

2017 – 2021
COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

City of Perth Amboy

260 High Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Middlesex County
New Jersey



Mayor & Council
Wilda Diaz, Mayor
Jelmin Caba, Councilman
Fernando Irizarry, Councilman
Fernando Gonzalez, Councilman
Joel Pabon, Sr., Councilman
William A. Petrick, Councilman

Business Administrator
Adam Cruz

City Clerk
Elaine Jasko

Department of Public Works
Frank Hoffman, Director

Plan Prepared by
Farr Forestry Services
6 Ricker Road
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
farrforest@yahoo.com
973-208-8165



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1. MUNICIPAL/COUNTY INFORMATION FORM

Municipality City of Perth Amboy
 County Middlesex County
 Address 260 High Street
 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Contact Name and Title Frank Hoffman, Public Works Director
 Phone Number 973-826-2010
 Fax # and E-mail 973-826-1188 fhoffman@perthamboynj.gov
 Organization Name City of Perth Amboy Department of Public Works
 Mayor's Signature _____

I certify that this Community Forestry Management Plan was developed specifically and exclusively for our municipality.

Date of Management Plan Submission January 2017

Time Period Covered In Management Plan 2017-2021

- | | |
|--|--|
| Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Identified in Management Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 1 Training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 3 Public Education and Awareness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 4 Arbor Day Activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 5 Tree Inventory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 6 Hazard Tree Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 7 Storm Damage Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 9 Insect and Disease Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 10 Wildfire Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 11 Tree Planting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 12 Tree Recycling
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSIP# 14 Storm Water Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Approval Date

2. INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This document outlines the programs, policies and procedures by which shade tree resources within City of Perth Amboy will be managed during the period January 2017 – December 2021. The City of Perth Amboy applied for and received a Green Communities Grant to finance the development of their first Community Forestry Plan. This plan is being developed by the Perth Amboy Department of Public Works.

The community forest resource is an important resource that contributes to the quality of life for the residents of the City of Perth Amboy. This community forest resource works to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values, increase economic stability, improve citizen health and beautify the City. The current forest resources were planted by previous residents and must be maintained and improved by current residents for the future.

The objectives in this initial five-year plan address street trees, park trees, and trees on other public grounds. Future plans will build on the successes of this initial plan and follow up on goals not attained during this planning period.

MISSION STATEMENT

The overall goal of Perth Amboy Shade Tree Program is to maintain and improve the shade tree resources and all the benefits that they provide for City of Perth Amboy and its citizens now and in the future.

OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS

The New Jersey Community Forestry Council has identified fifteen Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) practices that together compromise a complete and comprehensive community forestry program.

Within each of the plan elements that follow, existing City programs, policies and procedures are described, intermediate and element-specific goals are established, and five-year CSIP-based objectives are set.

Systematic fulfillment of the CSIP-specific goals and objectives will gradually move the City's Shade Tree Program toward its overall program goals, which have been established as follows:

1. Develop and perpetuate a beneficial shade tree resource.
2. Maximize the benefits of trees to the community.
3. Maximize long-term stability and sustainability in the shade tree and traditional forest resource.
4. Minimize the risk of trees to public safety.
5. Optimize the balance between tree health, maintenance costs and budgetary constraints.
6. Minimize conflicts between trees and infrastructure.
7. Improve and maintain public interest, appreciation, knowledge and support for public shade tree programs and encourage volunteer participation.
8. Encourage the planting and proper care of trees on private property.
9. Meet all eligibility requirements of the NJ Shade Tree & Community Forestry Assistance Act.
10. Be recognized as a Tree City USA.

HAZARDS AND LIABILITY

As is the case with all municipal assets, trees require maintenance and it is inevitable that potentially hazardous conditions will emerge. Nevertheless, a complete, comprehensive and pro-active shade tree program striving to prevent, anticipate and correct such problems will maximize the benefits of trees to the community while minimizing the threat to public safety and exposure to liability. All elements of this Community Forestry Management Plan are designed to optimize the balance between tree benefits and risks.

City of Perth Amboy acknowledges that not all hazardous conditions can be or will be predicted. It must work within a limited budget and may not be able to meet every need immediately. The intent of this Plan is to direct available resources toward the greatest needs and to systematically develop and maintain a healthy shade tree resource with a commensurate reduction in any threats to public safety.

Public safety will be a primary consideration in the development and implementation of all shade tree plans and programs. This Plan provides a means of identifying and abating existing tree hazards on a prioritized basis. Further, it provides a means of reducing the potential for future hazards and liability through responsible planting and preventive maintenance.

3. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The City of Perth Amboy can be described as a thriving multi-cultural mixed use community. Relatively small in size, 4.78 square miles, the City is densely populated with approximately 48,000 residents, and a density over 10,000 people per square mile. The City is located in the northeast quadrant of Middlesex County. It was one of the first areas to be settled in this part of New Jersey. Perth Amboy is bounded on the north and west by Woodbridge Township, while the eastern border is the Arthur Kill and the southern border is the Raritan Bay.

Perth Amboy POPULATION OVERVIEW	
Total Population	47,939
% Change since 1990	15
% Change since 2000	2
Median Age (years)	33.27
Male Population	24,045
Female Population	23,894

Perth Amboy Population Diversity	
Race	# People of this race
White	29,669
Black	6,516
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	60
Asian or Pacific Islander	4,239
Other	7,346
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	110
Hispanic	37,800

AGE

Median Age in Perth Amboy, NJ

The median age of people living in Perth Amboy, NJ was 31.2 at the time of the last full census survey. (The United States average at the time was 35.3)

At that time, the number of people under the age of 5 living in Perth Amboy was 3,805. There were 33,831 people above the age of 18, which represents 71.5 percent of the entire population (compared to the national average of 74.30%). 10.2 percent of the population (4,820) in the community was 65 years and over, compared to 12.40% nationally.

City History

Perth Amboy's long, rich history dates back to Dec. 8, 1651 when the Leni Lenape Indians (part of the Algonquins) granted a deed to Augustine Herman transferring the point at the mouth of the Raritan River to him. At that time, the land was known as Ompoge, which subsequently changed to Emboyle, and then to Amboyle. When the first three houses were built in 1683, settlers and officials began to call the land Ambo or Amboy, and finally Amboy. Amboy, the only city in the United States incorporated twice, received its first charter in 1718, by which time it was commonly known as Perth Amboy. It was incorporated a second time in 1784 after the American Revolution.

Where does the Perth come from? By 1684, when the Earl of Perth became Lord High Chancellor under King James II, Gawen Lawrie arrived here as deputy governor with instructions from the proprietors to refer to Amboy as the town of Perth. The Earl of Perth was also one of the members of the Board of Proprietors. Even though he was arrested upon the abdication of King James II in 1688, the town was still referred to as Perth Amboy even though the Earl was confined until 1693.

Perth Amboy is home to the only official Royal Governor's Mansion still intact since Colonial days, commonly known as the Proprietary House. The Proprietors of East Jersey were responsible for its construction during 1762-1764 for the Royal Governor of New Jersey. In 1774, William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, was Royal Governor at which time he took up residence at the mansion with his wife. However, since he was arrested by the continental army in 1776, the house did not remain a Governor's mansion for long. After the Revolution, the Proprietary House became a private home. In 1809 it became a resort hotel, but business was ruined by the War of 1812. In 1883 it became a rooming house for retired Presbyterian ministers, called the Westminster. Currently, the Proprietary House is owned by the State and maintained by the Proprietary House Association.

Perth Amboy is also home to the oldest City Hall in continuous use in the United States, built during 1714-1717 or 1718, to serve as the County courthouse and jail. It burned in a fire in 1731 and was not rebuilt until 1745. It was again burned in 1765 or 1766 when a man named Martin, angered by his earlier imprisonment in the City Hall on debt charges, allegedly set fire to the building. It was rebuilt in 1767. City Hall contained court chambers, rooms for the Provincial Assembly until 1775, and was used as a schoolhouse and for community meetings. It was in City Hall that the State of New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

Although City Hall was renovated in 1826, 1872 and 2006, some of the 1717 structure still remains. The current structure is Victorian with a mansard roof and several new wings. A City Hall Park was also developed with a historic statue of George Washington and an exact replica of the Liberty Bell. In addition to the municipal offices, City Hall has been used for law courts, a jail, legislative meetings, church services, concerts, shows, public meetings, and a school.

From about 1800 to 1870, City Hall Courthouse housed the public school classes. In 1870 Perth Amboy's first public school opened on State Street. The original building, then called School One, is still

in use with some additions and a new name, Thomas Mundy Peterson School. The school was named after Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy who became the first black voter under the 15th Amendment in the United States on March 31, 1870.

During the early 1800's, Perth Amboy's waterfront was a bustling business center. It contained warehouses, eateries, rooming houses, stores with imported and local products, an outdoor produce market and docks. For many years, ferry service played an integral role in Perth Amboy for those looking to go to and from Staten Island. Begun in 1709, service finally stopped in 1963. Currently, ferry service is about to be restored for the first time in nearly 40 years.

By the late 1890's Perth Amboy also had a trolley line, the Raritan Traction Co., which ran within Perth Amboy. Around 1900 the trolley line was extended to Fords Corner, then Metuchen, Sewaren, and Woodbridge.

Perth Amboy has also made many interesting contributions to culture and commerce. In 1853, Marcus and Rebecca Spring founded the Eagleswood School, in the vicinity of the Route 35/Smith Street intersection. The school was a utopian community for intellectuals, artists, and abolitionists. Eagleswood soon became famous and was visited by the likes of Louisa May Alcott, Henry Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horace Greenly, and many more. Just before the Civil War, Rebecca Spring arranged to have the bodies of two men, who were hung with the abolitionist John Brown, buried on the Eagleswood grounds.

Since its beginning Perth Amboy has been a place of interesting facts. For example, did you know...

- In 1752, the first professional play staged in New Jersey was performed by an English touring company in Perth Amboy.
- In 1760, Samuel Neville of Perth Amboy edited the first magazine published in America, The American Magazine, under the pen name "Sylavanus Americanus".
- From 1848-1849, Lawrence Kearny of Perth Amboy was still on active duty as Commodore in the Navy while mayor of his hometown ... this is the only time such a thing has happened.

- In 1865, The Raritan Yacht Club was established. Still in use, it is the second oldest yacht club in America.
- In 1896 the first submarine, which was designed by John Holland of Paterson, was perfected at the Industrial Iron Works and Machine Shop in Perth Amboy.
- On July 4, 1912 the first air mail delivery was made to Perth Amboy from South Amboy. The five minute flight was made by hydroplane.
- Perth Amboy was selected as the site for the Naval Military Academy in the State of New Jersey.
- Perth Amboy used to be famous for its fresh water springs... one of which still exists.
- All the Vaseline in the world once originated in Perth Amboy when the company Cheeseborough Ponds was located here.

The one constant in Perth Amboy has been change, and we are still enjoying the process of evolution.

4. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

PERTH AMBOY'S SHADE TREE PROGRAM

The City has an excellent foundation on which to build a successful community forestry program, with funding and a dedicated group of City employees assigned to a tree crew. The City looks forward to continuing in this direction while building further support of residents and elected officials. Trees are removed by the Department of Public Works when dead or deemed a hazard as long as they are within the city right of way.

The Department of Public Works looks forward to reversing the tree deficit, planting more trees and engaging the community with educational programs.

RELATION TO THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN

Implementation of this Community Forestry Management Plan will directly or indirectly help satisfy several goals and objectives of the City's 2003 Master Plan.

Trees can play a critical role in developing and maintaining community character within the City. Large trees play a large role in the character of the south eastern section of town. Many of these trees will decline over time and replacement trees should be planted where possible to maintain trees cover in this area.

Trees and vegetation can also play a major role in providing separation from potentially conflicting land uses that are adjacent to each other such as medium or heavy industrial, or commercial adjacent to residential or redevelopment areas.

Studies have shown that increased tree cover can also improved shopping experiences in downtown area. Forest cover is also affective at reducing stormwater flows by attenuating water in the canopies and increasing infiltration into the soil.

The City's tree resource needs to be recognized as green infrastructure. Often trees are planted and forgotten about but like any infrastructure they will require maintenance to extend their life span and optimize the benefits they provide to the city, its residents, and the environment.

Ideally, the Community Forestry Plan could be adopted as an amendment to the City Master Plan. Below are the specific goals from the Master Plan that trees and community forests will help to attain.

Overall goals from page 2 include:

- Protect and enhance water quality in the Raritan River, Raritan Bay and Arthur Kill.
- Encourage development and redevelopment of vacant and underutilized industrial area.
- Improve quality of life within the city.

From the Conservation Plan objectives, page 4, include:

- Promote and develop passive energy conservation approaches to reduce energy use.
- Creation of neighborhood pocket parks.

Develop recreational opportunities along the waterfront.

Avoid encroachment of encroachment by high density residential and commercial uses into single and two family residential neighborhoods.

Recreational Facilities discussion on page 93

Trees would be beneficial to parks and planned recreational facilities as well as school grounds.

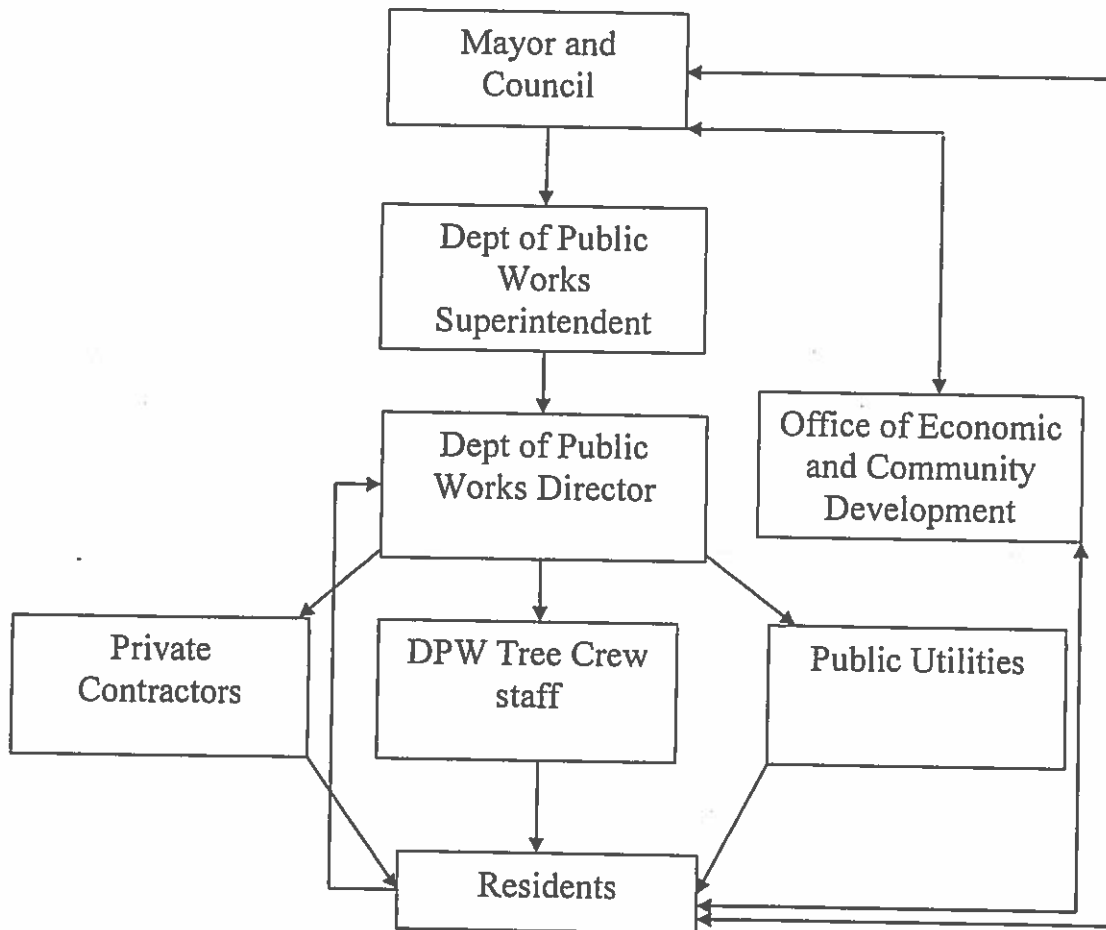
Urban Enterprise Zones page 98

This section discusses the use of future streetscape projects while revitalizing these locales.

SHADE TREE PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Public Works of the Department of Public Works is primarily responsible for the management of public trees in City of Perth Amboy. The DPW has a limited number of staff and funding for tree work at this time.

The DPW Superintendent operates in cooperation with various other bodies, as follows.



1. Mayor and Council

- a) The Mayor and Council will be responsible for appointing members to the Shade Tree Committee if one is created.

- b) The Mayor and Council have ultimate authority over the policies, procedures, and programs of the shade tree work and are responsible for approving the budget.

2. Director of the Department of Public Works

- a) The Director of the Department of Public Works manages the daily shade tree operations. The Shade Tree Commission can provide assistance where necessary particularly with planting projects and education and outreach programs.
- b) Specifically, the Director of Public Works is responsible for:
 - Planting, maintaining and removing public trees.
 - Enforcing elements of the City Code that regulate and control the planting and protection of public trees.
 - Serving notice to property owners for the removal of trees deemed necessary to reduce risks posed by dangers to public health or to public property.
 - Inspecting trees on public property and determining maintenance requirements.
 - Managing the Department of Public Works, which completes various maintenance tasks as well as tree removals.
 - Coordinating and supervising outside contractors hired to complete tree maintenance and other tasks when required.

3. Department of Public Works Staff under the direction of the Street and Roads Supervisor

- a) The Department of Public Works Staff are responsible for:
 - Completing tree maintenance, pruning, removals and related tasks under the direction and supervision of the Street and Roads Supervisor of the Department of Public Works.
 - Providing emergency response service, when appropriate.
 - Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices and abiding by all current safety standards relating to tree care operations.
 - Reporting any tree-related hazards or other problems immediately to the Street and Roads Supervisor of the Department of Public Works.

4. Other City Departments and Boards

- a) Other Departments and Boards participate in the Shade Tree Program to the extent that they implement City policies, procedures and ordinances that are directly or indirectly related to shade trees. For example:
- Office of Economic and Community Development will assist with tree plantings in Committee Development Projects and potentially incorporating trees into grant projects as well as stormwater projects.
 - The Code Enforcement Officer within the Planning Department and Property Maintenance Board are responsible for ensuring that property owners respect the rights of others and that they maintain their property in accordance with minimum standards, City ordinances and community character.
 - Various other Departments and Boards notify the Department of Public Works of plans and projects relating to shade trees and seek their input.
 - All Departments notify the Department of Public Works of tree-related hazards for emergency response (e.g. Police notifies Director of a downed tree for emergency service, etc.)

5. Property Owners

- a) Private property owners are indirectly involved in the Shade Tree Programs to the extent that they:
- Notify the City of tree service requests (see procedures below).
 - Are asked to be stewards of new public tree plantings adjacent to their properties.
 - Are encouraged to plant and properly maintain trees and landscaping on private property.

6. Community Volunteers

- a) Community volunteers occasionally assist in completing certain projects and tasks relating to the shade trees, including planting and education and outreach programs. Dedicated volunteers will be critical to meeting the goals of this plan due to the limited staff in the City, while building community support.

7. Tree Maintenance/Removal Contractors

- a) Private tree maintenance contractors are occasionally hired to assist with removal and maintenance work and provide emergency service, when necessary.
- b) Contractors are, within the terms of their agreement, responsible for:
 - Completing all work to the specifications of and under the supervision of the Director of the Department of Public Works in an efficient and safe manner.
 - Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices and abiding by all current and applicable safety standards relating to tree care operations.
 - Reporting any tree-related hazards or other problems immediately to the City.

8. Public Utilities

- a) The role of PSEG in the Shade Tree Program is primarily to minimize conflicts between trees and their facilities, particularly power lines throughout the city.
- b) While working on or around City trees, public utilities report to the Director of the Department of Public Works and are responsible for:
 - Abiding by all applicable ordinances.
 - Keeping the City informed as to their work plans and schedules.
 - Exercising reasonable diligence in the installation and maintenance of its facilities to avoid damage to public and private trees.
 - Not removing any tree without prior approval of the City or its owner.
 - Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices.
 - Assisting the Department of Public Works or City contractors in completing tree removal and maintenance work around their facilities, where necessary.
 - Maintaining the power line right-of-way through the City.

SHADE TREE ORDINANCES

City of Perth Amboy does not have a Shade Tree Ordinance at this time. The City will work with the Forester to review sample ordinances and work with the City Council to adopt an ordinance during this planning period. Ideally, the City could adopt the State's model ordinance when it is released. The City

could apply for CSIP funding (CSIP 2) to cover the costs of developing and approving such an ordinance.

SHADE TREE POLICIES

Perth Amboy's Shade Tree Program does not currently have formal, written policies beyond what is dictated by the applicable ordinances. However, the Program does operate in accordance with several unwritten policies, as indicated in the following sections.

TREE SERVICE REQUEST PROCEDURES

Requests for the removal or other treatment of public trees are primarily received from adjacent property owners and occasionally from other City Departments or other residents. All service requests are addressed in the following manner:

1. All service requests are received by or forwarded to the Director of the Department of Public Works.
2. Pruning requests:
 - a) Pruning is conducted by the City at this time.
3. Tree removal requests:
 - a) The tree is inspected by the Tree Crew with the Department of Public Works to determine the validity of the request.
 - b) If removal is justified and the tree is a City tree, a DPW work order for removal is generated.
 - c) If removal is not justified, the requester is notified and, if necessary, a DPW work order for other corrective work is generated.
 - d) The appropriate work is completed by the DPW (or contractor/public utility) on a priority basis.

4. Emergency service requests are responded to immediately by the DPW or an outside contractor, as appropriate. All others are completed in order of priority and/or as time permits.

2017-2021 Administration Objectives

1. Ongoing Administrative Programs

a) 2017-2021

- Continue implementing the administrative programs, policies and procedures already in effect. This system has worked effectively and efficiently over time.
- Work with PSE&G on the maintenance of the power line right-of-way to assure that they remove the vegetation via mechanical means.
- Explore the feasibility and apply for CSIP funding to create a shade tree ordinance.
- The adoption of a shade tree ordinance is a requirement to be recognized as a Tree City USA.

5. CITY OF PERTH AMBOY MAP



6. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CSIP#1

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

City of Perth Amboy recognizes that a continuous, comprehensive training program is necessary for individuals at all levels of the Shade Tree Program to ensure effective shade tree management over the long term. Specifically, ongoing training and professional development will:

1. Ensure that individuals within the Shade Tree Program have sufficient knowledge to make effective management decisions.
2. Ensure that all tree planting and maintenance activities are planned and completed in accordance with the latest scientific knowledge and current industry standards.
3. Ensure that tree inspections and evaluations follow accepted standard procedures and that the results are objective, technically correct and consistent.
4. Ensure continuity in the overall level of knowledge and expertise within the Shade Tree Program as individuals leave the program and new ones join.
5. Satisfy the requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program. This requires that 8 hours annually be accumulated by City representatives, either staff or community volunteers who have received CORE Training.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. **Training Provision:**
 - a) The City in the past has not provided extensive training and professional development opportunities relating to arboriculture and urban forestry for volunteers.
 - b) Employees of the Department of Public Works are provided with ongoing safety and related

training. This year eight employees were provided chainsaw safety training on October 3, 2016. Several employees were trained in Electrical safety in bucket truck training June 29, 2016.

- c) The Department of Public Works could provide “cross-training” by rotating its employees between various crews so that they can master a variety of skills. As a result, all of the Department of Public Works employees would be interchangeable and can lend a capable hand to the tree crew when extra assistance is needed during emergency situations.
- d) There is no specific line item in the City budget to provide continuing education for the Department of Public Works in relation to tree management issues. However, the objectives listed below will require a minor increase in training budgets. The City’s ability to meet these objectives may depend upon the availability of external sources of funding.

2. Licenses, Certifications and Recent Training:

- a) Department of Public Works employees do not currently hold licenses or certifications directly related to arboriculture and urban forestry and are not required to.
- a) The current Director of Public Works and Tree Crew Supervisor are knowledgeable and capable in all aspects of shade tree management, tree evaluation, and tree maintenance techniques. The staff has been trained in Chainsaw Safety in October 2016 and Bucket safety around electrical lines in June of 2016.

3. New Jersey Community Forestry’s Training Skills and Accreditation Program:

- a) At the time this plan was prepared, no volunteers had satisfied the CORE training requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program. The following employees have received CORE Training, Matthew Nieves, Miguel Ortiz, Brett Brown and Henry Minaya. William Kurenbrger has also attended CORE Training.

CURRENT TRAINING NEEDS

The City has identified the following areas in which training is currently needed or desired:

1. New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act CORE Training for at least one additional volunteer.
2. Advanced level tree hazard identification and assessment for Department of Public Works employees. Based upon available funding.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Training Programs

a) 2017-2021

- Continue implementing training and professional development programs, policies and procedures based on need, in order to maintain accreditation.
- Strive to maximize the number of individuals, both employees and volunteers, who increase their level of expertise.

2. N.J. Community Forestry's Training Skills and Accreditation Program

January – March, Annually

- Review training needs and upcoming training opportunities. Ensure that the City will accumulate the necessary continuing education credits as required by the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program by the end of each year.

January – December 2017

- Obtain CORE training for at least one additional volunteer from the City to assure compliance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

Tree Hazard Evaluation Training

January – December 2020

- Train the Director of Public Works of the Department of Public Works or other key employee to further advance his or her abilities to recognize and evaluate tree hazards using the latest information and techniques. This will be accomplished via attendance at a professional course or

seminar dedicated to tree hazards and which is taught by a recognized expert or the consulting forester, based upon budget availability.

Annual training requirements may be met by coordinating training programs with other municipalities which will reduce costs to the City. The Consultant Forester can also provide annual training which would the NJ Forest Service would assign the CEU's for the course based upon the agenda. Members of the Department of Public Works already attend meetings that would qualify for Continuing Education Units for compliance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program.

CONTRACTORS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

Contractors working for the City and utility contractors working in or around City trees must have sufficient training and knowledge to ensure that all treatments are completed to applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and practices and performed in a safe manner. They must also possess all appropriate certifications.

Evidence of training and appropriate certifications must be provided to the DPW Director of Public Works prior to commencing work.

7. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CSIP#3

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH GOALS

An efficient and pro-active Shade Tree Program will enjoy strong City and citizen support. However, ongoing public education, awareness and outreach programs are necessary to ensure continued success over the long term. Specifically, such programs will:

1. Maintain and increase interest and active support for Perth Amboy's Shade Tree Program.

2. Encourage public assistance in implementing various programs, protecting public trees, and beautifying the City.
3. Encourage the planting, protection and care of trees on private property for the benefit of the entire community.
4. Educate all citizens in the importance of environmental stewardship.
5. Advocate the use of trees for stormwater reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Arbor Day
 - a) Formal Arbor Day celebrations are not conducted by the City at this time but will be upon approval of this plan beginning in 2017.
 - b) Programs will be conducted and include a formal proclamation and ceremonial tree plantings.
2. Tree City USA and Other Awards
 - a) City of Perth Amboy has not participated in the Tree City USA program but will work towards gaining recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation during this planning period.
3. Media and the Perth Amboy Tree Replacement Program.
 - a) The City's will be routinely used to post announcements relating to the Shade Tree Program, such as the *Perth Amboy Tree Replacement Program*. This information will be posted on the City of Perth Amboy's website: www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us.
 - b) The *Perth Amboy Tree Replacement Program* will also be announced via the City Calendar, Newsletter or on the website.
 - b) Two tree related articles per year will be submitted to The Guardian a local newspaper to provide education and awareness to residents of tree related issues.
4. Property Owner Relations
 - a) The City will use the form letters and handouts to facilitate communications with property owners, such as a letter providing instructions for the maintenance and protection of newly planted street trees or news concerning tree related programs.

6. School Programs

- a) The Department of Public Works will work to incorporate an education program in the school during this planning period which will provide further support for the program moving forward.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Public Education, Awareness and Outreach Programs

a) 2017 – 2021

- Continue implementing all existing programs, policies and procedures in a manner that improves and maintains the Shade Tree Program's visibility and maximizes the number of people and groups that are reached.
- Continually review all existing public relations programs and materials and update them, as necessary. Education materials and programs will be handled through the Department of Public Works.
- Submit two articles annually to the print media to promote the benefits of trees and the Shade Tree Program or about forest health risks such as Asian Long-horned Beetle, Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, etc.
- Initiate a tree program that can be presented in the school to further build support for the program.
- Outreach to the public schools will be increased as well as with community groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

8. ANNUAL BUDGET AND RESOURCES

The following is a summary of the resources available to Perth Amboy's Shade Tree Program, on average, in each of the past three years. The City of Perth Amboy has a three man shade tree crew which is dedicated to the program.

Completion of some objectives contained in this Plan will require resources that the City may not be able to meet internally. The City's ability to satisfy these objectives may depend on obtaining additional funding through external sources and grant programs.

EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND WAGES

General Supervisor of Public Works
DPW personnel
Clerical assistance

Subtotal (salary and benefits for those
dedicated to the Shade Tree Program) \$180,000.00

OPERATIONS

Contracted services
Training
Materials and supplies \$ 600.00
Consulting
Other miscellaneous expenses

Subtotal \$ 600.00

CITY EQUIPMENT

Seven chain saws
 Three 16" saws
 Three 32" saws
 One 48" saw
One Wood Chipper
One Forestry Truck
One Stump Grinder
Two backpack blowers
Two gas powered telescopic saws
400 feet of rope

One hand pole saw

Subtotal (estimated annual expenditure based on
5-10 year service life, maintenance, repairs, etc.) \$58,000.00

TREE PLANTING

The planting program will become an integral part of the Shade Tree Program. Tree planting and replacement has not occurred in the past but it will be a large part of the program moving forward.

Subtotal \$ 5,000.00

WASTE RECYCLING

Leaf and wood disposal

City equipment utilized for transporting woody debris and material

Leaf recycling is completed off site

Subtotal \$ 2,650.00

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

At this time there are no volunteers involved with the program. Volunteers will be recruited over time and their hours tracked.

Subtotal (0 hours per year @ \$20.55) \$ 0.00

TOTALS

City Resources \$ 246,250.00

Value of Volunteer Contributions \$ 0.00

2017-2021 Budget Objectives

1. Ongoing Budget

c) 2017-2021

- The budget for Shade Tree related projects should be maintained at current levels with slight yearly increases when feasible.
- Volunteer hours should encourage and be tracked closely, as the number of volunteers and their hours will increase over time with the implementation of this plan.
- Accounting of staff time dedicated to tree related issues should be closely monitored to provide a more accurate accounting of expenses related to trees through the year.
- At the current funding levels Perth Amboy would meet the qualifications for Tree City USA requirements.

9. STATEMENT OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

TREE INVENTORY @SIP#5

TREE INVENTORY GOALS

The City is currently working on an inventory of its street trees. The City will investigate collecting such data so that it can be used as an effective shade tree management tool. The goals of the tree inventory are to:

1. Provide accurate baseline information on which sound shade tree management plans and decisions can be made.
2. Monitor and evaluate progress toward the impact of management activities on the tree population and the overall goals of the Shade Tree Program.

3. Improve or establish pro-active maintenance programs (e.g. systematic tree pruning, implementing young tree developmental pruning to reduce utility conflicts and structural failures in the future, etc.).
4. Improve the efficiency of daily tree management activities by using the data to identify, prioritize and schedule planting, maintenance and hazard abatement needs.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Tree Inventory

- a) The City is working on a current inventory of all street trees. The City would benefit by having such information, which could be stored in a computerized database where all trees would have a designated number and where past maintenance and possible safety issues can be recorded.

2. Current Tree Assessment

- a) Through a limited survey of street trees as part of this plan, the following has been determined about Perth Amboy's existing tree population:

- Some neighborhoods have extensive large trees providing shade and the benefits of shade trees while other areas are virtually devoid of trees and could benefit from tree planting.
- Approximately 600 street trees have been documented with street address location and dbh being recorded. Data is being stored in a Spatial Data Logic (SDL) software program.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Shade Tree Inventory. These objectives will only be met via access to grant funding from outside the City budget, possibly through the New Jersey Forest Service CSIP Program.

- a) January – December 2017

- Continue to work on the tree inventory to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Shade Tree Program.

Appropriate uses may include:

- Periodically producing data summaries from which short-term and long-term management decisions can be made and their impact can be evaluated.

- Aiding City employees responsible for receiving calls for service requests and answering property owner inquiries regarding the trees adjacent to their property and the status of work scheduled.
- Storing, prioritizing and scheduling tree service requests.
- Producing daily work orders for the DPW tree crew.
- Maintaining records of maintenance treatments and inspections.

2. Street Tree Inventory Report

a) April – June 2020

- Produce a variety of charts and reports that summarize the current state of the street tree population. This report will serve as a baseline to which future reports can be compared, so that the impact of management activities can be evaluated.
- Begin integrating the findings into other management activities (e.g. adjust species selection to improve diversity, address maintenance needs, etc.).

3. Public Properties Tree Inventory

a) March 2017 – December 2018

- Begin to inventory of all street trees as well as trees in parks and on other public properties during the 2017-2021 management period.

TREE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT CSIP#6

HAZARD MANAGEMENT GOALS

While the benefits of shade trees to Perth Amboy are obvious, the City recognizes that they also present risks and the potential for liability.

The sole purpose of the Tree Hazard Management element of this Plan is to ensure public safety. The City is committed to improving safety and reducing liability through comprehensive and pro-active

shade tree management. Public safety shall be the primary consideration in all decision-making activities at all levels of the Shade Tree Program.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Tree Hazard Identification

- a) The City currently lacks a program for routinely and systematically inspecting all public trees specifically for the purpose of identifying hazardous conditions.
- b) However, hazardous conditions are currently identified promptly by:
 - Calls and letters from adjacent property owners.
 - Observations by Department of Public Works and other City employees during the course of their daily routines.

2. Tree Hazard Abatement

- a) The Department of Public Works responds immediately to inspect potentially hazardous trees brought to their attention.
- b) Resolution of potentially hazardous conditions is prioritized and scheduled for completion by the Department of Public Works staff or outside contractor based on the degree of hazard.

3. Tree Hazard Record-Keeping

- a) Records of work completed are currently maintained via existing Department of Public Works logs.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Hazard Management Programs

- a) April-December 2018
 - Complete a formal hazard tree survey if funding is available via CSIP funding.
 - Continue to address hazard abatement needs as they are identified.

TREE PLANTING CSIP #11

PLANTING GOALS

The maintenance programs outlined in this plan are designed to maximize the service life of individual trees. However, their decline and death is inevitable. This planting program is designed to continually replace the City's aging public trees to perpetuate the resource at a level that is sufficient to benefit the community. At this time, most trees in residential neighborhoods were planted 40 or more years ago. Tree planting has not kept pace with tree removals.

At the same time, the stability of the tree population will be improved by manipulating and optimizing its species composition and age distribution via careful species selection and consistent planting from year to year. Further, responsible species selection, placement and planting techniques will help reduce future tree and sidewalk conflicts.

Specifically, the goals of the tree planting program are to:

1. Achieve and perpetuate the public tree population at maximum practical stocking (the total number of trees that the City can effectively manage in accordance with all elements of this plan, given available resources.)
2. Improve and maintain species diversity to help insulate the tree population from catastrophic losses to species-specific insects and diseases.
3. Improve and maintain age diversity so that the number of trees requiring removal and replacement due to advanced age is consistent from year to year.
4. Minimize conflicts between trees and sidewalks, buildings, utilities and other public and private fixtures.
5. Minimize future maintenance needs and costs.

6. Improve aesthetic appeal, seasonal variation and physical benefits to adjacent properties and the City overall.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Planting Jurisdiction

- a) In the future, based upon available funding, the City will plant and maintains trees on:
- City rights-of-way.
 - Parks, schools and other City properties.

2. Planting vs. Removal Ratio:

- a) The City has not planted trees in sometime. There is funding for planting in the 2017 budget. It is expected that planting will increase drastically over the planning period, particularly if funding is received through CSIP grants to purchase more trees.
- b) In recent years, the City has removed numerous trees every year due to requests from residents, storm damage and decline. The city had an extensive planting (3,000) of Sycamores and London Plane trees approximately 50 years ago that are becoming problematic at this time.

3. Planting Site Identification

- a) Planting sites will be identified by the Department of Public Works and property owner requests.

4. Tree Placement

- a) Street trees are not typically replaced at this time due to budget constraints.
- b) Tree placement and spacing will be determined:
- By the Director of Department of Public Works and/or the Tree Crew.

5. Species Selection

- a) Species are selected:

- By the Director of Department of Public Works with the advice and advisement of the Street and Roads Supervisor, Consulting Forester and Shade Committee if one is established.
- Based on their suitability to the existing growing conditions at each site.

6. Tree Installation

- a) All trees are supplied by private vendors selected via public contract laws and will be installed by DPW staff, contractors or volunteers.

7. Post-Planting Care

- a) New street trees should be watered, mulched and fertilized by the adjacent property owner or the City depending on the planting site. A letter containing detailed instructions for properly maintaining and protecting the trees will be provided to each owner at planting time, for trees planted on private property.
- b) Trunk wrap and stakes are removed one week after planting.
- c) Proper mulching will be installed as depicted in the appendices.

8. Funding

- a) The City of Perth Amboy has a limited planting budget and 2017.
- b) During this planning period the City will research grants and alternative funding sources for future tree plantings. This may include tree sponsors or trees dedicated to loved ones.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Planting Programs

a) 2017-2021

- Planting will increase substantially with the funding provided by grants through the CSIP program and other funding sources.

2. Vacant Planting Site Identification

a) July - October 2017

- Prioritize all existing vacant planting sites identified by the tree inventory or via the Shade Tree Commission and institutional knowledge within the City.
- Contact landowners to determine if they want a replacement tree.
- Begin incorporating the resulting lists into existing planting programs and schedules.

3. Species Composition Adjustment

a) July – December 2018

- Establish a long-term goal for optimum species composition, native versus non-native or maximum percentages by species.
- Establish intermediate goals for altering species composition by the end of 2017 and 2021 planning period.

b) January – June 2019

- Begin planting the mix of species necessary to achieve the intermediate goals and to maintain progress toward the long-term species composition goal.

4. Develop a City Tree Farm

a) Spring 2017

- Review existing funding sources for the development of a Tree Farm where the City could purchase smaller trees and cultivate them until they attain a size to be valued as a street tree.
- Determine a site for the tree farm and potential costs associated with developing it.

b) Fall 2017

- c) Submit a CSIP grant for funding the development of the site and purchase of trees and equipment needed to maintain the Tree Farm.

Specific planned planting sites at this time include:

- 2017 Smith St., New Brunswick Ave., Amboy Ave., and Market St. where empty tree wells will be replanted.
- 2018 Sadowski Parkway trees will be planted to fill areas that are without trees.
Caledonia Park, trees will be planted along the waterfront, City Hall Circle trees will be planted where they have been removed.
- 2019 Washington Park, Columbus Park and Flynn Park trees will be planted around the play areas.

- 2020 Dalton Field, trees will be planted along the entire length of Chamberlain Avenue, the fence line and play area. Memorial Field trees will be planted around the parking lot and Francis Street Park will have trees planted along the street.
- 2021 Rudyk Park will have trees planted along the entire length of the southern fence line and around the play area. Along the City Park Bike Path trees will be planted in vacant wells. Hall Avenue vacant tree wells will be replanted and Lucy Center trees will be planted around the play area.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL CSIP #8

MAINTENANCE GOALS

The City recognizes that proactive, systematic tree maintenance more cost effectively improves tree condition and appearance, extends their service life, and reduces hazards better than a haphazard “crisis” approach.

Maintenance needs are addressed before trees are planted by selecting species and disease-resistant cultivars that are suited to the area in which they will be planted to minimize stress, insect and disease infestations and unnatural pruning needs. Developmental pruning early in the tree’s life will minimize future pruning needs and the development of structural defects. Continued maintenance as the trees mature will help extend their service life, increase their benefits relative to costs, and reduce their hazard potential.

Specifically, the goals of the tree maintenance program are to:

1. Improve and maintain the health and physical condition of the tree population.
2. Maximize the service life of existing trees.
3. Maximize the cost-efficiency of tree maintenance activities.
4. Maintain public safety.

5. Optimize the benefits that trees provide to the community relative to the cost of maintaining them.

Develop a strategy or plan to deal with the impending Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Determine if selected trees will be treated, develop a removal strategy and utilize CSIP or other funding to offset the cost of dealing with this invasive insect and preventing loss of life or property from hazard trees created by the infestation.

Remove or treat Ash trees where possible which will succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer beginning with the areas of highest ash density first, potentially utilizing a CSIP grant to develop an Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan. Work with OEM on emergency storm response as has happened in the past.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. In-House Tree Crew.
 - a) The City has a dedicated tree crew of three within the Department of Public Works.
 - b) Equipment available for DPW use are:
 - Seven chain saws
 - One Wood Chipper
 - One Forestry Truck
 - One Stump Grinder
 - Two backpack blowers
 - Two gas powered telescopic saws
 - 400 feet of rope
 - One hand pole saw
 - c) The DPW Tree Crew completes:
 - Nearly all tree removal work;
 - All tree pruning work;
 - All stump removal;
 - All cleanup of debris generated by storms within the City which is shipped out of town to a recycling facility.

2. Private Contractors.

- a) Private tree maintenance firms are occasionally hired to complete limited specialty treatments and removal of large trees and at risk trees.

3. Inter-Local and Mutual Assistance Agreements.

- a) The City currently has informal agreements with neighboring municipalities for the sharing of equipment and personnel for tree maintenance in emergency situations.

4. Systematic Maintenance Programs.

a) Annual Tree Trimming Program:

- In the past, the DPW routinely pruned and trimmed trees throughout the City.

5. Work Identification, Prioritization, Scheduling and Record-Keeping.

- a) All other work is identified on an as-needed basis via service requests and observations by the Senior Tree Trimmer and General Supervisor of the Department of Public Works, DPW, other City employees and residents.

6. Tree Removal.

- a) It is the City's policy to not remove public trees unless they are dead or hazardous or there is some other valid reason, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works.
- b) In recent years, the City has removed twenty or more trees per year.

7. Plant Health Care.

- a) Insect and disease controls and other specialty treatments are completed on a limited, as-needed basis on high value trees.

8. Sidewalk Maintenance.

- a) Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining public sidewalks.
- b) All species selection and planting placement is designed to minimize future conflicts between trees and sidewalks, utilities and structures.

9. Funding.

- a) The DPW operating budget covers the cost of the tree maintenance work completed by its crews and contractors. There is not a separate line item at this time for tree related projects.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Maintenance Programs

a) 2017-2021

- Continue implementing existing tree maintenance programs, policies and procedures on a regular basis.

2. Work Order Form

a) January 2017 – June 2020

- Prepare and begin using a standard work order form to use for all tree inspections, service requests, and maintenance and hazard abatement work in conjunction with the computerized tree inventory. This form will be designed to:
 - Simplify and reduce the time needed to keep property owners updated. Ideally, a carbonless or tear-off portion describing the findings of an inspection or the work completed can be left with the property owner to reduce the need for follow-up phone calls.
 - Facilitate record keeping. Completed work orders will be returned to the City so that a record of the work or the inspection can be maintained and the data can be continuously updated as trees are planted and removed or as changes in size or condition are noted.

10. COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CSIP)

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CSIP#1

See page 21.

COMMUNITY FOREST ORDINANCE ESTABLISHMENT CSIP#2

Perth Amboy does not currently have a shade tree ordinance. Trees are mentioned on a couple of occasions in Chapter 430 Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. It requires one shade trees for every 25 parking spots. It states that trees may need to be mapped greater than 4 inches in diameter if determined that trees may affect a subdivisions layout.

2017 - 2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment

The City of Perth Amboy will investigate whether a Shade Tree Ordinance is required to meet their redevelopment goals. If it moves forward then CSIP funding can be applied for to offset any costs in establishing such an ordinance.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CSIP#3

See page 24.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION ©SIP#4

ARBOR DAY GOALS

1. Arbor Day

- a) There is normal Arbor Day celebrations which are conducted by the City at this time.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

The City of Perth Amboy will formally celebrate Arbor Day with ceremonial plantings and a formal proclamation by the Mayor and Council once the Community Forestry Program is approved.

TREE INVENTORY ©SIP#5

See page 29.

TREE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT ©SIP#6

See page 31.

STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT ©SIP#7

The City of Perth Amboy has not completed a storm damage assessment and due to the lack of funding may not do so. The DPW works cooperatively with Middlesex County and private contractors to handle large scale tree emergencies. This City was particularly hard hit by Hurricane Sandy especially along the waterfront. Tree-related emergencies are almost exclusively the result of structural failure during severe weather events. The City is prepared to respond promptly to such emergencies so that electrical service, communications and transportation can be restored with minimal disruption for residents. Other

possible sources of widespread tree loss include insect and disease outbreaks and are less likely to cause mass losses due to the implementation of this plan.

The frequency and severity of tree-related emergencies and widespread tree loss are minimized through well-designed planting, maintenance and hazard tree management programs already being implemented by the City.

2017 - 2021 Objectives

1. To promote continued mutual aid agreements to facilitate the cleanup of catastrophic tree related damage during hurricane and other severe wind or flooding/storm surge events.
2. To evaluate emergency response to tree related events with other municipalities, County and State Governments as well as private contractors.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL CSIP #8

See page 37.

INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT CSIP #9

The Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered in New Jersey in Somerset, Mercer, Burlington, Middlesex, Essex and Bergen County. It is just a matter of when not if the Emerald Ash Borer will begin to affect Ash trees within the Perth Amboy. The Perth Amboy should apply for CSIP funding to develop an Ash management plan which will locate the Ash trees within Perth Amboy, develop a strategy for systematic

removal of the trees or develop a treatment policy for high profile Ash trees. This may be a major draw on the Perth Amboy budget depending on the number of Ash trees noted in the Ash management plan.

Other insect and disease issues that are looming are Gypsy Moth which is currently in a low population cycle, Bacterial Leaf Scorch. Perth Amboy was likely within flying distance of Asian long horned Beetle infestation across the Arthur Kill on NYC owned property. The Department of Public Works will continue to stay up to date on current conditions and potential forest health issues which may affect the community forest.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

Goal: Develop a strategy to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer within Perth Amboy.

Objectives:

- Apply for a CSIP grant to develop an Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan. The Plan will include a location of all Ash trees within the City, a priority list for removal or treatment of individual Ash tree and some funding for removal of Ash trees to reduce the impact on the city tree budget.

Goal: Maintain community forest health to provide as many environmental services and positive community benefits as possible for the City of Perth Amboy.

Objectives:

- Conduct continuous periodic monitoring of forest health issues throughout the City.
- Creating awareness among the public of forest health issues and the importance of trees to the community will raise the status of the community forest cover and create municipal pride and ownership.
- Should a large forest health issue or outbreak be noted CSIP funding may be applied for to reduce the financial impact on the City for treatment and or removal.

WILDFIRE PROTECTION CSIP #10

Wildfire is not a significant threat in the City of Perth Amboy. If the City of Perth Amboy is interested it may pursue becoming a Firewise Community if funding is available from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and the CSIP program. The only area where wildfire has potential to be a risk is on the southwestern corner of the city, near Herbert Street.

Goal: The City of Perth Amboy may pursue becoming a Firewise Community.

Objective:

- Determine if wildfire is enough of a threat to apply for Firewise funding and become a Firewise Community.

TREE PLANTING CSIP #11

See page 33.

TREE WASTE RECYCLING CSIP #12

RECYCLING GOALS

Perth Amboy's Shade Tree Program generates large volumes of vegetative wastes. The City recognizes the cost savings and benefits associated with properly recycling these materials and using the resulting products for beneficial use.

A comprehensive tree waste recycling program will:

1. Minimize the cost of tree related wastes to the City.
2. Produce beneficial recycled products for use on City and residential properties.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Recycling facilities

- a) All woody debris and materials generated are taken to Generated Materials in Edison for processing.

2. Material Processing, Use and Distribution

a) Leaves

- The City conducts ongoing pick up of vegetative waste by the City DPW. Leaves are picked up curbside and must be in biodegradable bags.
- Approximately 450 cubic yards of materials are collected up by the City and made available for use by residents as well as on City owned property.

b) Wood Chips

- Much of the wood debris is chipped and removed at this time.
- These wood chips are also used on City property as mulch.

b) Bulk wood

- Brush and branches of up to 4" diameter will be picked up by the DPW from April through December. This material includes Christmas trees and firewood.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1. Tree waste recycling programs will continue as they have in the past. Some thought will occur as to how to utilize woody debris and materials.
2. Bulk wood utilization will be reviewed for possible use in traditional forest products. Wood can also be processed into usable timber, park benches or picnic tables through a cooperative agreement with a saw mill for use by the City as part of a pilot study if funding is available.
3. Wood chips may be utilized within the city on new planting projects.
4. A program may be developed where some wood chips may be made available to residents for private use. The feasibility of this will be worked out during this planning period.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM CSIP #13

Tree sidewalk conflicts are a major concern for Perth Amboy's tree program.

1. Sidewalk maintenance

- a) Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining public sidewalks.
- b) All root pruning necessary to permit sidewalk repair is completed by the DPW or by the property owners contractor under supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works to minimize unnecessary damage and uprooting hazards.
- c) All species selection and planting placement is designed to minimize future conflicts between trees and sidewalks.

2017 - 2021 Objectives

1. Sidewalk maintenance policies will continue as they have in the past.
2. If any substantial work is required for sidewalks particularly in redevelopment areas, CSIP funding should be applied for to offset cost to the Township.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT CSIP #14

The City does not have a Storm Water Management Plan. It may be possible to develop a grant for CSIP funding for Green Infrastructure projects and Rain Gardens. There is potential to utilize trees and their positive impact reducing and controlling storm water particularly those planted upstream of neighborhoods with flooding issues during moderate rain events. Increasing forest cover in commercial and industrial zones would provide large storm water benefits.

2017 - 2021 Objective

1. Utilize trees and the community forest as a storm water management tool and incorporate green infrastructure concepts while developing and encouraging rain gardens where feasible.
2. Work to educate residents to not pile leaves on or near storm drains or collection basins.
3. Potentially apply for a CSIP grant to help fund a demonstration project for rain garden, green roof and/or green infrastructure pilot/demonstration project.

OTHER CSIP #15

No projects are currently envisioned in Perth Amboy that would fall under CSIP 15.

11. PLAN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION

PLAN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION GOALS

The City recognizes the benefits of this Community Forestry Management Plan to the long term success of its Shade Tree Program. The City is committed to developing and implementing consecutive five-year plans and remaining in compliance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. This plan is the initial plan being completed by the City of Perth Amboy.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Preparation of this first five-year plan was a cooperative effort of the Department of Public Works and their Consulting Forester. The preparation of this plan is funded through the New Jersey Forest Service Community Forestry Program's Green Communities Grant.

2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

1) Annual Program Evaluation

- a) Every December the DPW and the Consulting Forester will evaluate the success of the past year's accomplishments relative to the goals and objective laid out in this plan.
- b) Programs will be adjusted as necessary based upon this evaluation.
- c) The City will prepare and submit the Annual Accomplishment Report to the New Jersey Forest Service in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

2) Five Year Evaluation

- a) The achievement of goals and objective will be evaluated for completion to date as laid out in this plan.
- b) New objectives and adjustments to existing policies will be made and changed if necessary for the 2022-2026 management planning period by August 2021.
- c) A new plan shall be written and submitted for approval to the New Jersey Community Forestry Council by January 1st, 2022.

SUMMARY OF 2017-2021 OBJECTIVES

TIMELINE

Objectives/Tasks					
Program Administration	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Continue existing administrative programs					
CSIP #1					
Training and Professional Development	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Review training needs and schedule training as required to maintain approved status, at least 8 CEU's annually					
Obtain CORE training for at least one community volunteer					
CSIP #2					
Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Evaluate the necessity for a Community Forestry Ordinance					
If development of an ordinance is determined to be developed apply for CSIP and approve the ordinance					

CSIP #3					
Public Education, Awareness and Outreach	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual Arbor Day Celebration					
Submit Annual Application for Tree City Recognition					
Submit two press releases to increase awareness of the Shade Tree Program and the benefits associated with the resource					
Initiate education and outreach to schools and scout groups					
CSIP #4					
Arbor Day Activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual Arbor Day Celebration					
CSIP #5					
Tree Inventory	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Investigate funding for completing a comprehensive community forest inventory if grants are available from New Jersey Forest Service					
Investigate software programs for collection and maintenance of the inventory data and work performed					
Complete a comprehensive inventory, if CSIP funding received					
Produce a baseline summary for future evaluation of management and planting activities					
Begin to inventory trees in public parks and properties, if funding is available					
CSIP #6					
Tree Hazard Management	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Continue existing pruning programs and removals as they are identified and prioritized					
Complete a thorough hazard tree survey if funding is available from the New Jersey Forest Service					
Produce a final report of hazard trees survey, prioritizing these trees for removal					
CSIP #7					
Storm Damage Assessment	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No activity					
CSIP #8					
Tree Maintenance and Removal	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Continue current tree maintenance programs including pruning and trimming schedules					
Continue the current work order program for tree maintenance including inspections, service requests and compile in the street tree database					

CSIP # 9					
Insect and Disease Management	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Periodic monitoring of potential forest health risks or decline					
Apply for a CSIP grant to develop an Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan in preparation of the arrival of the insect in Perth Amboy. Once funding is received develop a plan and implement it immediately.					
CSIP #10					
Wildfire Protection	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Discuss whether Perth Amboy should pursue becoming a Firewise Community					
CSIP #11					
Tree Planting	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The City will continue its tree planting program and work to increase the number of trees planted annually					
Identify vacant planting sites concurrent with the forest inventory if funding is available					
Apply for CSIP funding to offset planting costs					
Establish long term goals for species composition and improved diversity					
Reverse the tree deficit by increasing planting efforts					
Develop a City Tree Farm if funding can be attained.					
Replant the trees on State and Market Street and New Brunswick and Amboy Avenues.					
Replant trees along Sadowski Parkway, Caledonia Park and City Hall Circle					
Plant trees in Washington, Flynn and Columbus Parks					
Plant trees at Dalton and Memorial Fields and Francis Street Park					
Plant trees on Hall Avenue					
CSIP #12					
Tree Waste Recycling	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Continue all tree waste recycling programs					
Evaluate the possibility of using street trees as traditional forest products					
Investigate purchase of new chipper or other equipment					
CSIP #13					
Sidewalk Maintenance Program	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Continue current sidewalk maintenance policies					

CSIP #14					
Storm Water Management	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Utilize trees, increased forest canopy cover and the community forest as a storm water management tool					
Review the possibility of applying for a CSIP grant to develop a demonstration project for a Green Roof, Rain Garden or Green Infrastructure Project.					
Plan Preparation and Evaluation	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Evaluate prior year's accomplishments and adjust program as necessary					
Prepare and submit the Annual Accomplishment Report to NJFS					
Evaluate the accomplishments during the 2017-2021 planning period and begin to formulate new goals and objectives					
Apply for funding to complete the 2022-2026 plan					
Finalize new plan for the 2022-2026 planning period					
Submit the 2022-2026 plan for approval					