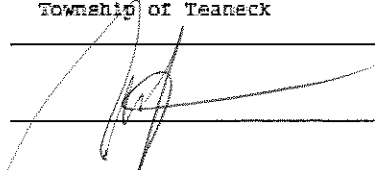
This plan was prepared in accordance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act
(Revised 2016)

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I. Municipal Information Form

Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality	Township of Teaneck
County	Bergen County
Address	818 Teaneck Road Municipal Building Teaneck, New Jersey 07666
Contact Name and Title	Mike Cassidy - Supervisor of Trees
Phone #	(201) 837-1600 ext. 1708
Fax # and E-mail	(201) 837-1222 - mcassidy@teanecknj.gov
Organization Name	Township of Teaneck
Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature	
Date of Management Plan Submission	December 23, 2016
Time Period Covered in Management Plan	2016 - 2020
Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Practices Identified in Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #1 Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #4 Arbor Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #5 Tree Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #11 Tree Planting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #12 Tree Recycling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #14 Storm Water Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #15 Other

**Official Use Only
Certification**

The above named municipality/county 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 the NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed _____

State Forester

Approved date _____

II. Introduction

This is the Township of Teaneck's 4th Community Forestry Management Plan. It covers the period from January 2016 through December 2020 and was created in accordance with the "Guidelines for a Subsequent Community Forestry Plan" as required under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, P.L. 1996, Chapter 135, revised in 2016. The emphasis of this plan is placed on the protection and safety of the community forest as well as increased public outreach and education on the benefits and proper management of private trees.

Implementation of this plan will result in a healthier community forest through the planting of the right tree in the right place and promotion of proper arboricultural practices. It will result in greater public awareness and buy-in to the cause of proper tree management.

Approval of this plan by the State Forester, upon favorable recommendation from the Community Forestry Council, will provide continued liability protection to the Township under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act and will render the Township eligible to receive grant money from the New Jersey Forest Service to help implement this plan.

Mission Statement

To continue to promote and maintain the health, safety, and sustainability of the Township of Teaneck's community shade tree resource for the environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits provided to residents and visitors.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of this five-year plan are:

Goal #1: Tree Inventory & Assessment

To determine the current species diversity and condition of the tree population, as well as available planting spaces for new trees, within the Township of Teaneck in order to plan for future planting needs and budgetary requirements.

Objectives of Goal #1:

1. Apply for grant money through the Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) to hire a consultant to help perform the inventory and expedite its completion.
2. Create an interactive map of tree inventory and summary of collected data for municipal use and consider posting on the municipal website.
3. Once the initial inventory is completed, continue to update dataset to account for removals and new plantings as they occur.

4. Upon completion of initial inventory, create a schedule to re-assess existing trees on a regular basis. Trees with structural issues and/or in poor condition that are not recommended for removal should be reassessed more frequently than those that are young and/or in good condition.

Goal #2: Hazard Tree Identification

To reduce the risk associated with dead, dying, diseased, or structurally unsound community trees within the Township of Teaneck.

Objectives of Goal #2:

1. Have members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff and Shade Tree Advisory Board (STAB) attend hazard tree identification and mitigation training programs.
2. Conduct street tree evaluation twice annually to identify hazard trees and use this information to create a hazard tree removal and pruning schedule.
3. Remove all identified hazard trees within 3 months of assessment.
4. Create a hazard tree identification and mitigation educational packet for homeowners and make it available to the public on the Township/STAB website and as handouts at Township events.
5. Apply for CSIP grant to hire professional contractors to remove hazardous trees that are beyond the capacity of the in-house Public Works crews.

Goal #3: Tree Planting

To promote the concept of “the right tree in the right place” and improve the species diversity within the Township in order to help reduce the long-term tree maintenance costs.

Objectives of Goal #3:

1. Continue to plant trees with the proper mature height to avoid conflict with any overhead utility lines.
2. Increase current tree planting and replacement rate in order to reach a one-for-one goal.
3. Continue to maintain and promote the Trees of Love program through the STAB.
4. Continue to promote the benefits of trees at Township events, such as the Annual National Night Out celebration.
5. Reach out to local companies and organizations to sponsor tree plantings throughout town.
6. Consider requiring developers to plant new trees as part of any project within the Township of Teaneck.
7. Upon completion, utilize the Township tree inventory to identify potential new tree planting sites.

8. Upon completion, utilize the Township tree inventory to increase the species diversity found within Teaneck.
9. Create an approved tree and shrub planting list that contains species that are known to thrive in the local environment and be free from major disease or insect. The list should be separated by the mature height of the trees in order to better select the right tree for the right place and be made available to the public.
10. Create a list of tree and shrub species to avoid planting. This should include known invasive, non-native species and species that are prone to insect and disease issues, such as ash trees, in the local environment and be made available to the public.
11. Create a guide for proper tree planting methods that should be followed for all tree plantings on Township property. It should be made available to the public.
12. Create an information guide to promote “the right tree in the right place” planting concept to homeowners to help make them aware of proper spacing (from other trees and structures) and potential conflicts on their property (telephone lines, cable lines, etc.).

Goal #4: Tree Maintenance and Care

To promote awareness of proper tree care to the citizens of the Township of Teaneck, educate members of the STAB and Public Works Department on proper tree care methods, and continue to maintain the safety of Township trees.

Objectives of Goal #4:

1. Maintain pruning schedule for young trees to promote proper structure free of codominant stems and other defects.
2. Contract out all large tree removals, especially those in overhead utilities.
3. Educate members of the Public Works staff and STAB on the identification of new and emerging insect and disease problems. One example is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect that feeds on and rapidly kills ash trees. This pest was confirmed in Hillsdale in Bergen County in 2015.
4. Apply for CSIP grant to preventatively treat high-quality ash trees from EAB.
5. Create a guide that promotes proper application of mulch around trees and shrubs and warns of the impacts of misapplication. Post guide on the municipal website.
6. Raise awareness of the potential impact of construction projects on the health of trees and promote methods of preserving mature trees during a construction project as an alternative to removal. Provide links to informational websites, such as www.treesaregood.org, on the Township website for interested citizens.
7. Consider providing links to various insect and disease fact sheets that will educate the public on their identification and various treatment options on the Township website. Add new links as local insect and disease pressures change.
8. Continue to send members of the STAB and Public Works Department to the annual NJ Shade Tree Federation meeting.

Goal #5: Public Outreach

To promote awareness and stewardship for the benefit of trees throughout the community.

Objectives of Goal #5:

1. Create the guides related to proper tree care outlined above and make them available to the public.
2. Continue to celebrate Arbor Day.
3. Continue to gain recognition as a Tree City USA.
4. Continue to have the STAB participate in the Township's annual National Night Out celebration.
5. Look for similar Township events, such as the annual Street Fair, in which the STAB/DPW can participate and promote the benefits and proper care of trees throughout the Township.
6. Include a copy of all local tree ordinances and other tree care information in the New Homeowner packets that are mailed out by the Township.
7. Utilize i-Tree Eco to quantify benefits provided by township trees. Attach signs to trees in high-visibility locations (parks, Township Hall lawn, etc.) to promote awareness to public.
8. Reach out to like-minded groups to create synergistic relationships and cost-sharing opportunities.
9. Host at least one (1) free speaking events open to the general public annually that features a different expert on tree-related topics.
10. Create a Facebook page for the STAB (or add STAB information to the existing Teaneck Facebook page) that will promote all tree-related functions and events within the Township and provide links to tree care tips and fact sheets. Pictures from all local tree-related events should be posted as well. Update page regularly.
11. Create an educational pamphlet that promotes the social and environmental benefits of trees to the public. Make pamphlet available at all public appearances and on STAB website.
12. Consider adding a "Tree Service Request" form to the Township website that will be emailed to the Department of Public Works and/or the Shade Tree Committee and allow for quicker government response.

Goal #6: Implement Five-Year Community Forestry Plan (CFMP)

To monitor, review and update the five-year community forestry plan in order to provide a smooth transition to the next five-year plan.

Objectives of Goal #6:

1. Review this CFMP by the STAB and the Department of Public Works on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures and/or budgetary changes.
2. Share this CFMP with other Township entities to create synergy.
3. Continue to meet or exceed State required CORE training and Continuing Education Units (CEUs).
4. Continue to file Annual Accomplishment Reports with the State.
5. Prepare for next 5-year CFMP (2021-2025).

Liability Statement

The Township of Teaneck recognizes the importance of maintaining a quality shade tree resource. However, trees are living organisms requiring care and maintenance, and as they grow and age often present potentially hazardous conditions. The incoming presence of emerald ash borer, along with an aging urban forest, unpredictable storms, and the ever encroaching human infrastructure present the Township with a monumental task in maintaining its shade tree resource. Following the steps outlined in the previous three five-year Community Management Plans, Teaneck has reduced its liability due to poorly maintained trees.

The Township of Teaneck is committed to improving safety, reducing liability, and maintaining its urban forest at the highest level by following industry-accepted arboricultural practices. This plan provides a means of prioritizing shade tree maintenance to reduce existing shade tree hazards, and also provides a framework that will reduce future hazards by preventative maintenance, culling of aging trees, and tree species selection that will reduce future shade tree-infrastructure conflicts. While not all tree-related accidents can be predicted, good maintenance and planning will reduce those occurrences.

The Township also recognizes the realities of limited monetary and personnel resources, the difficulties of growing trees in highly developed urban landscapes, and the issue of climate change. Addressing these issues as part of the implementation of the Management Plan will assure a proactive management strategy that will result in a long-lived, healthy urban forest presenting minimal risk to the community.

This fourth Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan demonstrates the Township of Teaneck is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of tree-related accidents, and thereby reduce its exposure to liabilities and increase public safety.

III. Community Overview

2010-2015: Five Years of Progress

The implementation of the third 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan (2010-2015) has seen many challenges and rewards. All of the objectives were not achieved, but many accomplishments were made. Annual accomplishment reports were filed with the State. Below are highlighted achievements made during the past 5 years:

1. Effective and efficient administration of the STAB.
2. Attendance at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation annual meetings.
3. Maintenance of required CORE training and CEUs. Currently, the Township of Teaneck has 20 CORE trained representatives: Kevin Arahill, Mike Cassidy, Chuck Moren, Lester Autry, Nancy Cochrane, Brian Kistler, Luis Rodriguez, John Campbell, Janet Austin, Richard Merz, Fran Wilson, Norma Goetz, Albert Antinori, Zina Barrera, Nicholas Gripenburg, Dania Cheddie, William Isecke, Harry Kissileff, Olga Newey, and Jacqueline Grindrod.
4. Continued training of Public Works employees.
5. Continued to host annual Arbor Day celebration that includes handing out tree seedlings.
6. Continued to participate in the annual National Night Out celebration.
7. Began the Trees of Love program where citizens can have a tree planted in a Township park in order commemorate a joyful event or to memorialize a loved one.

The benefits gained by the Township of Teaneck for following the 3rd CFMP include:

1. Increased liability protection under the Act.
2. Ability to apply for grants to better managed their tree resource
3. Obtained CSIP grant for planting of trees in Township parks
4. Maintained participation in Tree City USA for the past five years.
5. Participation in training and informational opportunities at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation annual meetings and other events.
6. Increased public outreach and awareness for the methods and importance of the proper care of trees.

There were, however, some breakdowns in the implementation of the full CFMP. The Township Tree Nursery plan never took hold and has been dropped from this five year plan. Due to the number of significant storm events in the past five years, budget has been diverted from tree planting and routine pruning in order to remove storm-damaged trees.

In order to combat some of these shortcomings, the Township of Teaneck will more tenaciously pursue grant opportunities that are offered through the CSIP, the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program, and other programs.

Changes to the Teaneck Tree Resource

There has been a gradual change in the Teaneck tree resource over the past five years. Due to the high number of severe storms in recent years (Irene, Snowtober, and Sandy), the Township estimates that it has removed more trees than it has planted. According to records provided, 173 trees were removed in 2011; 247 in 2012; 352 in 2013; 201 in 2014; and 147 in 2015 for a total of 1120 trees. One tree is planted each year as part of the Arbor Day celebration and ten were planted in 2014 from funding from a CSIP grant. \$75,000 was budgeted in 2016 for tree planting which resulted in a contract being awarded and 325 street trees being planted in the fall.

A Township tree ordinance prevents residents from pruning or removing a public tree from public lands or the public right-of-way unless they have permit issued by the Tree Supervisor. All work performed on the public tree must be performed by a NJ Certified Tree Expert who must also fill out the permit and state specifically what actions will be taken on the tree and why.

Relation to the Township's Master Plan

All aspects of this Community Forestry Management Plan are consistent and compatible with the goals, objectives, and general intent of the Township's **Master Plan** (updated in 2015). In general, comprehensive shade tree management efforts, as outlined in this CFMP, will help preserve the aesthetic appeal of existing streetscapes and the overall character of residential neighborhoods and the Township overall. Management efforts will ensure that the shade tree resource is maintained so that the physical, economic, and social benefits of trees to the community will be maximized and continue over the long term.

IV. Community Forestry Program Administration

The administration, implementation, and oversight of Teaneck's Community Forestry Programs are shared among the Mayor and Council, the Township Administrator, the Department of Public Works, and the STAB. The roles of each are well defined and understood.

1. Mayor and Council
 - a. The Mayor is responsible for appointing members to the Township's various boards, commissions, and committees, including the Shade Tree Commission.
 - b. The Mayor and Council have ultimate authority over the policies, procedures, and programs of the Shade Tree Program and are responsible for approving its budget.
2. Township Manager
 - a. The Township Manager serves as the chief administrative official of the Township.
 - b. The Township Manager ensures that the Township follows all applicable laws, policies, and procedures in the procurement of personnel, resources, and contractors.
 - c. The Township Manager assists the Mayor and Council in setting policies and procedures for the Shade Tree Program and assists the Department of Public Works and the STAB in implementing them.
3. Shade Tree Advisory Board
 - a. The Shade Tree Board is a group of citizen volunteers who are appointed by the Mayor.
 - b. The STAB is primarily responsible for providing technical and management advice to the Township Council and Shade Tree Supervisor as well as educating residents to the benefits and care of trees.
 - c. Specifically, it is responsible for:
 - i. Conducting tree inspections when necessary in conjunction with the Supervisor, assists in identifying suitable tree planting sites and recommends appropriate species for Township planting.
 - ii. Annual tracking and evaluation of progress made towards the goals and objectives of the approved Community Forestry Management Plan.
 - iii. The Board also plans Teaneck's annual Arbor Day selection, sees that Teaneck maintains its Tree City USA status and is an active participant in the annual National Night Out.
4. Other Township Departments and Boards
 - a. Other Township Departments and boards assist the Shade Tree Program to the extent that they:
 - i. Administer or implement Township ordinances, policies, and procedures that directly or indirectly relate to the protection and management of public and private trees.

- ii. Notify the DPW of tree-related emergencies, service requests, or other issues.
- 5. Department of Public Works
 - a. The DPW, in cooperation with the Shade Tree Advisory Board, the Mayor and Council, and the Township Administrator, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management and maintenance of the Township's public trees.
 - b. Specifically, the DPW is responsible for:
 - i. Managing day-to-day aspects of the Township's Shade Tree Program and developing plans and programs in cooperation with the Shade Tree Advisory Board, Mayor and Council, and the Township Administrator.
 - ii. Receiving requests for public tree maintenance tasks for street trees, trees in Township parks, and trees on Township properties through its in-house Tree Crew.
 - iii. Completing pruning, removal, and other maintenance tasks for street trees, trees in Township parks, and trees on Township properties through its in-house Tree Crew.
 - iv. Supervising contractors that may be hired to complete, or assist in completing, public tree pruning and removal tasks.
 - v. Planting new public trees.
 - vi. Providing emergency response service, when necessary.
- 6. Private Tree Maintenance Contractors
 - a. Private contractors are periodically hired to complete, or assist in completing, public tree maintenance and removal work.
 - b. Contractors are, within the terms of their agreement, responsible for:
 - i. Completing all work to the specifications of the Township in a safe and efficient manner.
 - ii. Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices and abiding by all current and applicable safety standards relating to tree care operations.
 - iii. Reporting any tree-related hazards or other problems immediately to the Township.
- 7. Public Utilities
 - a. Public utility firms are responsible for minimizing conflicts between trees and their facilities.
 - b. While doing so, public utility firms and their contractors are responsible for:
 - i. Abiding by all applicable ordinances.
 - ii. Keeping the Township informed of their work plans and schedules.
 - iii. Exercising reasonable diligence in the installation and maintenance of their facilities so as to avoid damage to public and private trees.

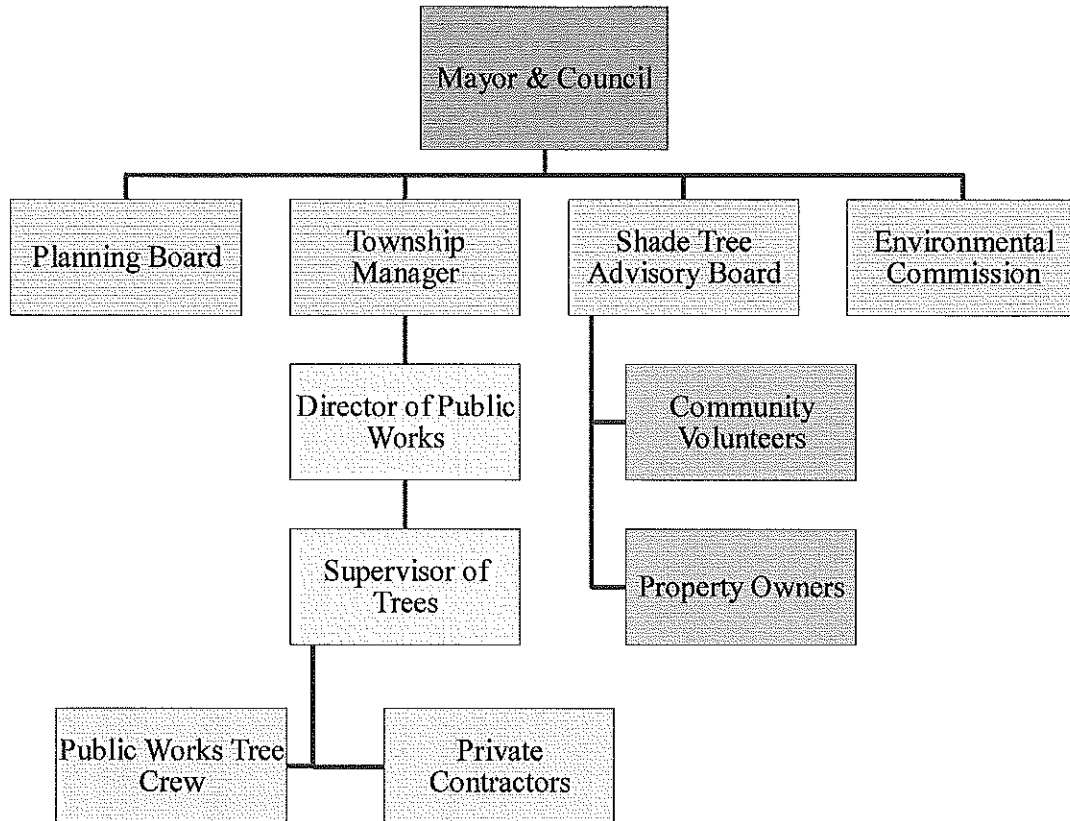
- iv. Not removing any tree without prior approval of the Township or its owner.
 - v. Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices.
 - vi. Assist Township personnel and contractors in completing tree removal and maintenance work around their facilities, where necessary.
8. Property Owners
- a. Private property owners assist the Shade Tree Program to the extent that they:
 - i. Notify the Township of problems and service requests for public trees.
 - ii. Assist in irrigating and protecting new public trees planting adjacent to their properties.
 - iii. Are encouraged to plant and properly care for trees on private property.
 - iv. Comply with all applicable ordinances and policies relating to public tree protection, sidewalk repair, etc.
9. Community Volunteers
- a. Members of the STAB and their related boards and committees are residents of the Township and serve on a volunteer basis.
 - b. Residents that are not members of Township boards and committees are welcomed at public tree planting events, Arbor Day Celebrations, and the National Night Out.

Currently, any tree related issue or concern that is received by the Township is forwarded to the Department of Public Works Tree Supervisor for review. The Supervisor determines the appropriate action steps to take based on the issue. This may involve contacting the person with the issue to explain or clarify an existing code or arranging for an arboricultural action to be performed on the tree in question. The majority of the work on Township trees is performed in-house. Records of all inspections and completed work are maintained through the DPW work order system.

The maintenance and repair of sidewalks with the Township right-of-way is the responsibility of the adjoining property owner. The DPW is notified in cases where damage to sidewalks, driveways, or underground utilities has been caused by a Township tree. In these instances, the Tree Supervisor visits the property to determine if root pruning, root shaving, or tree removal will be necessary to complete the repair. If removal of the tree is warranted, the DPW will perform the work. In cases where root pruning is an acceptable solution, the work is performed by the property owner's tree or sidewalk maintenance contractor. Property owners are required to obtain a permit before any sidewalk maintenance can take place.

In order to facilitate the process for a citizen to submit a tree service request, the administration is currently considering adding a form to the Public Works and STAB pages of the Township website. The form will allow the public to enter their contact information, the location of the tree in question and their specific reason for concern regarding this tree. Once filled out, this form will be emailed directly to the Department of Public Works and STAB for immediate action.

Township of Teaneck Organizational Chart



V. Community Map

The Township of Teaneck community map has not changed substantially since the previous three 5-Year Community Forestry Plans have been developed. Therefore, no new map has been included in this plan.

VI. Training Plan

There are currently 20 people within the Township of Teaneck that have received CORE training under the Act. They are: Kevin Arahill, Mike Cassidy, Chuck Moren, Lester Autry, Nancy Cochrane, Brian Kistler, Luis Rodriguez, John Campbell, Janet Austin, Richard Merz, Fran Wilson, Norma Goetz, Albert Antinori, Zina Barrera, Nicholas Gripenburg, Dania Cheddie, William Isecke, Harry Kissileff, Olga Newey, and Jacqueline Grindrod.

In order to obtain the required 8 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per year, at least two Public Works Department employees attend the NJ Shade Tree Federation Meeting on an annual basis. To supplement these credits, members attend approved educational and training courses, such as those offered at Bergen County College or Rutgers University.

The science of arboriculture is constantly changing. Activities such as topping and lion-tailing were considered good practice 30 years ago, but are no longer acceptable as they have been shown to do more harm than good. It is important that the Township expose the Public Works crews to the most updated philosophies regarding proper tree care. For this reason, a greater focus over the next five years should be placed on training these people who work most closely with the Township tree resource. Proper care of young and newly planted trees will reduce the need for action and associated costs for these trees as they mature. The staff of the Department of Public Works should receive additional training over the next five years on topics such as:

1. Proper tree pruning, especially young tree pruning
2. Safety & Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
3. Proper tree planting, including use of soil amendments
4. Species selection and nursery standards
5. Hazard tree assessment

The STAB focuses its energy on educating the public on the importance of trees and how to properly care for its tree resource. In order to maintain the STAB as experts in the community, a diverse range of education topics need to be explored. Over the next five years, training in the following areas should be explored:

1. Tree identification and risk assessment
2. Sidewalk & tree root conflicts
3. Proper tree planting and young tree care
4. Insect & disease identification and the practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
5. Tree inventories

VII. Public Education/Awareness/Outreach

The Township of Teaneck supports and understands that public education, awareness and outreach is crucial to gain local support for their tree programs. The Township, through the STAB and Township Council, has engaged in efforts to transmit information to its residents and will extend its efforts in this category through the implementation of this plan. Below are specific outreach and educational events that can be implemented over the next five years in order to promote community awareness.

Tree City USA

The Township of Teaneck has achieved Tree City USA status and will continue to participate in the program for the next five. There is no specific community event that corresponds with annual accreditation, however, signs are posted at community entrances that promote the designation and it is incorporated into the Arbor Day celebration. The award is applied for at the beginning of each year.

Arbor Day

The Township of Teaneck will continue to hold annual Arbor Day celebrations. The event is planned by STAB, Department of Public Works and the local elementary schools. It is an excellent way to educate the younger generation on the benefits of trees. A member of the STAB dresses up in a tree costume at the local kindergarten. Typically, a tree planting occurs during the event.

Annual National Night Out

The Shade Tree Advisory Board hosts a table at the Township's annual National Night Out. Here, they hand out information materials and answer questions about the Township's Shade Tree Program, ordinances and regulations, and general tree care. Over the next five year, the STAB will look for additional Township events at which to have a table and hand out information related to proper tree stewardship. The annual street fair is one such possibility.

Guest Speaking Events

An objective of this five-year Community Forestry Plan is to begin a series of guest speaking events that will be designed to promote education and stewardship of the Township's tree resource. Guest speakers may be from the NJDEP, New Jersey Certified Tree Experts, or employees of local nurseries, or tree care and landscaping companies. Events can be held at the municipal library on basic tree maintenance and choosing the proper tree. It is STAB intention during the next 5 years to host at least one (1) free speaking event per year.

In order to maximize attendance at these events, promotion is required. This will be accomplished by utilizing the recently renovated municipal website, advertising in local newspapers, and municipal events.

The goal of the STAB is to host at least one (1) speaking events per year. Topics to consider for future presentations include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives to tree removal for resolving tree & sidewalk conflicts
- Tree preservation and protection during construction
- Tree identification
- Proper small tree and shrub pruning techniques
- Proper species selection

Township of Teaneck Website

In the last five years, the STAB has added a "Trees of Love" page with extensive information regarding the program. Additional updates will be made in the next 5 year period. According to statistics from Nielson and the Pew Research Center, 55% of Americans use the internet every day and they spend an average of 60 hours per week on the web. The internet has become the primary means of contact with a target audience. Over the next five years, resources need to be devoted to making the STAB page on the Township website the premier location for residents to get their tree-related information. In order to do this, additional information guides need to be developed and links to University fact sheets and independent arboricultural websites (such as www.treesaregood.com) need to be added. Also, a constantly updated schedule of all tree-related events in the community should be created.

Social Media

In study conducted by Pew Research in 2015, they found that 65% of Americans currently have a profile on a social media site. This is up from 48% in 2010. This same study showed that 55% of Americans age 45-54 have a social media site. This is a major means of communication that has gone untapped by the Township. Creation of a STAB Facebook (or adding STAB and tree-related information to the existing Township) page may create increased interaction between residents and the committee. It will allow the STAB to post reminders for all upcoming events, alert residents to all webpage updates, and share new articles and fact sheets that will be timely and relevant. The Facebook page should be promoted on the Township website and at all events featuring the STAB.

Synergy With Like-Minded Groups

Going forward, additional opportunities for synergy between the STAB and like-minded groups – such as the Environmental Commission, Planning Board, and local boy and girl scouts - in the community need to be sought out and initiated.

VIII. Statement of Tree Budget

The majority of the Township of Teaneck Public Works Department operating budget for tree management is allocated to DPW salaries and brush chipping and fall leaf collection. There is currently no room in the budget to perform some of the specific, essential objectives of this plan. Seeking out and obtaining grant money will be essential to the success of this plan.

The STAB is made of up seven volunteers and two alternates who donate their time at the rate of \$21.79/hour¹. They hold twelve hour long meetings per year and are active at the annual Arbor Day and Clean Community Day celebrations. There are various additional events throughout the year that they host and attend. Members spend an average of 500 volunteer hours per year, for a total of \$10,895 of in-kind services.

Township of Teaneck 2015 Tree Budget Summary

Total Shade Tree Department Budget for 2015, including all salaries, benefits, and equipment expenditures was \$448, 401.18. Shade Tree Advisory Board & other volunteers donate approximately 500 hours per year; the equivalent of \$10,895. The total tree budget for the Township of Teaneck in 2015 was \$459,296.18.

¹ This rate is the 2010 figure developed by Independent Sector and published on their website:
http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

IX. Statement of Plan Implementation

This is the fourth 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan for the Township of Teaneck. During the past 5-year period, the Township has made progress and achieved goals that were highlighted earlier in this document. Going forward, the emphasis for the STAB will be to educate the public and promote proper tree care throughout the community. The DPW will continue to actively manage the Township's tree resource by utilizing sound arboricultural practice and maintaining a high level of training. Increasing the number of new tree plantings will be a joint effort of the DPW and STAB.

Implementation of the Township training plan over the next five years has been discussed in Section VI and Section VII covers the plan for public outreach, education and awareness. Below the tree inventory & assessment, hazard tree identification, tree planting, and tree maintenance and care plans are discussed.

Tree Inventory & Assessment

Finalizing a complete inventory of Teaneck's tree resource is a priority during this 5-year period. Grant money will be sought to hire professional, NJ Certified Tree Expert consultants to perform the inventory. Alternatively, if grant money is not available, the use of volunteers will be explored. In the event that either students or volunteers perform the inventory, the Township has an excellent resource in Mr. Cassidy and the DPW staff to perform follow-up hazard assessment of trees of concern.

The inventory will collect data on the existing trees and identify potential future planting sites. Data collected on existing trees should include, but is not limited to:

- Species
- Diameter at breast height (DBH)
- Condition
- Location (either by utilizing GPS technology or by recording street address)
- Height
- Sidewalk conflict (Y/N)
- Utility conflict (Y/N)
- ISA Qualitative Risk Rating (to be determined by CTE)
- Management recommendations (to be determined by CTE)
- Comments

The data collected for each potential planting site should include, but is not limited to:

- Location
- Utility conflict (Y/N); If yes, distance to utility
- Potential sidewalk conflict (Y/N); If yes, distance between street and sidewalk

Following completion of the initial inventory, the Township must update the dataset regularly in order to account for removals and new plantings. Ideally, all management actions, such as pruning, fertilization, and treatment for insects and disease, performed on each tree will be recorded. This will allow for pruning cycles to be developed and easily executed.

Hazard Tree Identification

Currently, the tree resource of the Township of Teaneck is regularly assessed by the Supervisor of Trees, DPW crews, and members of the STAB. In addition, residents are able to report any tree concerns that they may have directly to the DPW.

Over the next five years, the Township will attempt to be more proactive in its hazard tree identification procedure. Members of the DPW and STAB will be exposed to new training and education opportunities. They will work to develop guidelines for hazard tree assessment that will be used during their regular assessments of trees. Also, an educational packet on hazard tree identification and mitigation will be created and posted to the Township website in order to educate the public. In order to streamline the resident response procedure, a “Tree Service Request” form may be developed and added the Township website.

Following completion of the tree resource inventory, the Township will prune and remove trees utilizing its resources in the most effective and efficient means possible. The inventory data will be maintained in order to insure that pruning cycles are maintained.

The Township will apply for funding, as the need arises, to contract with professional companies for the removal hazardous trees that are beyond the capacity of the in-house DPW crews.

Tree Planting

Regular tree planting has not occurred over the past five years in Teaneck. Annual plantings occur as part of the annual Arbor Day celebration, but tree planting budget has been diverted in order to cover the cost of tree removals as the result of storm damage.

A goal of this five year plan is to increase outreach to local companies and residents in order to have more sponsored tree plantings in the Township. The Trees of Love program has been a success to date and with increased promotion and word-of-mouth, the number of trees planted will increase.

Continued effort will be placed on planting the right tree in the right place. Only trees small enough to grow under utility lines are to be placed in these areas. Trees that are susceptible to known insect and disease issues, such as the impending emerald ash borer, should be discouraged from future planting throughout the Township. Educational packets on these topics, as well as proper planting technique and application of mulch, will be created and posted on the

Township website for public use. In lieu of creating new packets, links to existing educational information on website such as treesaregood.com can be considered.

The undertaking of a complete tree inventory will highlight additional planting sites that are not currently utilized and provide the Township with the current diversity of tree species that are present. Based on the results of this inventory, future species selection may shift in order to increase diversity. Areas with low species diversity are more susceptible to widespread damage from invasive pests. Examples of this include the devastation caused by Dutch elm disease in the mid-1900s and the current impact of EAB in the Midwest.

Tree Maintenance and Care

Teaneck Township has an ongoing tree maintenance program. Pruning and removal work along Township roads and parks is performed by DPW crews or contracted to companies when the scope of the job is beyond the capability of the DPW. County crews are utilized to perform work on trees along county roads. This division of labor is expected to continue over the next five years.

Going forward, a greater emphasis should be placed on the care of young trees. Early developmental pruning results in improved structure and fewer hazardous defects in mature trees. This will result in lower maintenance costs for mature tree care and free up room in the budget for fertilization and planting of new trees. Training opportunities will be made available to DPW crews in this area.

The STAB will develop a multitude of tree care tips and guides that will be posted on their website and distributed at annual Arbor Day, Clean Community Day, and Night Out celebrations. In addition, a variety of links to insect and disease fact sheets and tree care websites, such as www.treesaregood.com, will be posted to the website. This will result in greater community awareness on the proper maintenance of their trees.

Five-Year Plan Implementation Timeline

Perform the following items in each year of the five-year plan:

- Have members of the Public Works Department staff and STAB attend hazard tree identification and mitigation training programs (Goal #2, Objective #1).
- Apply for CSIP grant money to assist in fulfillment of the 5-Year Community Forestry Plan (1.1, 2.5, 4.4).
- Conduct street tree evaluation twice annually to identify hazard trees and use this information to create a hazard tree removal and pruning schedule (2.2).
- Remove all identified hazard trees within 3 months of assessment (2.3).
- Continue to plant trees with the proper mature height to avoid conflict with any overhead utility lines (3.1).

- Increase current tree planting and replacement rate in order to reach a one-for-one goal (3.2).
- Continue to maintain and promote the Trees of Love program through the STAB (3.3)
- Continue to promote the benefits of trees at Township events, such as the Annual National Night Out celebration (3.4).
- Reach out to local companies and organizations to sponsor tree plantings throughout town (3.5).
- Maintain pruning schedule for young trees to promote proper structure free from codominant stems and other defects (4.1).
- Contract out all large tree removals, especially those in overhead utilities (4.2).
- Educate members of the Public Works staff and STAB on the identification of new and emerging insect and disease problems (4.3).
- Raise awareness of the potential impact of construction projects on the health of trees and promote methods of preserving mature trees during a construction project as an alternative to removal (4.6).
- Provide links to various insect and disease fact sheets that will educate the public on their identification and various treatment options on the Township website. Add new links as local insect and disease pressures change (4.7).
- Continue to send members of the STAB and Public Works Department to the annual NJ Shade Tree Federation meeting (4.8).
- Continue to celebrate Arbor Day (5.2).
- Continue to gain recognition as a Tree City USA (5.3).
- Continue to have the STAB participate in the Township's annual National Night Out celebration (5.4)
- Look for similar events for, such as the annual Street Fair, in which the STAB/DPW can participate and promote the benefits and proper care of trees throughout the Township.
- Reach out to like-minded groups to create synergistic relationships and cost-sharing opportunities (5.8).
- Host one free speaking events open to general public at the public library annually that feature a different expert on tree-related topics (5.9).
- Review of this CFMP by the STAB and DPW on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures, and/or budgetary changes (6.1).
- Continue to meet or exceed State required CORE training and CEUs (6.3).
- Continue to file Annual Accomplishment Reports with the State (6.4)

Perform in Year 1, 2016:

- Consider requiring developers to plant new trees as part of any construction project within the Township of Teaneck (3.6).
- Include a copy of all local tree ordinances and other tree care information in the New Homeowner packets that are mailed out by the Township (5.6).

- Create a Facebook page for the STAB (or add STAB information to the existing Teaneck Facebook page) that will promote all tree-related functions and events within the Township and provide links to tree care tips and fact sheets. Pictures from all local tree-related events should be posted as well. Update page regularly (5.10).
- Share this CFMP with other Township entities to create synergy (6.2).

Perform in Year 2, 2017:

- Create an approved tree and shrub planting list that contains species that are known to thrive in the local environment and be free from major disease or insect issues has been created. The list should be separated by the mature height of the trees in order to better select the right tree for the right place and be made available to the public (3.9).
- Create a list of tree and shrub species to avoid planting. This should include known invasive, non-native species and species that are prone to insect and disease issues in the local environment and be made available to the public (3.10).
- Continue to update the STAB Facebook page (5.10).
- Consider adding a "Tree Service Request" form to the Township website that will be emailed to the Department of Public Works and/or the Shade Tree Committee and allow for quicker government response (5.12).
- Review this CFMP by STAB and Supervisor of Trees on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures and/or budgetary changes (6.1).

Perform in Year 3, 2018:

- Create a hazard tree identification and mitigation educational packet for homeowners and make it available to the public on the Township/STAB website and as handouts at Township events (2.4).
- Create a guide for proper tree planting methods that should be followed for all plantings on Township property and be made available for public use (3.11).
- Create a guide that promotes proper application of mulch around trees and shrubs and warns of the impacts of misapplication. Post guide on the municipal website (4.5).
- Utilize i-Tree Eco to quantify benefits provided by township trees. Attach signs to trees in high-visibility locations (parks, Township Hall lawn, etc.) to promote awareness to public (5.7).
- Continue to update the STAB Facebook page (5.10).
- Review this CFMP by the STAB and Superintendent of Public Works on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures and/or budgetary changes (6.1).

Perform in Year 4, 2019:

- Create an interactive map of tree inventory and summary of collected data for municipal use and consider posting on the Township website (if municipal tree inventory is completed) (1.2).
- Utilize the Township tree inventory, if completed, to identify potential new planting sites (3.7).
- Utilize the Township tree inventory, if completed, to increase the tree and shrub species diversity found within Teaneck (3.8).
- Continue to update the STAB Facebook page (5.10).
- Create an educational pamphlet that promotes the social and environmental benefits of trees to the public. Make pamphlet available at all public appearances and on STAB website (5.11).
- Review this CFMP by the STAB and Superintendent of Public Works on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures and/or budgetary changes (6.1).
- Prepare for next 5-year CFMP (2021-2025) (6.5).

Perform in Year 5, 2020:

- Once the initial inventory is completed, continue to update dataset to account for removals and new plantings as they occur (1.3).
- Upon completion of initial inventory, create a schedule to re-assess existing trees on a regular basis. Trees with structural issues and/or in poor condition that are not recommended for removal should be reassessed more frequently than those that are young and/or in good condition (1.4).
- Upon completion of initial inventory, create a schedule to re-assess existing trees on a regular basis. Trees with structural issues and/or in poor condition that are not recommended for removal should be reassessed more frequently than those that are young and/or in good condition (1.5).
- Continue utilizing a hazard tree removal and pruning schedule based on the results of the Township tree inventory, if completed (2.2).
- Utilize the Township tree inventory, if completed, to identify potential new planting sites (3.5).
- Utilize the Township tree inventory, if completed, to increase the tree and shrub species diversity found within Teaneck (3.6).
- Create an information guide to promote “the right tree in the right place” planting concept to homeowners to help make them aware of proper spacing (from other trees and structures) and potential conflicts on their property (telephone lines, cable lines, etc.) (3.12).
- Continue to update the STAB Facebook page (5.10).

- Review this CFMP by the STAB and Superintendent of Public Works on an annual basis; update objectives as needed based on previous successes, failures and/or budgetary changes (6.1).
- Prepare for next 5-year CFMP (2021-2025) (6.5).

X. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)

Upon approval of this plan, meeting the CORE training requirements, and accumulating the required CEUs, the Township of Teaneck will be qualified to apply for Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) grants to assist with the costs of implementing this plan. An applicant may apply only once (per fiscal year) for community stewardship incentive funds; however, multiple CSIP practices may be addressed in the grant application. The following is a list of possible CSIP grant requests for the Township of Teaneck. Additional or revised grants may become apparent as this 5-year is implemented.

CSIP #1: Training

Training needs are outlined in Section XI. The STAB and Public Works Department employees will continue to participate in a variety of tree-related training. This is accounted for in the current budget and there is no plan to apply for CSIP grant money to supplement this training at this time.

CSIP #2: Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment

The Township of Teaneck has made one change to its Community Forestry Ordinances in the past five years and will continue to review and consider updating existing ordinances in the next five. No grant money will be applied for this endeavor.

CSIP #3: Public Education and Awareness

A key focus of the STAB over the next five years will be increasing public awareness on the proper management of their tree resource. This is outlined in Section VII. The Township may submit for grant funding to pay for experts to come to the Township and give tree-related educational presentations.

CSIP #4: Arbor Day

The Township puts on an annual Arbor Day celebration as discussed in Section VII. The cost of this celebration is allocated in the yearly budget and will not require additional grant funding.

CSIP #5: Tree Inventory

The need for a comprehensive inventory of the Township's tree resource is outlined in Section IX. There is no room in the current budget to hire consultants to perform the inventory. Applying for and obtaining CSIP grant money is a possibility in order to create an initial, high quality inventory that may not be possible with the use of volunteers.

CSIP #6: Hazard Tree Assessment

The current hazard tree assessment protocol is discussed in Section IX. The Supervisor of Trees and his staff attempts to visually assess every public tree twice per year. CSIP grant money may be applied for to perform more thorough assessments on high-value or historically important trees within the Township, though this is a low priority.

CSIP #7: Storm Damage Assessment

Application for funding of storm damage assessment is not expected at this time. Drive-by surveys following major storms are performed by the Tree Supervisor, his crew, and members of the STAB. Residents are also able to call the DPW with specific issues they observe. Storm damage clean-up is primarily performed by DPW crews, but there is always the possibility of hiring contractors for assistance with the removal of large scale damage.

CSIP #8: Tree Maintenance and Removal

Tree Maintenance and Removal is discussed in Section IX. The current DPW budget is generally sufficient for most of the Township needs, however, CSIP funding may be sought if future storms create a large backlog of work.

CSIP #9: Insect and Disease Management

Currently, application for additional funding for insect and disease management is not expected. However, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been positively identified within 10 miles from Teaneck in Hillsdale, NJ. There are preventative chemical treatments available, but they can be expensive and funding would be required. The USDA recommends that preventative treatment begins when an EAB infestation is found within 15 miles of ash trees.

CSIP #10: Wildfire Protection

No program currently exists in the Township of Teaneck for wildfire protection and there is no anticipated need for funding for this topic.

CSIP #11: Tree Planting

Tree planting is addressed in Section IX. Increasing the number of tree plantings will be focus over the next five years. Community outreach is primary means to increase planting, but the completion of the comprehensive tree inventory will identify new potential planting sites that may be beyond the current allocated budget and require additional funding.

CSIP #12: Tree Recycling

The Township of Teaneck currently has an effective leaf recycling and curbside chipping program in place. Additionally, residents are able to take these materials directly to Recycling & Conservation Center. No additional requests for funding are anticipated at this time.

CSIP #13: Sidewalk Maintenance Program

In the next five years, a focus of the STAB and the Department of Public Works will be on educating the public on the alternatives to tree removal when dealing with tree/sidewalk conflicts. This will include promoting the use of expandable joints, pervious concrete and root barriers. The need for CSIP funding for this task is not anticipated.

CSIP #14: Storm Water Management

The Township of Teaneck Department of Public Works has active leaf pick-up and street sweeping programs that help to reduce the amount debris that enters the sewer system. No funding is anticipated at this time.

CSIP #15: Other

There are no other needs of the Township of Teaneck at this time.