

New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report - 2008

REPORT NARRATIVE OUTLINE: BOROUGH OF MADISON

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

The Madison Shade Tree Management Board was staffed at 7 regular and 2 alternate members for the entire year. Two new members replaced previous appointments. 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 four volunteers from the Shade Tree Management Board completed 30 CEU credits. All 9 (2 in 2008) members of the Shade Tree Management Board and the Mayor of Madison (in 2008) have completed CORE training.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH:

- Arbor Day Celebration:
 - Participated in planning and presentation at Madison's Arbor Day/May Day ceremony; May Day involves over 1000 Madison residents; members of the Shade Tree Management Board pruned and cleaned parks as part of May Day ceremonies
 - Initiated and publicized a 'Reforestation Program' on Borough open space
 - Submitted articles to local newspapers regarding Arbor Day
 - Received recognition on Arbor Day for our 23nd year as a "Tree City USA"
 - Madison was awarded 1st Tree City USA Growth Award
- Private Tree Ordinance: Submitted a revised, simpler ordinance, supported council reviews and issued clarification letters to the local newspaper – council placed ordinance on-hold for additional public discussion
- The Private Tree Ordinance and past Shade Tree Management Board programs were the subject of a pamphlet sent to Madison residents to support the candidates from one of the political parties. Though the purpose of the pamphlet was to oppose the proposed private tree ordinance, it also questioned the Board's stewardship of public trees. As a result a series of letters were written to the local newspaper to clarify the Board's past and current programs
- In conjunction with the Friends of Madison Shade Trees and the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County, a composting exhibit was conducted as part of the annual October town day.

STATEMENT OF TREE BUDGET:

The Borough of Madison continues strong support of the Shade Tree Management Board with an annual budget of \$117,075 but this represents a 6% reduction from 2007. There continues to be thousands of hours of in-kind volunteer services from members of the Shade Tree Management Board, the Friends of Madison Shade Trees, Parks Advisory Committee and May Day Committee.

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PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT:

- ArborPro, from Anaheim, Ca. was selected to perform the Madison tree inventory. Using Certified Master Arborists, data was collected on 6,748 trees within the Borough right-of-way. In addition, 2,630 potential open planting sites were identified. The trees are a mix of hardwoods predominately comprised of maples. Reports divided trees by height and DBH ranges, pruning and removal recommendations by critical need and specie frequency charts
- Completed 2 windshield surveys - results used to update the tree inventory.

TREE PLANTING:

- Planted 105 new street trees of 18 different specie types
- Specie diversity mix is being changed by the continued removal of older dominant Norway maples and replacing them with new specie types.

TREE MAINTENANCE:

- Responded to 194 residents requests to assess and maintain public trees
- Removed 145 trees
- Total Trees Pruned: 350
 - Trees on streets that were pruned 169 (Estimated)
 - Special Zelkova pruning 52
 - Homeowner requests for pruning 44
 - Training prune (young trees) 85
- Provided on-site assessment of each tree needing pruning or removal
- Continued developmental pruning program of trees planted in the last 5 years.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- 2nd Community Forestry 5 Year Plan was approved on January 10, 2008
- Private Tree Ordinance: conducted 2 internal reviews with borough's attorney, council liaison and volunteer sub-committee; ordinance was revised but tabled due to divided community support
- In July, 2008, worked with a Drew University Professor of Biology (Sara Webb), who provided a key horticultural assessment on a proposed 53 acre acquisition by the Madison Open Space Committee
- Reviewed and updated 4 Shade Tree Management Board policy statements: Commemorative Plaques, Tree Planting, Landmark Trees and Sycamore Removals
- As part of the Madison train station NJDOT re-landscaping grant, Shade Tree Management Board funds were used to remove and prune trees on NJ Transit property (part of the in-kind services used for matching grant dollars)
- Reviewed and commented on all (17) tree related land use applications; additional assessments were provided for road construction & electric tree pruning.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

In 2008, Madison completed a 2006 CSIP grant for a tree inventory. It did not apply for 2008 CSIP grant.