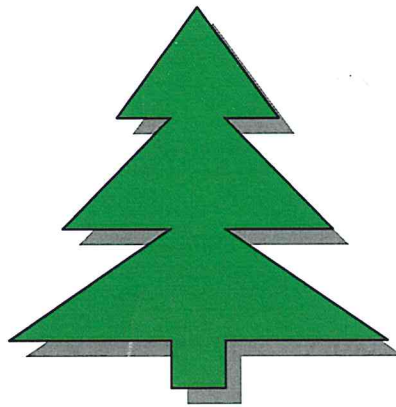


**COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUBSEQUENT FIVE YEAR PLAN
2017-2021**

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

MARCH 2017



PREPARED BY:

Township of Woodbridge

**Department of Planning & Development
Marta Lefsky, Director**

Community Forestry Management Plan

Municipality/County Information Form

Municipality Woodbridge Township

County Middlesex

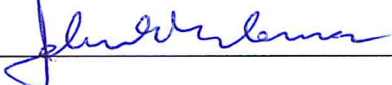
Address 1 Main Street
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Contact Name and Title Marta Lefsky, Director of Planning & Development

Phone # 732-634-4500 Ext: 6427

Fax # and Email 732-602-6038 Marta.Lefsky@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

Organization Name Woodbridge Township

Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature 

Date of Management Plan Submission March 2017

Time Period Covered in Management Plan 2017-2021

Community Stewardship
Incentive Program (CSIP)
Practices Identified in
Management Plan

- ☐ CSIP #1 Training
- ☐ CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
- ☐ CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness
- ☐ CSIP #4 Arbor Day
- ☐ CSIP #5 Tree Inventory
- ☐ CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment
- ☐ CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment
- ☐ CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
- ☐ CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management
- ☐ CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection
- ☐ CSIP #11 Tree Planting
- ☐ CSIP #12 Tree Recycling
- ☐ CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- ☐ CSIP #14 Storm Water Management
- ☐ CSIP #15 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 date _____

SECTION 1

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION FORM

See Previous Page

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

A. MISSION STATEMENT

To create, implement, and maintain a subsequent five-year program promoting environmental protection of shade trees and our community forest to enhance the quality of life and ensure the health, safety and welfare of Woodbridge Township residents.

B. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: “Cut Down on the Cutting”. The primary goal of this Plan is to apply stricter enforcement of the Tree Protection Ordinance adopted in 2011. Specifically, the Township’s Planning & Development Department will focus on preserving and protecting the Township’s existing trees at sites of new construction. The Township may also consider revising this Ordinance over the next five years.

Objective:

- While the 2011 Ordinance has been successful in many areas, the Ordinance has been challenging to implement in cases when developers remove existing mature and healthy trees from a development site. This has led to delicate situations when a developer is looking to complete a project, but has removed trees. The Planning & Development Department will strictly enforce the planting of new trees to make up for any removed trees and levy fines on any violators of this ordinance. A new tree protection Ordinance may be considered and might feature harsher penalties on all persons that remove trees slated to remain with any new construction. This will allow the Township to further preserve its existing tree stock by “cutting down on the cutting” of our many older and spectacular trees.
- Each application for new development in the Township shall comply with all facets and replacement criteria of the Ordinance. It is the responsibility of the Department of Planning and Development to enforce this.
- Property maintenance inspectors are responsible to see if the proper procedures and permits were filed in order to remove trees on private

property throughout the Township in accordance with the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Goal 2: To promote the awareness and identification of species located within the Township.

Objective:

- Complete an inventory of trees located in the Township Right-of-Way and public property.
- Create a brochure that will be available to residents at the information kiosk in Townhall.

Goal 3: To continue a management system whereby we record the tree removal and/or reasoned need for removal (of all trees removed in the Township annually)

Objective:

- Continue to monitor trees removed (by Township) on public land and the reason for removal.
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to create data tracking which provides this information from private land development annually.

Goal 4: To continue a system where all tree work is monitored by the Department of Public Works (this includes keeping records for all new plantings, trims and other maintenance of all Township owned trees).

Objective:

- Continue to have the Department of Public Works monitor all tree work done and report annually to the Department of Planning and Development, which will look for trends.

Goal 5: To encourage a public understanding of tree activities in which the Township participates the need for planting of trees.

Objective:

- Make application on annual basis for CSIP grant funds when applicable.

- Plant ten (10) trees a year using Township tree fund money.
- Hold public tree planting festivities, and green fairs to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day.
- Continue to assess all vacant space annually, for possible acquisition of open space, therein preserving the existing canopy.

Goal 6: To ensure tree maintenance care and replacement of removed trees on public and private lands.

Objective:

- Monitor in development application (total annually) removed trees, and replacement trees planted.
- Create a public list annually of trees removed from public property, and those replanted or replaced.
- Publicize this information through our TV35 television station, post on our website, and our bi-monthly newsletter.

C. LIABILITY STATEMENT

A healthy tree canopy in any community contributes to the quality of life of those who live there. Not only does the human population partake of the benefits that trees provide but wildlife can exist only when a habitat has been provided for them. This living, breathing green resource is an invaluable asset which must be protected from becoming a liability to the communities who care, protect and nurture these trees.

Mulching, pruning, planting, feeding, and watering are the required maintenance activities which will be carried out by a carefully planned schedule, in order to enhance our ability to keep the trees robust to lessen the liability of the Township.

Our community must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of our community forest immediately. Therefore it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and step by step work towards a healthy forest with commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

An effort to recruit volunteers to inventory the tree population will be made by interfacing with local youth groups such as Scouting troops who may be able to earn environmental merit badges and senior citizens to assist in the tree inventory and identify potentially hazardous situations before liability occurs.

A policy of planting suitable tree species for each site will reduce the risks to public safety and reduction in hazardous conditions will result in fewer accidents thereby reducing liability.

These goals and objectives are still linked to the Recreation and Open Space Element in the 2009 Master Plan. In the Master Plan an emphasis is placed on the maintenance and upgrading of existing parks and community facilities, and particularly preserving many of the Township's recreation areas as open space. The Master Plan recommended a new Public Quasi Public (PQP) Zone to protect against future development on properties that are currently open space or public facilities. As a result, all public parks and most of the forested areas in the Township are now zoned PQP for preservation purposes. The Township Master Plan was Reexamined in 2016 and all of the relevant tree goals still remain in accordance with the 2009 Master Plan.

This Community Forestry Management Plan is also linked to the key principles in the 2011 Tree Protection Ordinance by its support in eliminating hazardous trees, a street tree inventory, and the increase of tree stock within the Township. As previously mentioned, the Township will be strictly enforcing the 2011 Tree Protection Ordinance; requiring further Board Approval for changes to tree plans. The Township may consider amending this Ordinance if improvement is needed. We feel, by taking logical steps outlined in the plan, we will garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety.

We also want to become more proactive in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and hazard assessment, we will position our Tree Advisory Board to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions will be predicted. Good maintenance and care will reduce the possibility but unexpected events will still occur.

Following this plan will demonstrate that the Township of Woodbridge is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of tree related hazards and thereby reduce it's exposure to liabilities and increase public safety.

SECTION 3

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW – FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

Listed below are the Township's achievements since the inception of the 2012-2016 management plan:

2012:

- The 2012 budget of \$1,195,000 for tree maintenance services included the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning and tree inspections.
- A new wood chipper was purchased for \$66,000.
- Tree work completed in 2012 included 293 trims and 696 removals. Many of these removals were due to Superstorm Sandy.
- The Department of Public Works and Parks planted 13 trees throughout the Township. The Township's Engineering Department planted eight (8) trees associated with the road paving program.
- The Township held its annual Arbor Day Celebration on April 21, 2012 at the Woodbridge Municipal Complex.
- The Township held its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and followed up with the leaf pick up program through December.

2013:

- The 2013 budget of \$1,024,000 for tree maintenance services for the township includes the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning, and tree inspections.
- A new 24'' propelled wood chipper was purchased for \$69,750.
- Tree work completed in 2013 included 280 removals and 610 trims.

- The Department of Public Works planted 115 trees.
- The Township held its annual Arbor Day Celebration on April 21, 2012 at the Woodbridge Community Center and capped the event with the planting of a Blossoming Cherry Tree along Community Center Drive. The ceremony was sponsored by the Woodbridge Environmental Commission.
- The Township held its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and followed up with the leaf pick up program through December.
- The Township began the process of applying for the NJDEP “No Net Loss Grant” to replace trees that fell during Superstorm Sandy. The grant was for 131 trees to be planted at nine different sites in the Township.
- The Township also applied for a Tree City competitive grant in 2013 to secure funding for a tree planting project at a local park. This grant was not awarded.

2014:

- The 2014 budget of \$1,064,000 went toward tree maintenance services for the Township, which included the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning and tree inspections.
- An old crane was refurbished with \$40,000
- Tree work completed in 2014 included 552 removals and 171 trims.
- The Township Engineering Department planted 13 trees throughout the Township.
- The Department of Public Works and Parks planted 42 trees.
- This year the Township and the Township’s Environmental Commission held its annual Earth Day Fair and Arbor Day Celebration at the Community Center on April 19, 2014.
- The Township held its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and followed up with the leaf pick up program through December.

2015:

- The 2015 budget of \$1,038,000 went toward tree maintenance services for the Township, which included the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning and tree inspections.
- A new chip box truck was purchased for \$110,000 and a new log loading truck for \$171,000.
- Tree work completed in 2015 included 481 removals and 223 trims.
- The Township Engineering Department planted seven (7) trees associated with road programs throughout the Township.
- The Department of Public Works and Parks planted 58 trees. The Engineering Department planted three (3) trees.
- The Township and the Township's Environmental Commission held its annual Earth Day Fair and Arbor Day Celebration at the Community Center. The event was highly attended and included informational seminars, giveaways, and a tree planting ceremony.
- The Township held its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and followed up with the leaf pick up program through December.

2016:

- The 2016 budget of approximately \$1,030,940.00 went toward tree maintenance services for the Township, which included the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning and tree inspections
- Tree work completed in 2016 included approximately 510 removals, 192 plantings and 182 trims.
- The Township and the Township's Environmental Commission held its annual Earth Day Fair and Arbor Day celebration at the Community Center. Display booths were set up indoors with "green" environmentally friendly giveaways and Cherry Trees were planted along Community Center Drive.
- The Township held its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and followed up with the leaf pick up program through December.
- The Township planted 131 trees to complete its "No Net Loss" Grant Project that began with the grant application in 2013.

In addition to all the annual achievements outlined above, the community has benefited greatly from having a Community Forestry Management Plan in place. The plan has allowed the Township to put into place a comprehensive system where residents' tree requests for removals and maintenance can be reported and addressed in a timely fashion. The tree program is more efficient with this plan in place.

The Township of Woodbridge has within its boundaries approximately 1,000,000 trees, with approximately 250,000 street trees. As it was five years ago, Maple and Oak trees are still the most prevalent street tree species. Sycamores are also common in new developments. Other species which were planted in parks and public spaces many years ago include Ginko, Honeylocust, Cherry, Evergreen, and Little Leaf Linden. Except for the Elm trees, these species are now mature, providing ample shade, beauty, and oxygen by removing impurities from the atmosphere. An abundance of Tree of Heaven, Birch, Silver Maple, and Cedar are found in vacant fields, swamps and undeveloped areas.

The most prevalent problems that the Township's street trees are still experiencing are vehicular damage which injure in the bark and branches, installation of gas and water lines, which injure the roots, new construction which compacts the soil and compromises the root system decline due to traffic fumes, and a small amount of insect infestation. The Township suffered great tree loss in 2012 due to Superstorm Sandy. The 2013 No Net Loss grant helped replenish the tree inventory at nine township sites.

The Township has been efficiently recycling trees for many years and continued to do so when implementing the Community Forestry Management Plan. Processing tree, branch and brush material through the Department of Public Works in partnership with the County, Private businesses and local communities. The recycling process has been very successful.

A Township branch chipper handles all suitable sized tree material which has in the past sent to "Natures Choice" to be reground and sent back to the Township to be sold to sod farms or used as mulch.

Some of the ground tree materials are sent to disposal sites such as Edgeboro in East Brunswick (smaller wood), other landfills, and Dauman Pallet (big trunks). It is left there for approximately one year to decompose, and picked up in the spring to be used for mulch. For every 10 truckloads of wood material the Township delivers, two (2) truckloads of organic matter is retrieved the following spring.

In the past, ground leaves have also been reground by the County, and picked up by the Township the following season.

After the New Year, holiday trees are collected, transported to the County and recycled. The Township has access to the mulch.

Township residents have opportunity of going to the Public Garage in Keasbey where the mulch is stockpiled in order to utilize it in the home environment.

The Township continues to address a tree care disaster plan on a priority emergency basis. During powerful storms or hurricanes where there is a large amount of destruction to branches and uprooting of trees, the Department of Public Works, Divisions of Streets and Sewers, Divisions of Parks is out in full force attending to the most serious problems that cause hazards to vehicular traffic, homeowners, danger from live wires and/or tree situations requiring immediate attention. It is not likely that other measures are needed to improve the efficiency of emergency tree responses at this time.

In the future, a plan for tree-care disaster will be given consideration.

Given the large number of trees within the Township, the vast inventory of stable, mature, and the generally healthy status of them, one of the least problematic situations is insect and disease management. At this time no further practices to reduce insect infestation and diseases will be addressed.

When priorities which have precedence over insect and disease management have been achieved, further consideration will be given to this element. However, the Township plans to increase training so employees have awareness of insect and disease ravaged trees.

The sidewalk maintenance program remains unchanged since the last Community Forestry Plan. If a Township tree is damaging a sidewalk, a property owner can make a request to the Department of Public Works for the tree to be removed. The DPW will remove the tree and the property owner is responsible for replacing the damaged sidewalk.

A new Master Plan was adopted in February 2009 and a Reexamination was adopted in 2016, and the linkage between the previous Master Plan and the Community Forestry Plan has improved. One of the main objectives of the 2009 Master Plan was on the maintenance and upgrading of existing parks and community facilities, and particularly preserving many of the Township's recreation areas as open space. The Master Plan created a new Public Quasi Public (PQP) Zone to protect against future development on properties that are currently open space or public facilities. As a result, all public parks and most of the forested areas in the Township are now zoned PQP for preservation purposes.

A new and improved Tree Protection Ordinance was adopted in February 2011 as part of an updated Land Use and Development Ordinance. As mentioned in Section 2, it is the Township's main forestry goal to adopt a new and improved Tree Protection Ordinance with this Community Forestry Plan in mind. The 2011 Ordinance provides clarity to the tree removal and replacement process. The replacement criteria is in-depth, requiring a specific percentage of trees and sizes to be replaced. The new Ordinance will build upon

the progress gained in the 2011 Ordinance and will have a specific focus on harsher penalties for any developer that removes existing mature trees that are to remain.

SECTION 4

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Program Administration is mostly under the auspices of the Department of Public Works. Carmine Barbato, Superintendent of Streets and Sewers and Dennis Henry, Director of Public Works, are the contact people from the Department of Public Works and Parks. The Department of Planning Development, Planning and Zoning Board's and the Environmental Commission also have roles in the Forestry Program. Marta Lefsky is the Director of Planning and Development.

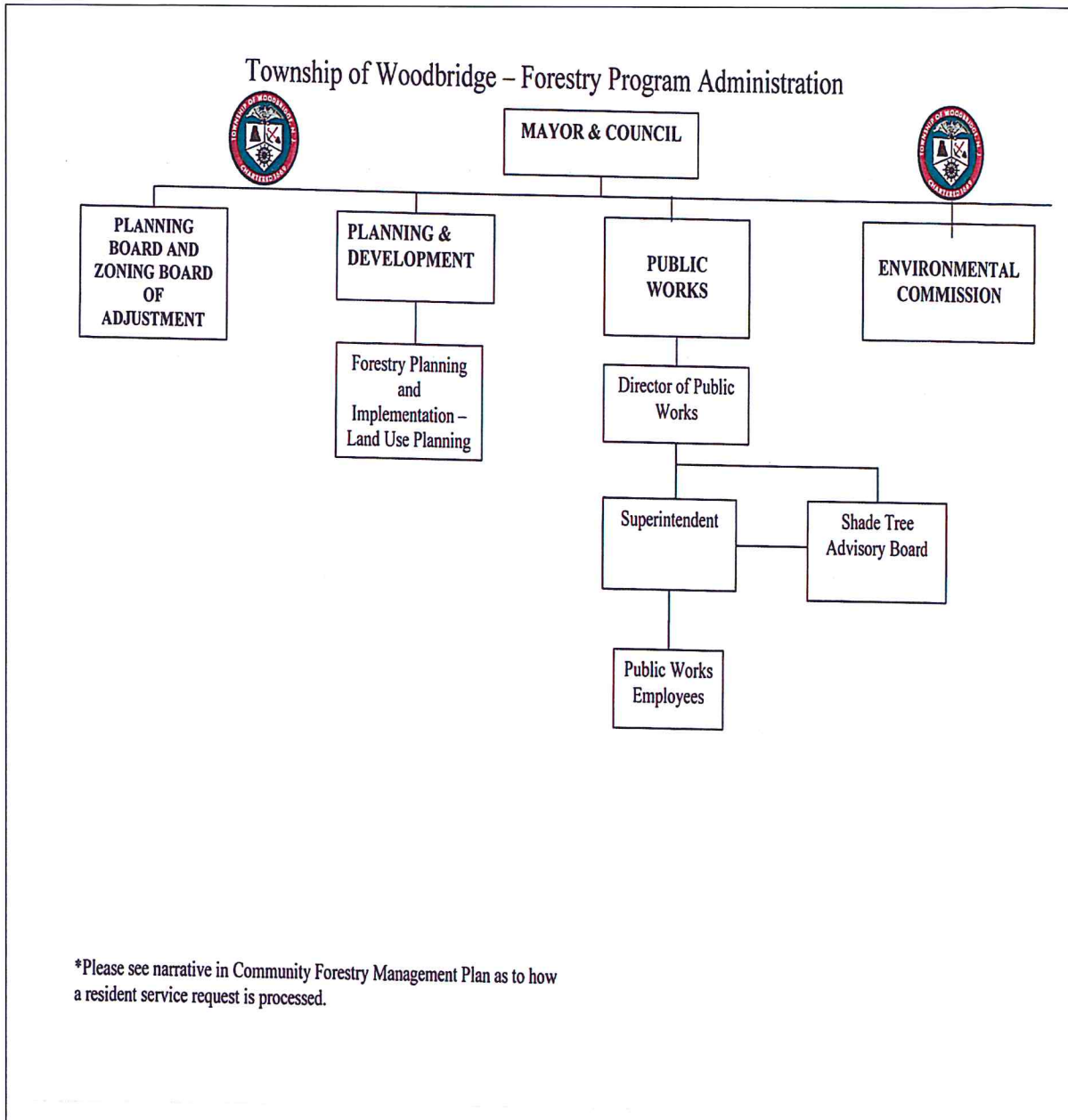
Public Works Tree Advisory Board Members:

Dennis Henry
Michael Bukofsky
Carmine Barbato
Kevin Teehan

Other agencies/community representatives who maintain and manage tree resources:

The Environmental Commission, a dedicated group of concerned citizens interfaces with the Department of Planning & Development with issues regarding the environment, Earth Day, permits from the DEP, applications for development, and other relevant issues. A grant from the Office of Environmental Services assisted in the creation of a report addressing open space, wetlands, and the Woodbridge River.

Forestry Program Administration Flowchart:



Municipal tree service requests are processed by the Department of Public Works. When a resident wishes to have a dead, diseased or hazardous tree removed, a permit must be obtained by filling out an application. The Township criteria for tree removal requires that the tree must be growing in the right-of-way and cause \$50.00 or more damage to

sidewalks etc. per year. The resident must agree to replace the tree within a prescribed amount of time. Tree assessments are then completed by a member of the tree advisory Board and a decision is made by the Board whether to remove the tree.

The Planning & Zoning Boards enacting an Ordinance in 2011 requiring a tree inventory on every lot proposed for development and the requirement of an applicant returning to the Board if they take down additional trees has enabled an opportunity for enhanced monitoring of private property owner tree removal. It is a goal of this plan that the progress made enacting the 2011 Ordinance continue and may be improved with a new Ordinance.

SECTION 5

COMMUNITY MAP

A community map was submitted as part of the original Community Forestry Management Plan.

SECTION 6

TRAINING PLAN

All tree crew members must go through internal training involving “Chainsaw Safety” and “Branch Clipper Safety and Awareness.” All supervisors must go through the Woodbridge Police Department’s “Work Zone Safety” training program. These training programs are mandatory and conducted annually.

Through the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission, the Public Works Tree Board Members have completed courses in Climbing Techniques, Target Pruning, Ropes & Knots, General Tree Care, First Aid & CPR Training, Aerial Rescue, Chainsaw Safety, Electrical Hazard Identification and Tree Identification.

In 2012, two Public Works employees took different safety courses through the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund’s program. In 2014, three Tree Crew employees attended a two-day training session at Rutgers University for “Large Tree Climbing and Rigging”. In 2015, two (2) tree supervisors and two (2) tree cutters attended a Rutgers University course on Tree Planting and Installation and a course on Tree Pruning.

A prevalent theme in our training is safety. It has been a cornerstone in our previous Community Forestry Management Training Plan. Over the next five years as this Community Forestry Plan is implemented, the Township will continue to emphasize forestry safety. Specifically, the goal is for all Township employees who work in the forestry area to continue the annual safety training programs. In addition, the Township will explore all safety programs and resources that are available at the state level and through other organizations.

Hazard tree identification is another training specialization the Township will focus on over the next five years. Twelve years ago the Township saw firsthand how diseased trees could affect the community when eight-hundred young swamp trees were infested with the Asian Longhorn Beetle and had to be removed. In 2006, the United States Department of Agriculture planted 358 trees in the Township as part of the Asian Longhorn Beetle Eradication Program. The Township’s Department of Public Works provides maintenance and care to all of these trees.

The Township will look for hazard tree identification training programs and events, including earning Continuing Education Credits from the Community Forestry Program. Hazardous trees can threaten life and property and the Township’s goal is for more of its employees to become trained in identifying these dangerous trees and to provide additional training in this area. This will help preserve the trees that contribute to our quality of life by enriching our parks and forests

In 2013, a special training class took place at our Department of Public Works Facility and Fords Park. This was a hands on, one-on-one class, which had 11 employees attend.

This was to certify employees in Hazardous Tree Recognition and Safety Awareness. In 2015, nine (9) employees attended a Shade Tree course at the Borough of Riverdale on Hazardous Tree Identification. In 2016, five (5) employees attended a chainsaw safety course. These are types of training programs that we will focus on over the next five years.

During implementation of the Community Forestry Plan, the Township plans on fulfilling its requirements in the Continuing Education Program. This typically comes out of the operating budget for the Tree Crew in the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 7

PUBLIC EDUCATION/AWARENESS/OUTREACH

The past NJ Community Forestry Management Plan proposed a partnership with the Township Environmental Commission and administration, to utilize TV 35 in association with the Annual Arbor Day Program. This partnership has been a success as the annual festivities and tree plantings are broadcast on TV 35.

TV 35 continues to assist the Township in reaching the approximately 100,000 residents informing them of meetings of the Environmental Commission and Riverwatch, along with the information about the Annual Arbor Day Program. All environmental programs/plantings filmed by TV 35 are played at several viewing times. The TV 35 partnership will be continued going further.

Tree planting ceremonies are often assisted by local groups such as the Girl Scouts, students, the Township Environmental Commission and other non-profit organizations. Businesses such as Home Depot and Bristol Meyers Squibb have donated trees in the past. The Township remains committed to these partnerships with local companies and organizations to sponsor environmental programs.

The Township Environmental Commission continues to hold an annual Arbor Day event and has expanded it to include a Green Fair, which includes interactive exhibits and green themed giveaways.

The Township has been a participant of the Tree City USA Program for 20 consecutive years. The per capita requirement for tree care is \$2.00 per year; the Township spends over \$8.00 per year. An annual Arbor Day Program has become a tradition for the Township.

While we have implemented many of the recommended programs and have used local media, specifically our public access television station, TV35, to film and broadcast events, certainly we can improve in the next five years. The Township's Communications Department publishes a quarterly newsletter with information and updates and this outlet is now being used to promote forestry activities. This newsletter is mailed to each Township resident and is also available online. It is a great resource.

SECTION 8

STATEMENT OF TREE BUDGET

The 2015 budget of \$1,035,000 for tree maintenance services for the Township of Woodbridge includes removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees, tree trimming, shaping, root pruning and tree inspections. A new chip box truck for \$110,000 and a new log loading truck for \$171,000 were acquired. There are no expected significant changes to budgets for the next five years.

Sample Budget:

Operating	\$ 25,000.00
Payroll	\$933,800.00
Equipment Repairs	\$ 30,000.00
Disposal	\$ 49,500.00
TOTAL	\$1,038,300.00

The 2016 budget is below. Work included 510 removals, 182 trims and 192 plantings as of early December 2016.

<u>Annual Budget (estimated)</u>	
Operating	\$ 25,000.00
Payroll	\$933,940.00
Equipment Repairs	\$ 32,000.00
Disposal	\$ 40,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,030,940.00

SECTION 9

STATEMENT OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Year 1, 2017

- “Cut down on the Cutting” is the Township’s Forestry mantra for this year. The major priority is to strongly enforce the Tree Protection Ordinance at development sites.
- Another priority is to complete a tree inventory of all trees located in the Township Right-of Way. This was a goal in the previous forestry management plan, but was not completed. In order to accomplish this, two sections of the Township per year will need to be surveyed. The Township Tree crew will have to devote the resources to this. There are 10 sections of Woodbridge Township.
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to create data tracking which provides this information from private land developed annually
- Basic services such as removal of storm damaged trees and trims to be provided by the Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Public Works Tree Crew members will continue training in hazard tree identification and inspect the Township for hazardous trees and their safe removal
- The Department of Engineering will plant trees in conjunction with construction projects.
- The Township tree fund will raise money for the replacement of trees 4’’ caliper or greater by private property owners proposing development.
- The Township will sponsor its annual Arbor Day and Green Fair celebration as part of its outreach efforts.
- Submit the Tree City USA annual application.
- Apply for CSIP dollars for planting of new trees throughout the Township.
- Plant 10 trees throughout the Township using tree fund monies.

- The Township will hold its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and follow up with the leaf pick up program through December. This is part of Storm Water Management as it relates to Community Forestry.

Year 2, 2018

- Review where the Township is at with the Tree Protection Ordinance enforcement. Consider any applicable policy changes, which may include drafting a new Ordinance.
- Conduct this year's survey of Town (right-of-way inventory).
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to monitor data tracking which provides this information from private land developed annually
- Basic services such as removal of storm damaged trees and trims to be provided by the Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Public Works Tree Crew members will continue training in hazard tree identification and inspect the Township for hazardous trees and their safe removal
- The Department of Engineering will plant trees in conjunction with construction projects.
- The Township tree fund will raise money for the replacement of trees 4'' caliper or greater by private property owners proposing development.
- The Township will sponsor its annual Arbor Day and Green Fair celebration.
- Submit the Tree City USA annual application.
- Apply for CSIP dollars for planting of new trees throughout the Township.
- Plant fifteen (10) trees throughout the Township using tree fund monies.
- The Township will hold its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and follow up with the leaf pick up program through December. This is part of Storm Water Management as it relates to Community Forestry.

Year 3, 2019

- Continue with the enforcement of the Tree Protection Ordinance. Constantly reassess how it is working and if anything should be altered.
- Conduct this year's survey of Town (right-of-way inventory).
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to monitor data tracking which provides this information from private land developed annually
- Basic services such as removal of storm damaged trees and trims to be provided by the Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Public Works Tree Crew members will continue training in hazard tree identification and inspect the Township for hazardous trees and their safe removal
- The Department of Engineering will plant trees in conjunction with construction projects.
- The Township tree fund will raise money for the replacement of trees 4'' caliper or greater by private property owners proposing development.
- The Township will sponsor its annual Arbor Day and Green Fair celebration.
- Submit the Tree City USA annual application.
- Apply for CSIP dollars for planting of new trees throughout the Township.
- Plant 10 trees throughout the Township using tree fund monies.
- The Township will hold its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and follow up with the leaf pick up program through December. This is part of Storm Water Management as it relates to Community Forestry.

Year 4, 2020

- Continue with the enforcement of the Tree Protection Ordinance. Constantly reassess how it is working and if anything should be altered.
- Conduct this year's survey of Town (right-of-way inventory).
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to monitor data tracking which provides this information from private land developed annually

- Basic services such as removal of storm damaged trees and trims to be provided by the Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Public Works Tree Crew members will continue training in hazard tree identification and inspect the Township for hazardous trees and their safe removal
- The Department of Engineering will plant trees in conjunction with construction projects.
- The Township tree fund will raise money for the replacement of trees 4'' caliper or greater by private property owners proposing development.
- The Township will sponsor its annual Arbor Day and Green Fair celebration.
- Submit the Tree City USA annual application.
- Apply for CSIP dollars for planting of new trees throughout the Township.
- Plant 10 trees throughout the Township using tree fund monies.
- The Township will hold its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and follow up with the leaf pick up program through December. This is part of Storm Water Management as it relates to Community Forestry.

Year 5, 2021

- Final year of this Community Forestry Management Plan. As we go into the final 12 months it is time to reevaluate how things are: What's working and what's not. Apply these findings as we begin to look forward to our next five-year plan.
- The year 2021 will also be Woodbridge Township's 25th year as a Tree City. This event shall be celebrated and the Department of Planning and Development, in conjunction with the Shade Tree Board and Environmental Commission, will be at the forefront of planning and developing events to commemorate this milestone.
- Continue with the enforcement of the Tree Protection Ordinance. Constantly reassess how it is working and if anything should be altered.
- Conduct this year's survey of Town (right-of-way inventory).
- Work with approval Boards (Zoning and Planning) to monitor data tracking which provides this information from private land developed annually

- Basic services such as removal of storm damaged trees and trims to be provided by the Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Public Works Tree Crew members will continue training in hazard tree identification and inspect the Township for hazardous trees and their safe removal
- The Department of Engineering will plant trees in conjunction with construction projects.
- The Township tree fund will raise money for the replacement of trees 4'' caliper or greater by private property owners proposing development.
- The Township will sponsor its annual Arbor Day and Green Fair celebration.
- Submit the Tree City USA annual application.
- Apply for CSIP dollars for planting of new trees throughout the Township.
- Plant 10 trees throughout the Township using tree fund monies.
- The Township will hold its annual leaf bag distribution at sites throughout the town in October and follow up with the leaf pick up program through December. This is part of Storm Water Management as it relates to Community Forestry.
- Reflect on the accomplishments achieved from 2017-2021 and look forward to drafting a new and improved five year community forestry plan for 2022-2026.

As in previous plans, the Township does not plan on drafting a Wildfire Protection Plan over the next five years, but that could change if needs change at points while this Community Forestry Plan is being implemented.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

#1 TRAINING Section 6

#2

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHMENT

Sections 2, 4 & 9

The Shade Tree Advisory Board has existed for years and operates out of the Department of Public Works.

The Township encourages public education and awareness when it comes to forestry and environmental issues. We have implemented many of the recommended programs and have used local media, specifically our public access television station, TV35, to film and broadcast events, certainly we can continue and expand our public outreach over the next five years.

The Township celebrates Arbor Day and Earth Day with a big environmental fair at the Community Center each April. This event is very highly attended in terms of vendors and the public. It is our hope that this great event continues and grows each year.

#5 TREE INVENTORY

Sections 2, 4 & 9

Still a priority is to complete a tree inventory of all trees located in the Township Right-of-Way. In order to accomplish this two sections of the Township per year will need to be surveyed. The Township Tree crew will have to devote the resources to this.

#6 HAZARD TREE ASSESSMENT

Sections 3, 6 & 9

Each year a portion of the tree budget is allocated for the removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees. The Township will continue to do this going forward. In addition, resources are also allocated for Tree Crew members to be training in hazard tree identification. This practice will be continued over the next five years.

#7 STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Section 3

During powerful storms or hurricanes where there is a large amount of destruction to branches and uprooting of trees, the Department of Public Works, Divisions of Streets and Sewers, Divisions of Parks is out in full force attending to the most serious problems that cause hazards to vehicular traffic, homeowners, danger from live wires and/or tree situations requiring immediate attention. It is not likely that other measures are needed to improve the efficiency of emergency tree responses at this time. But the Township will monitor this area to see if the pre-storm assessment of potential damage can be improved.

#8 TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

Sections 2, 3, 6 & 9

The Department of Public Works and Parks keeps detailed records of all maintenance and removals completed each year. This system has been a place for a long period of time and will be continued.

#9 INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Sections 6, 9

Over 10 years ago the Township saw firsthand how diseased trees could affect the community when eight-hundred young swamp trees were infested with the Asian Longhorn Beetle and had to be removed. The Township has increased training to Tree Crew members to focus on early recognition of the diseased trees to limit potential damage of diseased trees.

#10 WILDFIRE PROTECTION

Section 9

Wildfires are not common in Woodbridge Township and there are no plans to draft a Wildfire Protection Plan over the next five years. The Township will train Tree Crew members in fire reduction programs at state level courses.

#11 TREE PLANTING

Sections 3 & 9

The Tree Crew plants trees throughout the Township in areas where new trees or replacement trees are needed. The tree species is chosen by the Tree Crew Superintendent and also supervised by the same office. Over the next five years, the goal is for the Tree Crew to plant at least 10 new trees per year using monies from the Township Tree Fund.

#12 TREE RECYCLING

Section 3

The Tree Crew attempts to recycle much of the chippings as possible by using them in Parks and Playgrounds. This will be continued in the future. Also, the Township has its annual holiday tree recycling program and this will continue going forward.

#13 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Section 3

The sidewalk maintenance program remains unchanged since the last Community Forestry Plan. If a Township tree is damaging a sidewalk, a property owner can make a request to the Department of Public Works for the tree to be removed. The DPW will remove the tree and the property owner is responsible for replacing the damaged sidewalk. This program will most likely remain the same.

#14 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Sections 2 & 9

The leaf pick up program is held each fall with special leaf bags distributed to residents. The leaves are then picked up later in the season and this helps limit leaves clogging up the Township's storm sewer system during heavy rains.

#15 OTHER

This plan does not specifically address any other CSIP practices.