

**SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
2013 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
REPORT NARRATIVE**

Community Forestry Program Administration

The administrative structure for street tree management remains as presented in the Community Forestry Management Plan. Plan administrators include: Peter Hendershot, Director of Public Works; and Tom Aufferorde, Chair, Environmental Commission, assisted by Vijay Tulsiani Chair, Vice Environmental Commission.

Training and Professional Development

Two members of the Environmental Commission, Vijay Tulsiani and Gina Stravic, attended the October 2013 meeting of the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation and completed the Borough's annual Continuing Education requirements.

Public Education/Awareness/Outreach

- Environmental issues, including trees and their benefits, were discussed with the public at the annual Earth Day Clean-up sponsored by the Environmental Commission in April. In addition, tree seedlings from the New Jersey Forest Service were distributed at the clean-up.
- Involved the Somerville High School Environmental Club in the shade tree work of the Commission with their attendance at meetings and participation in events.
- The local Girl Scout troop again received a grant of 100 tree seedlings. These seedlings were planted with the help and consultation of the Environmental Commission, in the scout's community tree arbor located on parkland near the intersection of Culver and High Streets.
- Using the tree nursery, community volunteers were taught how to prune, remove healthy saplings and transplant to vacant tree areas in town by Environmental Commission members.
- Boy Scout Spencer Nolan completed An Eagle project that included fencing the tree arbor and installation of signs (in the ground) identifying 5 tree species planted within the arbor. The signs also include a little information on each species. This area has become an outdoor classroom for scout groups and method of planting new trees in town with no cost.
- For Arbor Day 2 commemorative trees, donated by private companies, were planted to replace trees lost by Hurricane Sandy. The trees were planted in the borough's sports complex during opening day of baseball season for visibility and community education purposes.
- Used local cable TV station and park kiosk to promote, publicize and educate residents on home tree issues, tree types and urban forestry.

Statement of Tree Budget Same volunteer rate??

Environmental Commission

Public Outreach: 10 hours x Federal Volunteer Rate of \$ 21.79 = \$ 217.90

Tree Management Discussion at Monthly Meetings: 72 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 1,568.88

Tree Walk and Species Recommendations for tree grants. Planting: 6 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 130.74

Pruning of Eastern Redbuds planted at the High School: 4 hours x \$21.79 = \$ 87.16

Tree Nursery Coordination and Consultation: 12 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 261.48

Tree Assessment on Main St.: 6 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 130.74

Coordination and help with Eagle Scout projects: 5 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 108.95

Earth Day and Arbor Day community tree events: 12 hours x \$ 21.79 = \$ 261.48
Total: \$ 2,767.33

In 2006, an Environmental Commission Trust was created for funds from municipal development applications where agreements between the Borough Planning Board and Board of Adjustment allow applicants to pay for off-site tree planting in cases where planting/landscaping requirements cannot be met on-site or for enforcement actions where plans are not implemented as approved. No projects requiring use of these funds were completed 2013. ???Currently, there is approximately \$3,150.00??? in this account.

Department of Public Works ??? same statement

Somerville maintains equipment and staff to handle a significant amount of tree work annually. The Borough has its own chipper, front-end loader, dump trucks, pickup trucks and various saws, safety saddles and ropes to perform tree work. Currently, the Borough expends approximately 1,500 man-hours, worth an estimated \$31,000, annually on planting, tree care, branch pick-up, and other tree-related work. This is in addition to approximately \$10,000 from the DPW budget used to hire outside contractors for pruning work on larger, more mature trees.

Plan Implementation

Accomplishments:

- Did not apply for a NJDEP Tree Planting Grant this year as funds were not available. ???
- Obtained tree grants from the Somerset Garden Club and tree donations from XXXX corporations.
- Conducted Arbor Day tree planting event.
- Conducted 1 tree pruning education session. The pruning focused on establishment of a central lead and cutting back competing branches within the Girl Scout tree arbor.
- Distributed tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation at the annual Earth Day Clean-up.
- Provided approximately 24 hours of public education/awareness.
- Worked with the local the local Girl Scout volunteers in maintaining the tree nursery they established in 2012. Working with the Environmental and Recreation Commissions, and the Dept. of Public Works, saplings grown in tree nursery were transplanted and used for tree plantings in the Borough. While doing so, conducted outdoor education sessions on trees, their care and pruning in this ANJEC award winning community project.
- Approximately 12 seedlings were transplanted in the Borough in April and again in October 2013 in coordination with Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Environmental and Recreation Commissions, and the Dept. of Public Works to replace storm damaged trees.
- Served as advisors to the municipal officials on tree plantings in the town's redevelopment and library projects and DSA street tree issues.
- Maintained the identification signs (in the ground) which were previously installed in 2012 as part of a resident's Eagle Project. These signs are identifying 25 tree species along the Borough's Peter's Brook trail in the Exchange Field Park area. The signs also include a little information on each species which helps to educate the community as this area is located along the town's bike/walk path and has high public use.
- Advised and assisted, Boy Scout Spencer Nolan on his Eagle project that included fencing the tree arbor and installing signs (in the ground) which identify the 5 tree species planted within the arbor. The signs also include a little information on each species. This area has become an outdoor classroom for scout groups and method of planting new trees in town with no cost.
- Maintained the message board of the kiosk built and installed by Boy Scout James Swass for his recent Eagle Scout project. The message board is for announcements and display of

environmental information by the Environmental Commission on one side of the kiosk and for use by the Recreation Commission on the other side of the kiosk.

- Environmental Commission members walked parkland to evaluate and identify tree replacement needs due to Hurricane Sandy tree damage.

Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) ???

No CSIP activities were conducted in 2013.