

Borough of Chatham
Annual Report
2008
Shade Tree Commission

Mathew Petitjean – Commission Chair

Summary

Below are highlights from the year:

- Planted a total of 125 trees in the Borough
- 40 of the 125 trees were planted for downtown streetscape
- Scheduled planting of 25 trees for spring 2009 tree planting
- Advised and selected trees for downtown streetscape
- 242 Trees raised in 2 zones
- Maintained Tree City USA status

Mission

Chatham Borough has had a Shade Tree Commission since 1909. The Shade Tree Commission's responsibilities include planting and maintaining trees along Borough streets, public rights-of ways, and municipal open spaces. The goal of the Shade Tree Commission is to create and maintain optimum tree cover and species diversity while keeping up a pruning and removal program that will keep our streets and parks safe.

Members

The Shade Tree Commission consists of 9 Volunteers; 7 commission members and 2 alternates. The commission Chair is Matthew Petitjean and the Commission Secretary is Mark Schmitter. Volunteers spend time on special projects such as: community outreach, identifying planting locations for new trees, education, and reviewing resident's tree concerns. The committee members take time out of their busy schedules to be stewards of the health and safety of the Borough's "green infrastructure".

Tree Removals

With co-operation with the Department of Public Works, a total of 83 trees were removed in 2008 in the Borough. Trees are removed when they are a safety risk, damaged, or are damaging the surrounding infrastructure.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
DPW	53	56	67	37	72	72
Private Contractor	11	25	5	14	8	8
JCP&L	28	7	2	5	11	3
State DOT	Na	Na	Na	20	na	
Total	92	88	74	76	91	83

Tree Plantings

Tree plantings are a time intensive activity for the commission. Identifying locations in the Borough, coordinating with homeowner's requests, coordinating with contractors, and coordinating with nurseries is very time intensive. This year the commission coordinated the planting of 85 trees in the Borough. Trees are selected based on characteristics and planting location. Trees are selected to be visually appealing, have limited exposure to insects and diseases, tolerate harsh urban conditions, and limit interaction with overhead utility service.

In 2008 Trees were planted as part of two projects.

1. The spring and fall 2008 plantings were the annual plantings that are funded with Shade Tree Commission funds. The plants were identified and quotes were solicited from nurseries statewide. Separately, quotes from local contractor are solicited to install the trees. A total of 85 trees were planted in the spring.
2. The Shade Tree Commission advised the Streetscape Committee on proper planting for the downtown business district. The sidewalks in the downtown area were replaced with brick pavers. During the process several pears were removed. The trees were past their useful lifespan and had been severely pruned by the utility company. 40 replacement trees were planted in November of 2008.

We are very satisfied that this many trees were planted in the Borough this year.

Project	Trees
Spring 2008	61
Fall 2008	24
Downtown Streetscape	40
Total 2008	125

In 2008 we have identified 25 locations for spring 2009 planting. Additionally, we have already awarded the nursery and landscape contractor POs for the 2009 planting. This was done with 2008 funds in order to avoid any shortfalls in the 2009 budget. This also coordinates with the long lead-time necessary for nurseries.

Budget

The Commission maintains a \$36,500 budget. The funds are allocated in the following manner:

Description	\$ Amount
Professional Services	\$2,000.00
Misc	\$2,000.00
Tree Planting	\$16,500.00
Tree Pruning (DPW)	\$8,000.00
Tree Removal (DPW)	\$8,000.00
Total	\$36,500

Arbor Day

This year the Shade Tree Commission celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree in memory of past chiefs Kelley and Sheats. In cooperation with the Historical Society and family members, Arbor Day was celebrated at the firehouse. Firefighters, family, friends, and Shade Tree Commission members attended the ceremony where Borough Council read a proclamation, celebrating Arbor Day. The event was very successful and the commission is planning a similar event for 2009.

Tree City USA

In 2008 Chatham Borough was once again recognized as a "Tree City USA". To qualify as a Tree City USA, we are required to maintain a management plan, a budget, celebrate Arbor Day, and have an established a Shade Tree commission

State Recognition

This year the commission did not complete the educational requirement for state recognition.

Regular Meetings

The Commission held 6 regular meeting during 2008. Meetings are held the second Tuesday every other month starting in January. Meetings are held in Borough Hall, and published for the public to attend.

Publicity

An Arbor Day article was published with a picture of the tree planting at the library. The article was very positive.

Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees

Incorporated in 2005, the Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees Inc. received formal designation as a nonprofit organization in 2006. The Friends of Chatham Borough Shade Trees Inc was created to support and supplement the work of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission. The "Friends of" group completed a successful project in 2006, partnering with the Shade Tree Commission and the New Jersey Department of Transportation to plant approximately 70 trees along the east and west ends of Route 124 (Main Street). Twenty dead or diseased trees were removed by the state with assistance from JCP&L.

The "Friends of" group received a \$500 grant from the Chatham Jaycees to offset the cost of our involvement in the Main Street planting project.

Late in 2006, 'Friends of' was awarded a "Cool Cities" grant for \$24,000.00 to plant trees around public schools that are currently under renovation and expansion. This project was kicked off in the fall of 2007. A total of 53 trees were planted on school property in the Borough.

2009 Goals

- Continue to Streamline Tree Planting Location Identification
- Re-Build membership to replace lost members
- Core Train a new member
- Re-Attain approved Status with State of New Jersey
- Maintain Tree City USA Status
- Have 2 Events Published in the Local Newspaper
- Celebrate Arbor Day
- Plant 25 Trees
- Plan for large tree planting in spring of 2010
- Complete 8 CEUs
- Maintain downtown streetscape trees
- Review and Track Progress Against Management Plan
- Update management plan for 2010 - 2015
- Celebrate 100 year anniversary of the Shade Tree Commission