

Borough of Chatham  
Annual Report  
2009  
Shade Tree Commission

Mathew Petitjean – Commission Chair

## Summary

Below are highlights from the year:

- Planted a total of 25 trees in the Borough
- Scheduled planting of 50 trees for spring 2010 tree planting
- Fertilized 40 recently planted trees on Main Street
- Core Trained 2 new volunteers
- Documented 5 year plan

## 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 5 Volunteers. 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 65 trees were removed in 2009 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	2009
PW Removals	53	56	67	37	72	72	39
Contractor Removals	11	25	5	14	8	8	11
JCP&L	28	7	2	5	11	3	15
Total	92	88	74	56	91	83	65

6 Year Average	78
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## 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 25 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 2009 Trees were planted as part of one project.

The spring and fall 2009 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. The Fall planting was omitted this year, and a target spring planting of 50 trees is planned for 2010.

Project	Trees
Spring 2009	25
Fall 2009	0
<b>Total 2009</b>	<b>25</b>

In 2009 we have identified 50 locations for spring 2010 planting. Additionally, we have already awarded the nursery and landscape contractor POs for the 2010 planting. This was done with 2009 funds in order to avoid any shortfalls in the 2010 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,500</b>

## Arbor Day

This year the shade Tree Commission planted 2 trees for the ECLC School in Chatham. The ECLC is a nonprofit school that provides special education for children ages 5 thru 21. The trees were planted in the playground area and the school took part in the planting activities. The Arbor Day activities were led by teacher Karen Riordan.

## **Tree City USA**

In 2009 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**

The Shade Tree Commission completed several activities in order to complete state certification. Two members received Core Training (Ken Fekete and Richard Riorden). John Barton and Matt Petitjean attended continuing education courses in Cherry Hill. And the commission updated the 5 Year Plan for submission to the State.

## **Regular Meetings**

The Commission held 6 regular meeting during 2009. 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.

## **2010 Goals**

- Continue to Streamline Tree Planting Location Identification
- Re-Build membership to replace lost members
- Maintain Tree City USA Status
- Have 2 Events Published in the Local Newspaper
- Celebrate 100 year anniversary of the Shade Tree Commission
- Plant 50 trees for Borough residents
- Plan a 2011 tree planting
- Update the Shade Tree Website