

**Bernards Township
Community Forestry Management Plan
2018-2022**



Prepared by
Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

R 2018-0107

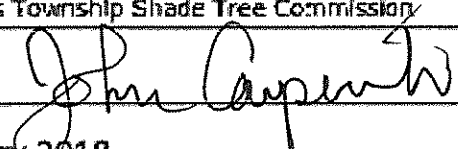
Bernards Township Community Forestry Management Plan 2018-2022

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I. Municipal Information Form

Community Forestry Management Plan - Fourth Five Years

MUNICIPAL/COUNTY INFORMATION FORM

Municipality	Bernards Township
County	Somerset
Address	1 Collyer Lane Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Contact Name and Title	Randy Santoro, Chairperson, Bernards Twp. Shade Tree Commission
Phone #	908-766-9709
Fax # and E-mail	randysantoro@gmail.com
Organization Name	Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission
Municipal/County Forestry Officer's Signature	
Date of Management Plan Submission	January 2018
Time Period Covered in Management Plan	2018-2022
Community Stewardship Initiative Program (CSIP) Practices Identified in Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #1 Plan Preparation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #2 Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #4 Arbor Day Activities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #5 Assessment/Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #6 Tree Hazard Identification Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #7 Tree Planting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #9 Tree Recycling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #10 Ordinance Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #11 Tree Care Disaster Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #12 Insect and Disease Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP #13 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

3/15/18

II. Introduction

A. Scope

This Bernards Township Community Forestry Management Plan (hereinafter the Plan or CFMP) for 2018-2022 was prepared by the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission (the STC or BTSTC) to document the manner in which Bernards Township manages the community tree resources under its jurisdiction including trees and shrubbery in the right-of-way adjacent to local streets, in parks and around township buildings and other holdings. This plan will also outline how Bernards Township intends to further improve this system over the next five years.

B. Mission Statement

Bernards Township desires to maintain and promote a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree resource that will physically and aesthetically benefit the community and its residents in the most cost effective manner possible.

C. Goals and Objectives

The following is a list of goals of the Bernards Township's Community Forestry Management Plan.

1. Promote a diversity of trees and shrubbery plantings to provide for long-term coverage of public lands, parks and recreation areas.
 - a. Establish a revised planting program to address anticipated losses as they occur due to projected Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation as well as other perceived needs. We emphasize adhering to the guidelines of an established list of trees developed with consideration of the size of the plant at maturity, the local climate and environment (clay soil, rocky, or wetland) conditions.
 - b. Utilize "Cool Cities" and other grants as available to augment the effectiveness of our tree planting initiatives. We will work closely with township management regarding our planting goals in public parks and other areas under township ownership.
 - c. Reapply annually for Sustainable Jersey certification by managing the tree canopy in Bernards Township.
 - d. Identify potential projects and educational opportunities related to the anticipated emerald ash borer infestation in Bernards Township.
2. Continue without diminution our established and ongoing maintenance program related to trees along township rights-of-way by continuing to work closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and our designated certified tree expert (CTE) resource. Also, continue communication with county, state and utility company maintenance divisions to ensure compatible procedures.

3. Conduct a survey of ash trees on all local, county and state roads, municipal lands and parks.
 - a. Identify problem trees (evidencing EAB infestation, disease or stress) and propose corrective action.
 - b. Establish a priority list for the removal of hazardous trees.
4. Review the need for new tree ordinances and make recommendations to the township committee as necessary and appropriate.
 - a. Review and update as necessary policies for the ongoing maintenance of community shade tree resources. Determine where the greatest liabilities lie and address these areas.
 - b. Review and revise tree policies as appropriate based on the need to promote the safety and welfare of the community.
 - c. Review and revise as appropriate the current approved tree list used for planting in township easements and post on the Township website.
5. Seek new opportunities to educate the public about trees and their importance to the entire community.
 - a. Update the map of community tree resources to mark the loss of certain specimens (primarily the great white oak on the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church grounds) and consider adding new points of interest: e.g., historical trees and State Champions.
 - b. Maintain Tree City USA status every year and publicize this achievement throughout community.
 - c. Maintain and update periodically the STC EAB education site on the township webpage. Publicize new developments concerning EAB and our remedial actions through local media such as the Basking Ridge Patch and Bernardsville News.
 - d. Continue annual Arbor Day Celebrations in cooperation with local schools and advertise event in local papers.
 - e. Publicize other tree-related articles and events through local media such as the Basking Ridge Patch and Bernardsville News.
 - f. Continue to educate the public and increase awareness of our valuable urban tree resources in general, and the EAB threat in particular, by continuing our historical tree quizzes offered in conjunction with the annual Bernards Township Charter Day celebration.

6. Enhance Bernards Township's tree canopy through an active planting program and by encouraging residents to plant trees on private property.
7. Identify hazardous trees and continue the plan to remediate hazardous tree conditions. Continue windshield surveys by zone with the assistance of a NJ Certified Tree Expert.
8. Ensure that the goals of the 2018-2022 CFMP are compatible with the Bernards Township Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan.
9. Continue educational opportunities and training for STC commissioners and Public Works employees.
 - a. Send all new Shade Tree commissioners for CORE training.
 - b. Encourage Shade Tree commissioners to attend seminars at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting annually.
 - c. Encourage Shade Tree commissioners to attend training sessions related to proper pruning, tree identification, invasive species and hazard tree identification at Rutgers University, or other comparable programs.
10. Explore the possibility of updating the local land use ordinance to make provisions for a site plan review by a Shade Tree commissioner.
11. Prepare educational materials related to interesting trees in Bernards Township and disseminate to the public as appropriate.

D. Liability Statement

Bernards Township recognizes the benefits provided to the community by its tree resources. Trees are living entities and it is inevitable that as trees mature they eventually require more care, maintenance, removal and, in some cases, replacement. Bernards Township must, however, work within a limited budget and may not be able to meet every demand. Therefore it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources on minimizing tree hazards.

Since it is impossible to predict or prevent all hazardous conditions that may arise, the STC has developed this Plan in part to remediate hazardous tree conditions in a timely manner. This Plan evidences the STC's commitment to proactive tree management and hazard remediation in order to reduce the occurrence of reasonably foreseeable accidents or failures attributable to diseased or damaged trees on township-owned property or right-of-way adjacent to local roads. Adherence to this Plan will demonstrate that Bernards Township is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of hazardous-tree-related accidents and thereby improve public safety and reduce its exposure to liabilities.

III. Community Overview – Five Years of Progress

A. *Achievements*

During the term of the 2013-2017 five-year Plan, the STC coordinated the planting of 47 trees on the grounds of the Cedar Hill, Mt. Prospect and Oak Street elementary schools and the William Annin middle school by recommending appropriate sites, selecting and purchasing the trees and arranging with the planting with DPW and Aramark (the school's physical plant contractor). The schools' project featured a diversity of varieties including American Elm, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Scarlet Oak, White Oak, Swamp White Oak, Burr Oak, Pin Oak, Willow Oak, London Plane Tree, Cherry, Tulip and River Birch.

The STC and DPW provided extensive support for the Children's Forestry Program of the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) – a Japanese based environmental organization. The STC offered recommendations on most suitable species and local growing concerns as well as providing critical liaison with township public school officials. DPW provided the logistical support as OISCA enlisted the local schools in an extensive cherry tree-planting endeavor on school properties in September 2016.

The 2013-2017 Plan recognized that the 2011 October snowstorm and superstorm Sandy in 2012 provided an opportunity for the STC and other township boards and committees to pursue remediation efforts. Superstorm Sandy alone caused widespread tree loss and damage to Bernards Township (STC estimated that more than 15,000 trees were destroyed in superstorm Sandy alone). In response, the STC (with joint sponsorship from the Environmental Commission and support of the Township Committee) initiated *Five in 5!* – a program whereby township residents were encouraged to plant 5,000 trees over the next five years. We reached our goal of 5,000 trees in late 2016, and commemorated the event on Arbor Day weekend 2017 with a ceremony in Pleasant Valley Park. The event was highlighted by the planting of a 20-foot white oak donated by a local nursery.

In both 2015 and 2016, the STC partnered with the DPW to deploy NJ Department of Forestry EAB traps in Pleasant Valley Park (PVP). PVP is a high-use municipal recreation area in the southwest portion of Bernards Township and was selected partly for the intensity of its use and partly due to its proximity to Bridgewater Township which had confirmed EAB sightings in 2014. According to the Department of Forestry, no EAB were identified in our PVP traps during 2015 and 2016.

In the 1st Quarter 2016, the STC identified an opportunity to proactively address the EAB menace in our township. Working closely with the township administrator, STC submitted a comprehensive application for a Community Forestry Program Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) grant and received the maximum \$25,000 grant to support a targeted hazardous tree removal project in Pleasant Valley Park. The initial stage of ash tree removals identified under the grant was completed in the 3rd Quarter 2016.

The 2013-2017 Plan provided for ongoing hazardous tree assessment and remediation with an increasing focus on ash trees. The STC has divided the township into eight districts each of which is assigned a commissioner to field questions and complaints from residents and perform windshield surveys. This maintenance program provided for rolling windshield surveys with one inspection and assessment of each district one time during the course of every five-year plan. Windshield surveys in 2013 and 2014 were conducted with the assistance of an outside consultant, David Welch, CTE. Later years' surveys were conducted with the aid of a CTE who recently joined the STC. The results of the annual surveys included lists of identified maintenance needs and a priority list for corrective actions which were taken by DPW.

The STC also conducted an ash tree survey of Pleasant Valley Park in 2014 because of the high potential for risk in the event of an EAB infestation in the park. The survey identified more than 600 ash trees in the park of which more than 400 could pose a hazard due to proximity to potential targets. This initiative ultimately culminated in the Pleasant Valley Park project and 2016 CSIP grant for ash tree removal. In 2016-2017 we began ash tree inventories of the Harry Dunham and Mountain View parks.

With a low turnover rate among shade tree commissioners, the STC has effectively maintained the structure and objectives of the original Plan.

The STC continued fostering a public education program by presenting information during the annual Bernard's Township Community Charter Day each year 2013-2017. Our Charter Day information booth provided an opportunity for township residents to show their tree knowledge by participating in leaf and bark quizzes. Over the course of the 2013-2017 Plan we increased our emphasis on the emerald ash problem. In 2015, for example, we welcomed the participation of a representative of the Department of Agriculture who presented information on EAB and handed out free washable EAB tattoos for kids whose parents stopped by our booth. Each year we promoted the *Five in 5!* initiative and disseminated free bumper stickers with the *Five in 5!* logo. New planting site suggestions were welcomed from residents as well as citizen alert regarding potential tree hazards within the Community. Seedlings, and potted plants, were distributed free of charge each year at the Charter Day celebrations.

We commemorated Arbor Day each year during the period 2013-2017 with ceremonies at each of the township elementary schools. Arbor Day events are typically attended by the mayor or other township committee members and receive local press coverage.

A map of community tree resources and important points of interest, developed in prior years, remains available for use by interested members of the public. The map describes a walking tour of twenty different trees near the center of town to encourage residents and visitors to view our unique diversity of trees and learn about their historic importance to the community. That resource will have to be updated to reflect the 2016 loss of the Basking Ridge Oak, a historic great white oak on the Presbyterian Church grounds.

The STC expanded and updated our online presence in order to achieve a more comprehensive webpage on the Bernards Township website. For example, we posted a

nine-page Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan prepared for the Township Committee in 2016. We also posted an Emerald Ash Borer Alert on the webpage in 2016 consisting of 75 informational points in a frequently asked question/answer format dealing with five topics as well as an explanation of How to Plant a Tree in Six Easy Steps. The site is located at:

http://www.bernards.org/boards_commissions/shade_tree

The STC expanded the educational opportunities and training for STC members and Public Works Employees. BTSTC has sent one or two members for CORE training annually for the past five years. Some members have also attended the Rutgers Continuing Professional Education training classes as well as classes at the annual meeting of the NJ Shade Tree Federation. Training demonstrations on proper pruning techniques were conducted by a CTE at recent Charter Day festivals for residents and BTSTC members. Training is discussed more fully below in section VI, Training.

B. Problems Encountered and New Issues

We anticipate that EAB will take an ever larger share of STC time, effort and township financial resources in 2018-22. Budgetary limitations have caused the township to reconsider best use of available financial resources and seek other sources of funding to manage our urban forest. For example, planting trees along the right-of-way adjacent to township streets largely ceased during the period 2013-2017 because of the burden on the DPW tree maintenance budget. These are hard decisions. As it is, the township spends roughly \$90,000 per annum on tree removal and maintenance. With an eye on potentially explosive increase in tree removal costs when EAB fully arrives, the township is disinclined to incur otherwise avoidable tree maintenance expenses. For its part, the STC provided the background resources and educational materials to educate and inform the township committee and township administrator of the risks and begin planning for future accelerated ash tree removal from township properties and right-of-ways along township streets if and when the need arises.

As a result, our tree planting initiative turned to the local public schools during the period 2013-2016. In the next CFMP our tree planting efforts will focus on public parks, especially as we continue to remove ash trees in those locations pursuant to our EAB Management Plan.

We also launched a public initiative that encouraged residents to plant trees themselves on private property in response to the loss of tree canopy occasioned by superstorm Sandy in 2012. Our *Five in 5!* campaign reached its goal of 5,000 trees before 2017. We will continue to encourage residents to plant trees on private property.

The EAB situation emerged as the preeminent problem during the 2013-2017 Plan and now dominates our thinking. For example, we inventoried the ash tree population in Pleasant Valley Park and deployed EAB traps in Pleasant Valley Park in both 2015 and 2016. In 2016 we applied for and received a \$25,000 CSIP grant to support the Pleasant Valley Park project – a long-term effort to proactively remove ash trees from high use areas in the park before they can become a hazard and replace these ash with other

diversified species. Over the next five years we will continue the Pleasant Valley Park project and pursue similar efforts in other municipal parks.

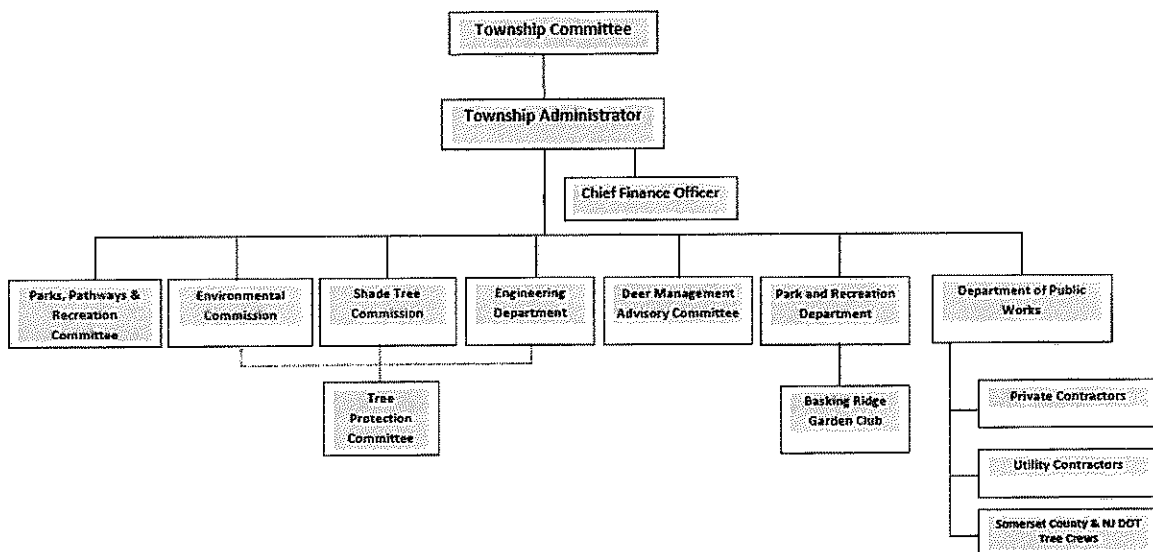
C. Statement of Benefits

Implementation of earlier CFMPs benefited the community by establishing methodical goals, timelines and procedures. The effectiveness of the BTSTC has been enhanced by implementing the Plan's objectives. Structured tasks and adequate training of commissioners has led to quicker decision-making and problem resolution. Communication is excellent among the STC, DPW, township committee and township administrator as we forge consensus and work on common goals. This results in fewer tree problems throughout the community and in coordinated effort to resolve issues.

IV. Community Forestry Program Administration

The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission advises the Township Committee, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding Shade Tree concerns on public property and along public rights-of-way. The following chart depicts the relationship of those involved in the shade tree management process.

A. Organization Chart – Shade Tree Management Synergies



(1) Township Committee

- (a) The Township Committee is responsible for appointing members of the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission.
- (b) The Township Committee reviews the policies and plans of Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission.
- (c) The Township Committee approves annual budgets for the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission and the Department of Public Works.
- (d) A member of the Township Committee acts as a liaison to STC.

(2) Township Administrator

- (a) Reviews plans and policies submitted by the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission and makes recommendations to the Township Committee. The Township Administrator also supports CSIP and other grant applications.

(3) Chief Financial Officer

- (a) Recommends the annual budget of the Shade Tree Commission to the Township Committee.

(4) Parks, Pathways & Recreation Committee

- (a) Recommends and reviews resource allocations for the diversified opportunities of leisure interests provided by the parks, pathways and physical infrastructure of Bernards Township.

(5) Environmental Commission

- (a) Cooperates with the Shade Tree Commission in tree related projects.

(6) Shade Tree Commission

- (a) The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission consists of a seven member volunteer board along with two alternate members appointed by the Township Committee. Our STC is well qualified with a diversity of skills and experience among our members which include a New Jersey certified tree expert and former DPW employee from Livingston, NJ, a forestry expert with a B.S. degree in Botany from Syracuse University and a diploma in Forestry from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a botanist and biologist with a B.S. degree in Forest Ecology from Rutgers University who has served as chairman for more than 10 years. The commission is well regarded by the township committee and township administrator.
- (b) The STC is the advisory agency for all community trees on municipal streets, rights-of-way, parks, or other properties. STC members duties include:
 - 1) Provide guidance on the planting, removal and general maintenance of Township trees.
 - 2) Develop and recommend the policies and goals that will preserve and develop Bernard's tree resource.
 - 3) Perform public outreach to foster better understanding of and care for Bernards' trees on both public and private properties.
 - 4) Propose tree-related items for inclusion in the annual township budget.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
Randy Santoro	Chair	12/31/2018
Al Werner	Vice Chair	12/31/2019
Judy O'Connell	Secretary	12/31/2018
Cynthia Aiken	Regular Member	12/31/2022
Fred Burgerhoff	Regular Member	12/31/2020
Jim Ferratti	DPW Advisor	12/31/2018
Frank Goodhart	Regular Member	12/31/2021
Jack Gray	Regular Member	12/31/2022
John Malay	TC Liaison	12/31/2018
Michael Zaidel	Regular Member	12/31/2019
Linda Sims	Alternate #1	12/31/2022
Derek Asay	Alternate #2	12/31/2022

(7) Engineering Department

- (a) Inspects all the work performed by utility contractors on Bernards Township's properties.

(8) Deer Management Advisory Committee

- (a) Advises the Township Committee on matters relating to the Township deer population and its control.

(9) Parks and Recreation Department

- (a) Responsible for upkeep of newly planted and young trees in Township Parks i.e. mulching, watering, fertilizing, trimming.

(10) Department of Public Works

- (a) Reviews some requests for tree planting, removal or maintenance and makes the necessary inspections in conjunction with the Shade Tree Commission.
- (b) Inspects work performed by private contractors for the township.
- (c) Develops annual plans and budget requests for tree maintenance.
- (d) Maintains through public employees and private contractors all trees on public property concerning tree hazards and other problems.
- (e) Responsible for tree removal, pruning and brush clean-up along municipal roadways and on township properties.

(11) Tree Protection Committee

- (a) Review township resident tree removal permit applications and determine whether to grant permit.

(12) Basking Ridge Garden Club

- (a) Assist with tree plantings and beautification projects throughout the township.

(13) Private Contractors

Generally, most tree care and maintenance activities are done by outside vendors except emergency situations as they arise, which may be handled by the Department of Public Works, Somerset County or utility tree crews. Private contractors are responsible for the following:

- (a) Provide proof of appropriate insurance, certifications and licenses as necessary to the appropriate department heads.
- (b) Report prior to and following all work performed to the appropriate department supervisor.
- (c) Complete all work in a safe and timely manner according to all applicable safety standards set by OSHA or ANSI, as they pertain to tree care operations.
- (d) Follow all current arboricultural practices and recommendations.
- (e) Report all hazards or problems directly to appropriate department head immediately.

(14) Utility Contractors

- (a) Must notify the Bernards Township Director of Public Works prior to the start of any non-emergency work in the township.
- (b) Must follow all current arboricultural practices and recommendations.
- (c) May assist Public Works Department Tree Crews in clearing trees to a safe distance from their facilities when necessary.

(15) Somerset County Tree Crews

- (a) At the request of the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission will remove dead trees on county rights of way.

(16) NJ DOT Tree Crews

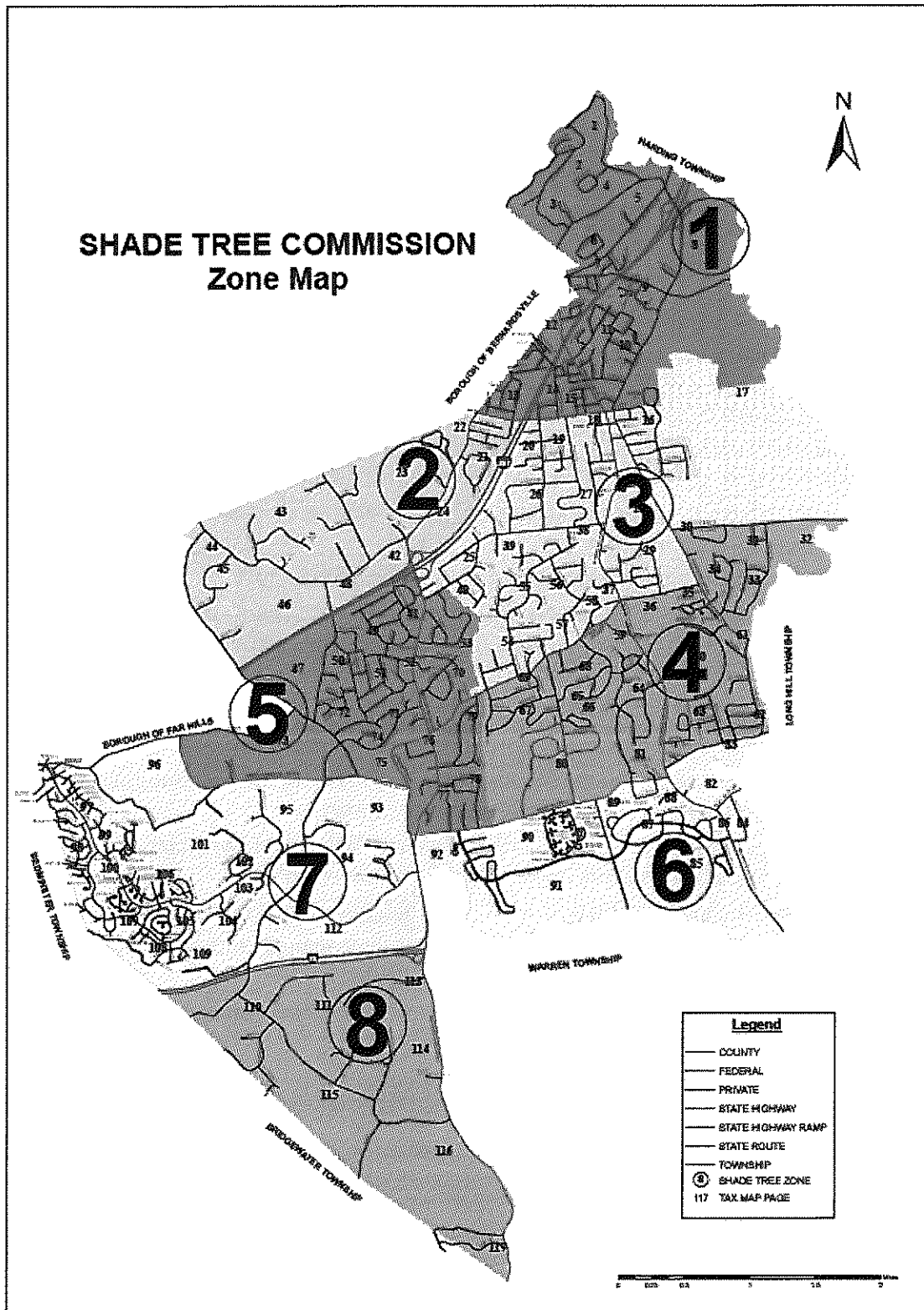
- (a) Responsible for maintaining trees on state roadways.

B. Tree Service Request Process

Planting, removal, or pruning requests can be made by any department or individual residing in Bernards Township so long as the property in question is owned and maintained by Bernards Township. Due to current budget constraints, planting requests will be considered only on township-owned property. All requests must follow these procedures:

1. All requests can be mailed, emailed or called in to the Bernards Township DPW Office, Township Clerks Office or to the STC's secretary. Phone numbers and email addresses are posted on the Township website.
2. All information pertinent to the request is sent to the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission prior to action, except in the case of emergencies - which will be sent directly to the Director of Public Works to be handled in an expeditious manner. The STC secretary coordinates requests received from residents, DPW and commissioners and routes the request to the commissioner assigned to the zone in question.
3. Requests from all sources are reviewed at the monthly STC meeting. The review process ensures that requests and inquiries are reviewed by the entire STC, prompt action is taken and proper feedback is given to the requestor.
4. All non-emergency work will be inspected by the Bernards Township DPW and Shade Tree Commission, prioritized and referred to the appropriate department.
5. Work requests are completed in the order in which they were received (excluding emergency or priority work) and good faith efforts are made to ensure that requests will be completed in a reasonable time period.
6. The property owners adjacent to the requested work location and/or those making the request will be notified of any action to be taken, even if no action is deemed necessary at that time.

V. Community Map - Bernards Township Map



VI. Training Plan

Since arboriculture is constantly changing with fast-paced technological and scientific innovations, Bernards Township recognizes the need for a broad-based and ongoing training program for individuals at all levels of the Community Forestry Management Program. From Public Works employees to commissioners and township administrators, all need current technical and managerial information to benefit Bernards Township's urban forest.

Current Training

1. The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission utilizes a portion of its budget for ongoing training of its members.
2. The STC encourages and provides for its members to participate in continuing education classes and CORE training as included in the New Jersey Shade Tree & Community Forestry Assistance Act. As of Dec. 31, 2016, all nine commissioners and one DPW township employee were CORE- trained. New members attend CORE training as soon as practical, generally during the first year of their appointment.
3. Some members of the STC and DPW township employees have attended the Hazardous Tree Identification class at Rutgers, and new members will be sent as soon as is practical.
4. STC members have attended the all-day training session at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting for the past seven years.
5. Five STC commissioners earned a total of 56 CEU credits in 2016.
6. Four commissioners attended the NJ Division Allegheny Society of American Foresters 2016 Annual Meeting at Rutgers University. The meeting focused on tree health and the EAB threat.
7. Two commissioners attended a Horticultural Symposium in Morristown, NJ.
8. One commissioner attended the Somerset County EAB conference.
9. One commissioner attended the second annual Doyle Memorial Saluting Branches: Arborists United for Veterans Remembrance Day of Service.
10. Two commissioners attended the Great Swamp Watershed Association meeting in Morristown featuring an outside tree expert who spoke on EAB.
11. Four members attended the 2016 Shade Tree Federation annual meeting in Atlantic City.
12. Four members attended an Invasive Species Task force annual conference at Duke Farms in Hillsboro, NJ.
13. Several commissioners conducted frequent web-based research related to EAB.
14. The above mentioned courses and others are available to all individuals involved in managing tree resources.

Goals and Objectives

1. To have all individuals involved in the management of tree resources CORE-trained. To accomplish this, each new Commission volunteer will be sent to the next available CORE training session.
2. To increase the quality of care given to Bernards Township's trees, the most current technical arboricultural information will be provided to tree maintenance crews and Shade Tree Commission members.

3. To ensure the safety of tree maintenance crews and residents by providing current and advanced training in hazard tree identification, equipment safety, and electrical hazard awareness.
4. Continue annual training at Rutgers or NJ Shade Tree Federation annual meeting on current techniques or new developments for Township employees and STC volunteers.
5. The STC will allocate part of its training budget to send more of its members to the Hazard Tree Identification class at Rutgers University.

VII. Public Education, Awareness and Outreach

Since its beginnings on August 20, 1968 the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission has supported public education with regard to tree care. While this provides a valuable service to the community at large, it also encourages public support for the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission provides community forestry education through some of the following public outreach methods and hopes to expand this program to include each of these objectives.

- A. Offer tree advice to residents at no charge.
- B. As budgets will allow, continue planting trees on township property, primarily in the municipal public parks.
- C. Continue to conduct and promote Arbor Day activities and plantings.
- D. Continue to participate in the annual Town Charter Day festivities, by manning a booth, distributing tree information, conducting information learning sessions and gathering information from residents requesting tree work and new plantings.
- E. Notify local newspapers of tree-related events when appropriate.
- F. Publish Shade Tree Commission meeting dates in compliance with the "Sunshine Law."
- G. Continue to invite and work with Scouts and other youth groups to assist with planting activities. Encourage the local public schools to become more involved with the Shade Tree Program.
- H. Assist teachers and school groups in tree-related projects.
- I. Work with Garden Clubs to help maintain and beautify public spaces and parks.
- J. Consider creating a tree identification walking path in Mountain Park as an educational site for the community.
- K. Advise the Planning and Zoning Boards regarding trees proposed in development applications including recommendations for proper planting techniques. Develop relationships with home owner associations in local developments.
- L. Post the current Community Forestry Management Plan on the township website.
- M. Publishing tree related articles annually in the local paper and on-line.
- N. Maintaining Tree City USA status on an annual basis.
- O. Post tree-related information, particularly developments related to EAB and township efforts to address the problem, on the Township's internet website (www.bernards.org) with a link to the Shade Tree Commission webpage.

VIII. Statement of Tree Budget

Direct budget/expense:

STC township funding	\$4,980
Department of Public Works	49,000
CSIP Grant	25,000
Accrued developers' fees	60,500

In-kind volunteer hours at \$26.70/hr:

STC – 906 hours	\$24,190
Garden Club – 220 hours	\$5,874

Mandated developers' tree planting reserve fund	<u>172,500</u>
2016 Total Tree Care Budget	342,044

IX. Shade Tree Management Plan Implementation

A. *Tree Assessment and Inventory*

The Township of Bernards has a large and diverse tree canopy. Currently there is no formal street tree plan and only a partial tree inventory. A computer based database has been prepared with the eventual goal of a comprehensive street tree inventory in Bernards Township that will lead to the eventual inventory of traditional street trees to be included in maps and in a searchable data repository. A preliminary tree inventory was begun in 2005 with information concerning newly planted trees. In 2008, the inventory began tracking GIS data to be included in the annual updates. In 2015 the STC began compiling an inventory of ash trees in municipal parks. In 2016 we completed the ash tree inventory in Pleasant Valley Park which formed the basis for the PVP project and 2016 CSIP hazardous tree removal grant.

1. Goals

The current goals of the tree inventory are to:

- Determine the overall health of the township tree resource, in general and the ash tree population in particular.
- Catalogue all planted trees along roadways in the township.
- Catalogue all trees in township parks and on township owned properties.
- Identify open planting spaces in the community.
- Develop maintenance cycles for systematic rotation pruning.

2. Action Statements

The following action steps were taken to accomplish the goals during 2013-2017:

- Compiled a list of prior year's STC tree plantings in a comprehensive spreadsheet.
- Continued windshield surveys with a Certified Tree Expert who assisted STC members in estimating the range and species distribution of the Bernards tree

resource. The first two years we retained an independent CTE consultant. The last three years of the plan we relied on the services of a commissioner who is a CTE.

B. Tree Hazard Identification and Management

Bernards Township is dedicated to providing a healthy and productive tree resource for its residents in the safest and most cost-effective manner possible. Public safety is of the highest concern throughout every aspect of the tree management program from planting to removal. A Hazard Tree Assessment covering all eight zones in the Township was completed from 2013-2017 through windshield surveys. Follow-up inspections have been performed after significant storm events. Information gathered in those surveys was forwarded to DPW for hazard abatement work. The eight zones will be surveyed again during the next five-year plan in an ongoing rotation.

1. Goals

- a. Ensure public safety in relation to trees and shrubs on all Bernards Township properties and along Township thoroughfares.
- b. Establish an ongoing, comprehensive plan for Hazard Tree Assessment on all Township properties and along Township thoroughfares.

2. Action Statements

The following action steps will be taken to accomplish the goals during 2018-2022:

- a. Hazard tree evaluation training will continue for all the Shade Tree Commission members and selected Public Works employees through in-house training and outside resources.
- b. Conduct windshield surveys covering one or two zones each year throughout the plan time frame. Surveys will be conducted by STC members in conjunction with a NJ Certified Tree Expert to identify hazard tree areas in town. We anticipate that the zones surveyed first in the previous plan will be surveyed first, and then the other zones will be surveyed again in the order they were completed last time, barring any hazardous conditions that may arise and need to be addressed out of that order.
- c. Continue to communicate with DPW on findings of potential tree hazards through email or face to face at meetings.

C. Tree Planting

The previous tree planting program was originally designed to replace dead trees, fill open spaces located by the STC, meet the requests of residents, and add species diversity to Township parks, streets and other facilities. Beginning in 2018, the planting policy will focus on municipal properties – primarily the municipal parks.

Developers are required to support our planting program by replacing trees lost to development according to a formula. For example, builders must plant 3 to 3-1/2 inch caliper trees chosen from the STC- approved planting list for all new developments; the number of replacement trees is based on the girth of the tree lost to development. Arbor

Day and memorial plantings have also been and will remain an integral part of Bernards tree planting program. Bernards recognizes the need for diversity and stability in its aging tree population and intends to develop a formal plan to integrate young trees into areas with aging and declining tree populations. Implementation of this program has helped beautify the town and also increased the diversity of species and age of the trees in Bernards Township.

1. Goals

- a. Continue to increase species diversity throughout the township.
- b. Increase the number of smaller tree species in proximity to overhead utilities, reducing future tree and utility conflicts.
- c. Develop plans to work with Township Parks Commission on species selection for planting projects within Town parks.
- d. Seek better ways to maintain and help establish newly planted materials -- i.e., water, mulch, deer guards. Develop a working relationship with the township Deer Committee.
- e. Enhance entrance signs and hang Tree City USA signs welcoming residents and visitors into town.

2. Action Statements

The following steps will guide us during 2018-2022:

- a. Continue planting new trees throughout the community each year as budgets permit.
- b. With the cooperation of Somerset County tree crews and utility companies, continue removing declining and poorly or over-pruned trees and replace them with smaller species around overhead utilities.
- c. Find suitable tree species not currently existing on township properties, and incorporate them into new plantings.
- d. Seek grants or donations to fund new plantings and beautification of township parks, including Adopt-a-Tree and memorial garden programs.
- e. Solicit help of the Public Works Department and the public in aftercare new tree plantings.
- f. Review and revise as appropriate the BTSTC approved tree planting list.
- g. Continue to apply for Tree City USA status and strive for growth awards.
- h. Monitor for potential “no-net-loss” tree planting opportunities.

D. Tree Maintenance and Care

Bernards Township recognizes that trees need general wellness care and not just emergency care. A proactive plan of routine scheduled maintenance will ensure a healthy, aesthetically pleasing and cost effective urban forest with a reduced hazard potential.

This management plan aims to provide a framework that will benefit and raise the level of care for all township-owned trees and trees along township thoroughfares. This care

begins with young trees. Within five years of planting, structural pruning cycles begin to train young trees to establish good form. Trees with good structural form reduce potential liabilities and maintenance costs in the future. Continued maintenance on established and mature trees should reduce the risk of hazardous situations and increase tree life spans, generating benefits to the community. Routine maintenance also provides opportunities for closer inspection of upper tree canopies and a chance to identify and correct potential problems.

1. Goals:

- a. Install healthy, viable trees into the existing landscape and help them to establish as quickly as possible to help promote longevity.
- b. Train and develop young trees with good structure.
- c. Maintain the health and extend the useful life span of existing trees.
- d. Encourage re-growth and natural repopulation by encouraging and supporting deer herd management programs
- e. Promote public safety with regard to trees on township properties and rights-of-way.
- f. Maintain the maximum benefit of trees in the most cost effective manner.
- g. Review and revise all tree related ordinances as necessary, consistent with Township Committee standards.
- h. Educate the public with regard to trees and their benefits and care.

2. Action Statements

The following action steps will be taken to accomplish the goals during 2018-2022:

- a. Require quality planting material from internal departments and outside contractors when annual planting is conducted or when bonding requirements are met. Use a Certified Tree Expert to examine plant material before planting occurs.
- b. Windshield surveys were completed for all eight designated zones in the last cycle. At least one or two zones will be surveyed each year in the new cycle.
- c. Work with utility companies to develop a removal and replacement program to eliminate future hazards and tree line conflicts.
- d. Seek additional funds and grants for hiring of private contractors for general tree care needs beyond the scope of county and utility cooperation.
- e. Continue to seek cooperation from Somerset County tree crews to establish a routine pruning cycle in Bernards Township.
- f. Continue to work with DPW on structural pruning of young trees and remedial pruning based on assessments of the current windshield survey by the Shade Tree Commissioners.
- g. Update as appropriate the Shade Tree Commission website FAQs for residents. Continue to seek publicity in local newspapers and media informing the public of the STC's actions as well as general tree care tips.
- h. Monitor Rutgers University and other sources for disease and insect alerts.

(E) Timelines for Years 2018-2022

Year 1, 2018

- ⇒ Review at the annual organization meeting (typically the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the STC) the goals for the upcoming year as set forth in the 2018-2022 Community Forestry Management Plan.
- ⇒ Continue the windshield survey hazard tree assessment to identify existing hazards. Select one or two zones annually, more or less replicating the cycle followed in the prior CFMP. Pay particular attention to the condition of ash trees.
- ⇒ Consider methods to improve the street tree inventory.
- ⇒ Deploy an EAB trap, as provided by the DEP, in Pleasant Valley Park in 2018 and each year thereafter until such time as EAB is positively identified and confirmed by the DEP.
- ⇒ Coordinate with DPW and Township the 2018 goal for ash tree removals in Pleasant Valley Park pursuant to Pleasant Valley Park plan.
- ⇒ Set a tree replacement goal for Pleasant Valley Park consistent with the PVP project. Secure appropriate funding from the Township and coordinate first year planting with DPW.
- ⇒ Establish a five-year program to survey ash trees and other tree hazards in the municipal parks not previously surveyed: Dunham Park, Farmstead Park, Mountain Park, Rebel Hill Park, Southard Park, Sons of Liberty Park, Schmidt Park and the War Memorial complex. Complete the survey and prioritize ash tree removals for one or two of these parks in 2018.
- ⇒ Establish a tree planting program for the municipal parks which addresses anticipated ash tree losses due to projected EAB infestation as well as other identified needs.
- ⇒ Explore other opportunities to expand our tree canopy through private resources such as encouraging residents to continue to plant trees beyond the formal termination of the *Five in 5!* program.
- ⇒ Continue yearly public relations activities, such as Arbor Day celebrations, newspaper and on-line articles, Sunshine Law notifications, Charter Day and updating township website with activities.
- ⇒ Apply for annual Sustainable Jersey certification and Tree City USA certification.
- ⇒ Apply for Tree Planting grants from CSIP and other funding from alternative sources.
- ⇒ Review need for additional tree ordinances and recommend necessary changes to the Township Committee representative.
- ⇒ Sponsor an Arbor Day celebration.
- ⇒ Maintain a booth at the annual township Charter Day celebration to provide public outreach and education as well as gather information from residents requesting tree work or plantings.
- ⇒ Review annual training needs. Send any new members appointed in 2018 for CORE training at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting. Also send one or more persons (including Shade Tree commissioners and DPW employees as appropriate) to the NJSTF meeting or other suitable venues for CEU's. Continue to support the training programs for the Public Works Department with the use of outside consultants and safety trainers.
- ⇒ Revise the walking tree tour map of downtown Basking Ridge to reflect the loss of the historic Basking Ridge Oak and other changes. Inspect and maintain the labels.
- ⇒ Continue to nurture our working relationship with the local utility company to further a

proactive pruning and tree removal and replacement program beneath overhead conductors.

- ⇒ Nurture good working relationships with other committees and commissions within Bernards Township.
- ⇒ Ensure that the goals of the STC are compatible with the Bernards Township Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- ⇒ Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- ⇒ Respond to resident inquiries and requests on tree issues throughout the community. Assist and coordinate with DPW and outside tree consultant on tree maintenance.
- ⇒ Continue monthly Shade Tree Commission meetings.

Year 2, 2019

- ⇒ Review at the annual organization meeting (typically the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the STC) the goals for the upcoming year as set forth in the current Community Forestry Management Plan
- ⇒ Working from the 2018 windshield survey, coordinate with DPW the removal and pruning of potentially hazardous trees previously identified.
- ⇒ Continue with windshield surveys in another two zones (e.g., zones 3 and 4) with the cooperation of the DPW and a New Jersey CTE.
- ⇒ Deploy an EAB trap, as provided by the DEP, as appropriate.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the continuing ash tree removal project pursuant to the Pleasant Valley Park plan.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW continuing tree replacement in PVP.
- ⇒ Survey ash trees and other tree hazards in another two of the eight parks identified in the 2018 goals.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the removal of ash trees from parks identified during the 2018 cycle.
- ⇒ Coordinate with Township and DPW replacement trees for ash trees removed from the municipal parks as appropriate.
- ⇒ Consider meeting with the Bernards Township Planning Board to review ordinances for compliance with the Municipal Master Plan and to discuss what is working and what is not.
- ⇒ Continue yearly public relations activities, such as Tree City USA recertification, Arbor Day celebrations, newspaper and on-line articles, Sunshine Law notifications, Charter Day and updating township website with activities.
- ⇒ Continue attendance at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting (Shade Tree Commission and Department of Public Works). Continue in-house training of Public Works employees.
- ⇒ Continue to nurture our working relationship with the local utility company to begin a proactive ash tree removal.
- ⇒ Continue to maintain good working relationships with other committees and commissions within Bernards Township.
- ⇒ Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- ⇒ Respond to resident inquiries and requests on tree issues throughout the community. Assist and coordinate with DPW and outside tree consultant on tree maintenance resolutions.
- ⇒ Continue monthly Shade Tree Commission meetings.

Year 3, 2020

- ⇒ Review at the annual organization meeting (typically the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the STC) the goals for the upcoming year as set forth in the current Community Forestry Management Plan
- ⇒ Based on the 2019 windshield survey, coordinate with DPW the removal or pruning of potentially hazardous trees previously identified.
- ⇒ Continue with windshield surveys in two more zones (e.g., zones 5 and 6) with the cooperation of the DPW and a NJCTE.
- ⇒ Deploy an EAB trap, as provided by the DEP, as appropriate.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW, the continued removal of hazardous ash trees pursuant to the PVP plan.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW continuing tree replacement per the PVP project.
- ⇒ Survey ash trees and other potential tree hazards in another two of the parks identified in the 2018 goals.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the removal of hazardous ash trees other hazardous trees identified in municipal parks during the 2019 cycle.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW replacement trees for ash trees removed from the municipal parks as appropriate.
- ⇒ Initiate discussions with the Township Planning Board regarding recognition of this latest version of the Community Forestry Management Plan in the new Master Plan and Open Space Plan for the municipality.
- ⇒ Continue annual public relations activities: Tree City USA recertification, Arbor Day celebration, articles in the local newspaper and on-line, participation in Charter Day, and Sunshine Law notifications as well as updating the township website.
- ⇒ Continue training program with attendance at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting (keep up with CORE and CEU requirements). Continue in-house training with Public Works, address any training needs that might become appropriate based on developments.
- ⇒ Continue working with local utilities to cooperate with management of tree resources within Township.
- ⇒ Maintain good working relationships with other committees and commissions within Bernards Township.
- ⇒ Perform an annual review of tree ordinances and recommend any changes as needed.
- ⇒ Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- ⇒ Respond to resident inquiries and requests on tree issues throughout the community. Assist and coordinate with DPW and outside tree consultant on tree maintenance resolutions.
- ⇒ Continue monthly Shade Tree Commission meetings.

Year 4, 2021

- ⇒ Review at the annual organization meeting (typically the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the STC) the goals for the upcoming year as set forth in the current Community Forestry Management Plan.
- ⇒ Based on the 2020 windshield survey, coordinate with DPW the removal or pruning of hazardous trees not already addressed.

- ⇒ Continue with windshield survey in two more zones (e.g., zones 7 and 8) with the cooperation of the DPW and a NJCTE.
- ⇒ Deploy an EAB trap, as provided by the DEP, as appropriate.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the continuing ash tree removal project pursuant to the Pleasant Valley Park plan.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW continuing tree replacement in Pleasant Valley Park.
- ⇒ Survey ash trees and other tree hazards in two more of the eight parks identified in the 2018 goals.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the removal of hazardous ash trees identified in the previous year's park surveys.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW tree replacements for ash trees removed from the municipal parks as appropriate.
- ⇒ Meet with the Township Planning Board in order to keep them informed of our progress and to address any concerns.
- ⇒ Continue annual public relations activities: Tree City USA recertification, Arbor Day celebrations, Charter Day, articles in local newspaper and on-line, Sunshine Law notifications and updating the STC website.
- ⇒ Continue training program with attendance at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting in order to maintain CORE and CEU requirements. Continue in-house training for DPW employees and address any specific training needs that may arise based on emerging situations
- ⇒ Continue working with utility companies to remove hazardous or high maintenance trees under the overhead conductors.
- ⇒ Perform an annual review of tree ordinances and recommend any changes as needed.
- ⇒ Evaluate effectiveness of communication and working processes between STC and DPW. Address concerns and implement improvement plan if needed.
- ⇒ Maintain good working relationships with other committees and commissions within Bernards Township.
- ⇒ Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- ⇒ Respond to resident inquiries and requests on tree issues throughout the community. Assist and coordinate with DPW and outside tree consultant on tree maintenance resolutions.
- ⇒ Continue monthly Shade Tree Commission meetings.

Year 5, 2022

- ⇒ Review at the annual organization meeting (typically the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the STC) the goals for the upcoming year as set forth in the current Community Forestry Management Plan.
- ⇒ Working from the 2021 windshield survey, coordinate with DPW the removal or pruning of potentially hazardous trees previously identified if not already removed.
- ⇒ Conduct windshield surveys in any zones not addressed during the 2018-2022 cycle.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW the removal of any remaining hazardous ash trees pursuant to the PVP project.
- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW ongoing tree replacement in PVP.
- ⇒ Survey ash trees and other tree hazards in any of the eight parks identified in the 2018 goals which have not been addressed to date.

- ⇒ Coordinate with the Township and DPW tree replacement for ash trees removed from the municipal parks as appropriate.
- ⇒ Consider meeting with the Planning Board to involve them in the formation of the next 5 year Community Forestry Management Plan project team. Representatives of other committees and boards in Bernards Township may be invited to this meeting as well.
- ⇒ Annual public relations activities will remain the same: Tree City USA recertification, Arbor Day celebration, involvement in Charter Day, and Sunshine Law notification and articles in local newspaper and on-line, plus updates to the township website.
- ⇒ Training goals will also remain the same as last year, with a focus on any specific topics/problems that may have come up as a result of working through this management plan, or topics that may be seen as necessary to move forward through the next CFMP.
- ⇒ Review tree ordinances and recommend any changes as needed.
- ⇒ Continue to work with local utilities in the removal and replacement project.
- ⇒ Maintain good working relationships with other committees and commissions within Bernards Township.
- ⇒ Generate and submit the next 5 year Community Forestry Management Plan. Apply for a CSIP grant to fund this project.
- ⇒ Submit an Annual Accomplishment Report to NJ Forest Service.
- ⇒ Respond to resident inquiries and requests on tree issues throughout the community. Assist and coordinate with DPW and outside tree consultant on tree maintenance resolutions.
- ⇒ Continue monthly Shade Tree Commission meetings.

X. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)

The fifteen items listed below as a part of the Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) have been identified throughout this plan with current procedures or a recommended course of action. The following is a synopsis of the suggested practices.

A. CSIP #1 Training

Currently one member of the Bernards Township Department of Public Works and all nine volunteers have been CORE trained. Training in tree care practices for Public Works crews will also be expanded, especially with regard to hazard tree identification and equipment safety. **Further detail can be found in section VI.**

B. CSIP #2 Ordinance Establishment

The Bernards Township STC was created by ordinance on August 20, 1968 and last amended in 2013 to add two alternate members. The ordinance will be reviewed annually and the commission will recommend changes to the Township Committee as appropriate. **See section IX on pages 18 - 26**

C. CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness

The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission looks to expand public outreach and take a more proactive role in the community. The Commission recognizes that public education and support is vital to its success and intends to implement an outreach plan, which can be found in **section VII.**

D. CSIP #4 Arbor Day Activities

Arbor Day has been celebrated each year with the support of the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission hopes that Arbor Day programs can be expanded to:

1. Continue having the mayor proclaim the last Friday in April as Arbor Day on an annual basis;
2. Sponsor tree planting programs in cooperation with community organizations;
3. Seek the involvement of local civic and youth organizations to participate in Arbor Day programs; and
4. Maintain the Tree City USA status over the next five years and beyond, striving for growth award achievements.

E. CSIP #5 Tree Inventory

The Township of Bernards initiated a preliminary street tree inventory in 2005 and expanded to include GIS mapping in 2008. The inventory began with basic information to record newly planted tree species and locations. We still hope to expand the inventory to capture other information including species, size, condition and location. Potential planting sites in municipal parks will be located to replace ash trees as they are removed. See section IX on pages 19 - 22.

F. CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment

Tree hazard identification is a major area of concern for Bernards Township and has already been managed in part with windshield surveys and on-going surveillance by the DPW. Our efforts have expanded to include ash tree surveys on municipal property, especially in our parks. This CSIP practice is of the highest priority to Bernards Township and will continue to take priority in the Plan, to ensure public safety regarding Township owned or maintained trees. The windshield survey will continue annually and cover all zones in the community. Results will be reviewed annually to aid in the quick identification and remediation of potential hazards to the public with the help of a certified tree expert. See section IX on pages 18 - 26.

G. CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment

Bernards Township does not have a Tree Care Disaster Plan. At present, tree emergencies are handled by County tree crews, utility tree crews, outside contractors and public works tree crews for downed trees. In case of any large-scale tree emergencies (such as the October 2011 snowstorm or hurricane Sandy in 2012), Bernards Township will follow plans developed by Somerset County or the Office of Emergency Management. The expansion of the tree inventory in conjunction with the annual windshield survey should help with future storm preparedness.

H. CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removal

Bernards Township will continue to evaluate the Township's future needs for general tree care and future equipment purchases. Bernards Township has implemented a cost effective plan to care for its tree resource whether through conventional or innovative means to help newly planted materials as well as established and mature trees. The

Township will, from time to time, utilize a consultant who is a Certified Tree Expert, as appropriate for guidance with tree resources and maintenance issues. The Township Administrator and DPW continue to monitor EAB infestation and are considering contingency plans to handle large scale and rapid ash tree deterioration. Bernards Township DPW will continue to support smaller maintenance projects and purchase buckets, chippers, stump grinders, chainsaws and other necessary tree care equipment at that time. See section IX on pages 18 - 26.

I. CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management

We continue to deploy EAB traps on an annual basis in Pleasant Valley Park. However, no formal management plan exists for trees along township roads or on other properties. Any insect or disease outbreaks are handled on a case-by-case basis. Diagnosis and consultation would be sought from NJ State Department of Agriculture, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, or a Certified Tree Expert. In the event of an outbreak, State or Federal assistance would be requested.

J. CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection

Bernards Township Fire Management practices include wildfire training from the NJ Forest Fire Service. The state Fire Warden responsible for Bernards Township is located in the Andover field office. The Bernards Township Fire Prevention Bureau's fire safety policy includes monitoring the condition of trees near buildings, identifying trees that are fire hazards and prescribed removal as needed. The Somerset County Environmental Center, located on almost 500 acres in Lord Stirling Park of Bernards Township, maintains a Burn Master Plan and has held approximately 10 prescribed burns by the state in the last 14 years without incident. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which shares a border with Bernards Township, has a current comprehensive Fire Management Plan (last updated in 2002). The Refuge does not currently use prescribed burns. They rely on the NJ Forest Service for wildfire support, not Bernards Township Fire resources.

K. CSIP #11 Tree Planting

All future tree planting projects undertaken or overseen by the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission will be guided by the goals and objectives outlined in sections II and IX on pages 4 and 18 of this plan.

L. CSIP #12 Tree Recycling

Bernards Township does not generate enough green waste to warrant running its own full-time recycling plant. The township purchased a horizontal grinder for the tree recycling program to aid in the chipping of brush and Christmas trees at Pill Hill. Woodchips are stored at the Pill Hill location throughout the year and are available for use by residents. Leaves are also stored at the Pill Hill location and hauled to an outside facility. During tree maintenance and removal operations, some firewood is left for residents and woodchips are used in parks. Other large wood debris is hauled to a private facility. Outside contractors are responsible for disposal of all materials generated during tree pruning and removal operations. No further improvements planned for the recycling program at this time but we are considering contingency planning in the event of

widespread ash tree deterioration.

M. CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program

Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Healthy trees are not to be removed for sidewalk conflicts unless it is determined by the Shade Tree Commission or DPW that there is no alternative in order to make the repairs.

N. CSIP #14 Storm Water Management

The current tree planting program aids in the absorption of storm water runoff as does the preservation of naturalized areas where possible. Tree leaves and other debris can pose problems if left unchecked. Leaves are the resident's responsibility and may not be placed at curbside. Residents can bring leaves to the Pill Hill facility for disposal. Violations are subject to fines. Outside of these basic practices, other specific Storm Water requirements are referenced on the Township web site with other local codes and ordinances: See: <http://www.ecode360.com>.

O. CSIP #15 Other - Deer Management

The deer population has created many challenges to the tree planting program in Bernards Township and as a result, the Township has established the Deer Management Advisory Committee to make recommendations to reduce the damage to planted trees and the native environment.

Grants Awarded:

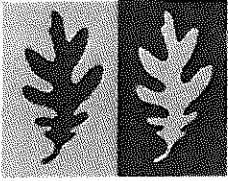
2002 Green Communities Grant of \$2,000 was awarded to assist in the development of the first Community Forestry Plan.

2007 Green Communities Grant of \$3,000 was awarded to assist in the development of the renewal of the Community Forestry Management Plan.

2009 Business Stimulus Grant of \$7,000 was awarded to aid in hazard tree mitigation and removal.

2012 Green Communities Grant of \$3,000 was awarded to assist in the development of the renewal of the Community Forestry Management Plan.

2016 CSIP Grant of \$25,000 for Pleasant Valley Park hazardous tree removal.



Resolution of the Township of Bernards

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-766-2510; www.bernards.org

Resolution #2018-0107

Acknowledging and Endorsing the 2018-2022 Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan
Prepared by the Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

WHEREAS, the Township of Bernards desires to maintain and promote a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree resource that will physically and aesthetically benefit the community and its residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §2-17 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bernards, the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards appoints a Shade Tree Commission to further this goal; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission shall have the power and authority for the regulation, planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery upon or in the highways, parks or parkways within the jurisdiction of the Township of Bernards and shall exercise all powers and rights and be subject to all duties provided in Chapter 325 of the 1915 Laws of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 40:64-1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has submitted a 2018-2022 Community Forestry Management Plan (the "Plan") for endorsement by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards that we do hereby acknowledge and endorse the Plan; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards, that a copy of this resolution, and Plan be forwarded to the Planning Board, Environmental Commission, Greenways Advisory and Parks Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards that we do hereby thank and acknowledge the dedication of the Shade Tree Commission in the preparation and submission of this Plan.

Agenda and Date Voted: 01/24/2018

Explanatory Statement:

This Management Plan is our guide for the maintenance and care of the tree resources of Bernards Township for the next five years. It encourages the Commission's members to be proactive in the stewardship that we have over the Township's resources. It encompasses new plantings, current maintenance, education, community involvement, and special projects related to the Township's trees. With the approval of the Township Committee and the acceptance by the New Jersey Forestry Department, the Township's liability will be greatly reduced or eliminated by the State. In addition, once this plan is accepted we are eligible for grant monies to implement many of our plans.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted
by the Bernards Township Committee on 01/24/2018.


Denise Szabo, Municipal Clerk

