

New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report - 2006

REPORT NARRATIVE OUTLINE: BOROUGH OF MADISON

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

The Madison Shade Tree Management Board was staffed at 7 regular members. We actively solicited membership to fill the 2 alternate vacancies. At year-end, Mike Kopas, a Certified Tree Expert from Drew University in Madison, was nominated for 2007 membership. The Borough Council Liaison participated in most of the meetings, as did representatives from the Department of Public Works and the Parks Advisory Committee. The Board met each of the 12 months and minutes were placed on the Municipal web site.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

One Madison employee from the Department of Public Works and five volunteers from the Shade Tree Management Board completed 39 CEU credits. All current (8) members of the Shade Tree Management Board have completed CORE training.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH:

- Private Tree Ordinance: co-hosted Borough Open “Town Meeting” and presented at Borough Council meetings a proposed Private Tree Ordinance. Council, residents, and developers were in attendance
- Contributed to media articles regarding the Private Tree Ordinance which were published in local newspapers
- Conducted School tree planting events with class participation at each of the 6 Madison schools as part of Arbor Day awareness
- Participated in planning and presented at the Arbor Day/May Day ceremony at Borough Hall; May Day involves over 800 Madison residents; members of the Shade Tree Board pruned and cleaned parks landscape material as part of May Day ceremonies
- Submitted articles to local newspapers regarding Arbor Day and its importance
- Received recognition on Arbor Day for our 21st year as a “Tree City USA”

STATEMENT OF TREE BUDGET:

The Borough of Madison continues strong support of the Shade Tree Management Board with an annual budget of \$126,850. In 2006 STMB made a concerted effort to measure its volunteer hours; they totaled 1295 which at \$18.04 / hr = \$23,362. In-kind volunteer services of an additional 3000 hours are from the Friends of Madison Shade Trees, Parks Advisory Committee and May Day Committee.

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PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT:

- Completed bidding process for ongoing Tree Inventory project. Selected vendor
- Utilized 2 windshield surveys as a means of assessing Madison street trees

TREE PLANTING:

- Planted 121 new trees which exceeded our goal of 105 – included a special fall planting project; sites were identified via windshield surveys

TREE MAINTENANCE:

- Responded to 224 residents requests to assess and maintain public trees – an increase of 26% over 2005
- Removed 100%, or 160 trees, identified for removal
- Pruned 6% of Madison streets
- Continued practice of awarding pruning and removal contracts to lowest bidder
- Provided on-site assessment of each tree needing pruning or removal
- Advised the Madison Community Pool Association on how to reuse five large trees which were to be cut down at a local supermarket construction site – trees were successfully relocated

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- Focused significant attention on multiple reviews of the proposed Private Tree Ordinance with the Planning Board and Borough Attorney
- Secured Planning Board commitment to separate and adopt Soil Movement/Tree Protection changes to the Land Use Ordinance to counter practices which did not protect existing trees on the construction site – ordinance was revised in November, 2006
- Worked with Borough engineer on two major road construction projects: Garfield Road and Fairview Avenue; identified which trees should be removed and which should be saved
- Provided critical horticultural assessment on Livesey property for the Open Space Commission; Borough ultimately received an Open Space grant to purchase the property
- Reviewed and commented on all tree related land use applications

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

We applied for a CSIP grant in 2006 in order to fund our tree inventory. Results will be known in early 2007.