

New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report 2013

This report is submitted to The New Jersey Forestry Service to enable them to monitor the accomplishment and implementation status outlined in the approved Community Forest Management Plan. It is required to achieve and maintain Approved Status under the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, thereby reducing the Borough's exposure to litigation.

Community Forestry Program Administration: The Englewood Cliffs Shade Tree Commission continues to be responsible for the administration of our Borough's Community Forestry Program. This year we unfortunately lost our long time member, Bobbie Goldstein. The current commission members are Yvonne Favaro (Chairperson), Janice Senackerib, Maura Vill, and Amy Cioffi. We will be submitting the name of Yang Chang to the Mayor for appointment at the January, 2014 reorganization meeting of the Mayor and Council. The Commission is currently preparing to submit its third five year plan. This commission has the full responsibility for the Shade Tree resources in Englewood Cliffs and is answerable directly to the Mayor and Council.

Training and Professional Development: The Commission has maintained its CORE and CEU requirements by sending Shade Tree Chairperson, Yvonne Favaro and DPW Superintendent, Mark Neville to the Fall Conference of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, October, 2013. Englewood Cliffs CORE-certified people include: Yvonne Favaro, Donald Huggett, Paul Renaud, Janice Senackerib, Maura Vill, and Amy Cioffi. In addition, Chairperson Yvonne Favaro, an ISA Certified Arborist, who became recertified in 2013.

Public Education/Awareness/Outreach: Our Arbor Day celebration, publicized on the community electronic notice board, included all the students of our K-8 school system. Grades K-2 participated in planting a tree at North Cliff School and each student was involved in planting annuals around our two schools. The celebration was attended by many parents who received a notice of the event that was brought home by the students. The 5th grade students participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest and the winning poster received a gift card donated by Connectone Bank. Grades 6-8 participated in a poetry contest and winners of that were also given gift cards by Connectone Bank of Englewood Cliffs. The Shade Tree Commission's link on the Borough's web site includes a list of instructions to follow when a resident has a tree problem or question. The Commission continued to meet with building contractors to insure their compliance with our ordinance requirements. The shade Tree Commission has entered into an agreement with its corporate neighbor, NBC Universal, for the development of a small wooded area belonging to them and adjacent to the Borough's Witte Memorial Field and Recreation Complex. Councilwoman, Melanie Simon, has stepped down as Shade Tree Commissioner but continues to serve as liaison between the Commission and the Council. She also serves on the Englewood Cliffs Planning and Zoning Commission. A flyer describing the care and requirements of Englewood Cliffs Shade Tree Commission was produced in house this year and delivered by the DPW along with its recycling flyer at no cost to the Commission.

Combined in-kind services from the DPW, Shade Tree Chairman, and Commissioners are estimated to be about 1200 hours over the year. Their work includes maintaining the trees in the parks, working with contractors, going to meetings, making phone calls, writing letters, articles and grants. We hired Lisa Simms' NJSTF team to help maintain the trees at our Witte Field and Recreation Complex. Jon Hirsch works as a part-time tree-maintenance gardener. Shade tree violations at construction sites are identified by our inspector, Don Huggett who also inspects shade trees of residents who have requested tree work. He then recommends the work to be done. After going out to bid, we have contracted with Reliable Tree Service, Inc. to do our tree work. We also enter into agreements with other contactors to do major maintenance of our street and park trees since our DPW does not have the manpower to do any tree work.

Plan Implementation: The database for our tree inventory is complete. However this is a dynamic tool which continues to be updated. Perfecting the use of this valuable tool is an ongoing process and requires considerable time by the Commission.

The maintenance of Woodland Park continues to be a challenge. We have tried both private landscaping companies and the DPW but so far the results still fall below our expectations. This year maintenance of Woodland Park, recently renamed Veterans and Fallen Heroes Park, has been improved by hiring a local landscaper to do full maintenance.

We have, once again, entered into a contract with a tree service company to maintain our Community Forest by responding to our requests to prune and/or remove Shade Trees where necessary. In addition, we were able to use \$20,000.00 "storm money" to remove 17 dead or failing trees and prune about 20 streets of *shade trees*. In keeping with our new policy of emphasizing tree maintenance we hired NJST Foundation Lisa Simms to prune all the trees the Commission has planted over the last 10 years. This developmental pruning is expected to reduce tree failure in the future as well as the need for more severe pruning. These measures have been taken to fulfill our goal of promoting a sustainable and productive community forest and shade tree resource.

We have drafted an amendment of our Shade Tree Ordinance to improve the fate of mature trees on construction sites so that the expense of replacing them is offset by the contractor should they be damaged in the course of the construction. The Mayor and Council have adopted these changes.

Community Stewardship Incentive Program In accordance with our Management Plan goals and objectives, we continue to work on our shade tree inventory by collecting and entering more data into the custom- built Access program. This will enable us to achieve a more systematic method of monitoring the health of the community's trees and also meet our goal of continuing our ten-year pruning cycle started in 2007.

Other CSIP projects include a tree donation program for park trees and traditional Arbor Day celebrations. We will continue to identify hazard trees as we respond to the requests of the residents to prune shade trees on their ROW, removing trees when necessary. We have lost our local newsletter and are no longer able to print the bimonthly tree article. We still, however, enjoy a strong public awareness and we are turning to emails to publicize our community activities. We are also constantly updating our web site since that is now done in house. A strong, cooperative relationship with the Superintendent of Schools, PTA, and Board of Education enabled us to continue to enjoy extensive Arbor Day activities. Thus the Shade Tree Commission of Englewood Cliffs has maintained its Community Forestry Program and met its 2013 goals.