THE SHADE TREE

A BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO NEW JERSEY'S SHADE TREES

Volume 96 — March - April 2023 - Issue 3 & 4

This Issue Presents...

NJ League of Municipalities

NJADAPT

William J. Porter Award and Scholarship Application Period Opens

Spring is Tree Planting Season

To Ask and Listen If Planting Trees Is Best

NJ LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

By Neil Hendrickson & Richard Wolowicz

What's new with Public Outreach? In 2022, the NJ Shade Tree Federation again had an exhibit booth at the NJ League of Municipalities. This opportunity provided an opportunity to meet with many people who stopped by our booth. Our focus was on answering the questions that were asked by the hundreds of attendees that stopped by, including mayors, council people, and municipal employees, and on informing them of the services and benefits provided by the NJSTF.

Many of the questions involved the spotted lanternfly, and even more about concerns over local tree ordinances. Additional questions arose from native versus non-native species. The dialogue was excellent with many people who are truly concerned about their tree population.

All of these discussion points are being used as a planning tool to provide more information and discussion at our annual meeting this October 26th and 27th.

NJADAPT

By Emily Farschon

This month's question was "Tree Canopy," notably asked twice in the space of a single week. It made us realize that the answer should probably be shared with our Federation membership.

The specific question was "How do I figure out my town's Canopy Cover?" The easiest and most accessible answer was to use NJ Forest Adapt. NJADAPT is a free suite of online tools hosted on the Rutgers New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center website. These online tools are endless in their potential uses as communication aids. Transferring big data into manageable and visually impactful formats helps us talk to each other, but sometimes the sheer number of functions and data types packed into these online tool suites is overwhelming.

This is not a comprehensive overview of how to use the NJ Forest Adapt tool. They have a tutorial online for that, and Rutgers does course series so you can take the time to learn from the experts. We are pointing you to a very specific, easy

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N.JADAPT

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to use part of this tool; your town's "Municipal Forestry Snapshot".

NJ Forest Adapt contains Canopy Cover data pulled from the National Land Cover Database 2016 (NLCD 2016), and it packages it into an easily digestible, downloadable report filled with figures and descriptions called a "Municipal Forestry Snapshot".

To Find the Municipal Forestry Snapshot for Your Town

Navigate to the tool's direct web address https://njforestadapt.rutgers.edu/#/splash, or from the NJADAPT tool suite homepage, scroll down to NJ Forest Adapt and click "Go to NJ Forest Adapt"

Click "Start Collecting Maps" and scroll to select "Forest Standl Carbon Characteristics"

Select your location from the drop-down box. It is organized by the County Municipality. Once selected, your municipal boundary will appear in the center of your map window. A blue box with two options should appear under the location drop down. Click "Municipal Forestry Snapshot"

When using any source of data be mindful of accuracy, age, and whether the shared data is formatted to be properly interpreted by the audience. Planning tools are designed for big picture conversations, they are not the same as onsite evaluations. There are professionals who spend lifetimes learning how to make management decisions at every level of detail in a town's tree resource - from individual trees to the whole community forest. NJ Forest Adapt Municipal Forestry Snapshot is one of many resources. It might be your first step in learning how to use data to effectively communicate the value of trees in your community.

For the full suite of NJADAPT tools: https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/nj-adapt/

WILLIAM J. PORTER AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

NJ Shade Tree Federation is pleased to open the annual application period for the William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award and Arboriculture Scholarship. Application deadline is June 30th, 2023.

The William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award is intended to provide up-front funding for a small project to benefit the tree resource in your community.

WILLIAM J. PORTER AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

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Last year, the 2022 Community Tree Project funds were awarded to the Cranford Environmental Commission. NJ Shade Tree Federation recognizes details from their exceptional application:

The Cranford Environmental Commission Project goal was to increase awareness of the importance of trees and lower the barriers of planting trees on private and school properties which were identified as having the most opportunity to increase tree cover. Their project detailed a cost-share method in which they identified 4 key steps:

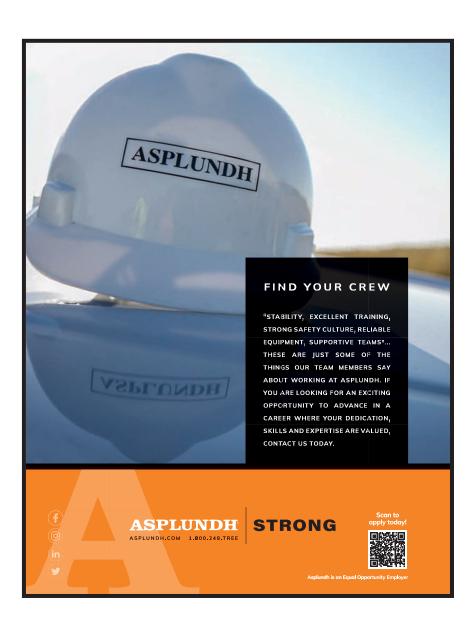
- Surveying town residents and schools for interest in receiving trees. As part of promoting the survey, the benefits of trees to the environment, homeowners, and stormwater management are described. this survey was completed prior to application submission and identified over 100 residents interested in receiving either a large shade or a small tree. As well as one school that expressed interest in receiving 5 large shade trees and 10 small trees.
- Purchasing and receiving trees in bulk. Receiving payment from property owners to reserve trees (payment was approx. 50% of cost of tree for private owners, no payment was required for the school properties).
- Distribute trees and supplies
- Residents will receive planting information and resources, and when needed, assistance with planting. Education is provided in partnership with local tree experts. Schools that receive trees will conduct a planting with their environmental club and other student volunteers, where the benefits, and care of trees, will be discussed.

In 2022, the Cranford Environmental Commission's completeness, feasibility, and attention in addressing all application criteria was recognized in review. Reviewers also acknowledged their creativity in planning to use multiple funding sources in conjunction with the Award funds (Commission funds, private property owners, and township donations) to plant a significant number of trees in comparison to the award amount, thereby creating the most impactful project possible.

Applications for the William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award are currently being accepted. Submissions are due by June 30th

The William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award Details are as follows:

- Up to \$2,500.00 per award depending on availability of funds
- Project funds provided upfront upon receipt of the award (this is not a reimbursement grant)



WILLIAM J. PORTER AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

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- Project funds can be awarded to a municipality or tree organization working within their municipality (organization must have capability to accept funds — no checks to individuals)
- Awardee must be a current member of the NJ Shade Tree Federation

To apply for the William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award, please include:

- A description of the project, including who will be involved, timeline, expected outcomes, and educational component
- A detailed projected budget
- Reference to any tree related specifications, standards, or best practices that will be followed, or Licensed Tree Expert services that will be contracted
- Statement of community impact

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Completeness of application
- Feasibility
- Uniqueness
- Inclusion of an educational component
- Community involvement and benefit as envisioned by Bill Porter

In return for this funding, the awardee must agree to the following:

- Complete the project within a year of funding award or make significant progress towards project completion
- Send description and pictures of completed project
- Include either a statement, advertisement, or signage at the project site stating: "Funding for this project provided by the NJ Shade Tree Federation through the William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award"
- Agree to give a short presentation about the project at the following STF Conference and share an article about the project in the NJSTF newsletter
- Be available to attend the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference in October to accept awards

WILLIAM J. PORTER AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

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For details on applying for this Award please visit: (https://www.njstf.org/wjp-community-tree-project-award.php)

The William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship is intended to encourage studies and careers in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

Last year the 2022 William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship recipient was Atomu Saul.

Atomu is a student of the Rutgers Urban Forestry Program in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. He is a sophomore working toward a dual major in Plant Biology and Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources. Atomu is the Treasurer of the Rutgers University Forestry Club and is the Teaching Assistant for the Dendrology class.

We wish Atomu all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing where his career takes him.

Applications for the William J. Porter Community Arboriculture Scholarship are currently being accepted. Submissions are due by June 30th

The award goes to a Rutgers student meeting the following criteria:

• Recipient

A Rutgers Student (up to \$2,500) — Application submission deadline is June 30th. The recipient must be a full-time student enrolled in a program of studies representing a demonstrated interest in Arboriculture or Urban Forestry. The student must be in at least sophomore standing with a minimum GPA of at least 2.5. The ideal candidates would include: those majoring in Ecology and Natural Resources, Plant Biology and Pathology, Environmental Planning and Design, or Landscape Architecture, but others may apply.

Application

- 1. Essay of approximately 500 words addressing the following points:
 - ✓ Why the applicant became interested in Arboriculture/Urban Forestry
 - ✓ What the applicant hopes to contribute to the field
 - ✓ How the scholarship will help
- 2. Resume
- 3. Unofficial Transcripts

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Doggett Corporation, Lebanon, NJ 08833 Tel: 908-236-6335



WILLIAM J. PORTER AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

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4. References

- ✓ Name and contact information (address, phone number, e-mail) for two references, one a teacher/colleague, the other a personal character reference.
- ✓ References will be contacted for the top five candidates.

Award

Award will be up to \$2,500.

Amount may be adjusted annually depending on available funds. Award

Recipient will be notified in September and the award will be presented at the October NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference.

For details on applying for this Scholarship please visit: (https://www.njstf.org/wjp-scholarship.php)

SPRING IS TREE PLANTING SEASON

By Brian Wolyniak, Ph.D. PennState Extension, March 22, 2021

Proper planting and aftercare techniques will ensure the success of new trees.

Longer days, warmer temperatures, and buds breaking are sure signs of the arrival of spring. It also means tree planting season is upon us. While planting new trees can be fun and satisfying, care should be taken to follow the proper steps to ensure we are rewarded for years to come with healthy and safe trees. This article provides an overview of tree planting from planning to aftercare. A more detailed look is provided in the publication, Planting and Aftercare of Community Trees. Planning and Site Analysis

Thoughtful planning and preparation are key to the long-term success of newly planted trees. Before sticking a shovel in the ground, it is important to assess the planting site. Climate, soil conditions, presence of utility lines, and proximity to structures, roads, and sidewalks all need to be considered in picking a tree that will thrive in the environment where it is planted. A walk around the site will provide an opportunity to observe site condition and take measurements to help determine what size tree can be planted. Beyond onsite observations of soil texture, drainage, and compaction, a soil sample can be collected to test for pH and fertility. These observations are then considered with objectives for planting, which might include, among others, screening or enhancing views, noise reduction, erosion control, or fitting with the design of the existing landscape. All this information can then be used to narrow down a list of tree species that will fit the space and work with the site conditions.

Nursery Stock

SPRING IS TREE PLANTING SEASON

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Once the appropriate tree species is selected, it is time to source the tree and get it in the ground. Trees can be purchased from nurseries in a variety of sizes and most often in one of two forms — container grown or balled and burlapped (B&B). Container grown trees are grown in a container from seed until the time they are sold. B&B trees are field grown and then the root ball with soil is dug from the ground, wrapped in burlap, and finished with a wire basket to support the root ball. A third, less-commonly available form of nursery stock is bare root. Similar to B&B, the trees are field grown and then dug, but the soil is washed from the roots, leaving a bare root ball. Each form of nursery stock has benefits and drawbacks and there are different considerations for each when planting. Most common for larger landscape tree nursery stock (1.5 inch or greater caliper) is B&B form, while container grown trees will typically be available in smaller sizes (less than 2 inch caliper).

Regardless of nursery stock type, source the tree from a reputable nursery. Look for a tree with a strong and straight trunk without damage to the bark or broken branches. The tree should look healthy and not show signs or symptoms of pests or disease. B&B trees should be freshly dug, with a firm root ball. Container grown trees should not have circling roots. There should not be weeds growing from the container or root ball.

Planting

Planting should occur as soon as possible after delivery of trees to the site. The planting site should be prepared by hand digging the planting hole wide and shallow. This will allow the tree to be planted at the proper height, while providing room laterally to maneuver the root ball into place. The wide shape of the hole, at least twice as wide as the root ball, will also loosen the soil laterally, where most new root growth will occur. The depth of the hole should be no deeper than the depth of the root ball. For B&B trees, some soil may need to be removed from the top of the root ball to uncover the root flare. The growing and harvesting of B&B from the field can result in extra soil getting piled up on top of the root ball. Failure to remove this excess soil at the time of planting can result in the tree being planted too deep, leaving soil along the trunk of the tree, which can lead to decay and the potential for the tree to fail and fall over.

Once a B&B tree is positioned in the planting hole with the trunk vertical and not leaning, the wire basket should be cut back to remove as much as possible, but at least the top third. All string holding the burlap in place around the trunk should be removed, and the burlap should be pulled back. Burlap from the top third of the root ball should be cut off to ensure no burlap sticks up above the soil surface after backfilling.

For container grown trees, remove the root ball from the container and inspect the root ball for circling roots. Use a saw to shave the outside of the root ball to break up the circling roots. Alternatively, a series of vertical cuts can be made around the outside of the root ball with a knife, though this is less effective.

Once the tree is positioned in the hole at the right depth, with the root flare at the soil surface, backfill the hole with the soil originally dug from the hole. As soil is filled into the hole, gently tamp it down to prevent large air pockets. Occasional

SPRING IS TREE PLANTING SEASON

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watering during backfilling can help settle the soil in as well. Once fully backfilled, rake the soil surface even. Ensure no burlap is sticking out above the surface, as it will wick moisture out of the ground. Also make sure the top of the root flare is visible above the soil. Finish the planting with a three-inch layer of composted mulch, with the mulch kept off the root flare and trunk to avoid fungal decay. The tree should then be deeply watered to settle the tree and soil. Staking is only needed if the tree does not remain stable (e.g. high wind areas) or in public spaces or high traffic areas where a barrier is needed to keep people away from the tree until it is established.

Aftercare

Both short-term and long-term success of any newly planted tree depends on the tree receiving the necessary care and maintenance after planting until the tree is established. First and foremost, aftercare is about proper application of enough water until the tree is established, meaning enough new roots have grown in to allow the tree to access enough water under normal soil moisture conditions. Prior to being established, B&B trees do not have enough roots to take in enough water on their own due to the roots loss when the trees are dug in the nursery. Container grown trees need to be grown in a soilless medium, which dries out quickly, meaning these trees also need supplemental water provided until the roots can extend into surrounding native soil. The time for a tree to establish can be roughly equated to the caliper of the tree at the time of planting where one inch of caliper equates to one year to become established. The typical two-inch caliper landscape tree will need two years to become established, so water should be provided to a tree this size for two years.

The amount of water provided will depend in part on local weather conditions over the course of the growing season, but water is most needed during hot, dry periods during the summer. A two-inch caliper tree should have 20 to 40 gallons of water applied slowly and evenly across the top of the root ball each time it is watered. In Pennsylvania, typical weather conditions necessitate watering trees in their first year in the ground frequently through the summer and early fall, two to three times a week in the hottest and driest months of July and August, and even into September. Watering once a week should continue well into the typically dry autumn season, even after leaf drop. Watering can be reduced in subsequent years until establishment. For example, in the second year of establishment for a two-inch caliper tree, watering can be reduced to once a week during the hottest and driest months, and one every other week in other months.

In addition to watering, maintenance and care for newly planted trees may include fertilization, refreshing mulch, and pruning to remove dead or broken branches. Generally, fertilization is not needed after planting in many sites. In more built environments, like sidewalk tree pits, some fertilizer may help trees to establish. In any case, fertilizer should be applied judiciously, based on results of a soil fertility test. Pruning on newly planted trees should include removing any dead or broken branches or other tree parts. Training pruning to establish good structure can be started after the tree has established.

For similar articles and tree planting webinars visit: www.extension.psu.edu



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TO ASK AND LISTEN IF PLANTING TREES IS BEST

By Scott A Sjolander, PennState Extension, October 14, 2021

Careful planning before planting ensures trees are placed where they will provide benefit and avoid detriment.

In the United States, municipal community forestry programs are supported in meeting worldwide environmental challenges. However, campaigns broadly considering urban trees for public policy and sustainability require accounting of services and disservices. In a 2020 article, Beyond 'trees are good': Disservices, management costs, and tradeoffs in urban forestry, Roman and fellow researchers discuss recent studies about ecosystem services in urban forestry. Here they suggest that stakeholders can better integrate urban forest infrastructure services and disservices into their decision-making by evaluating tradeoffs and synergies. Trees do not make everyone's desired landscape complete. Cultural, aesthetic, and social preferences and beliefs motivate people to make tradeoff decisions within their individual circumstances.

Trees placed and used well can provide many quantified environmental services like energy savings and erosion control. However, negative impacts can and do occur. For example, inappropriately water-hungry green landscapes exaggerate water scarcity in arid and semi-arid cities. Less dramatic, but just as evident are the costs of maintaining tree landscape systems among many activities vying for the space they need to survive. Communities across the Pennsylvania commonwealth were built more than a hundred years ago with narrow streets, sidewalks, and building spaces. As large maturing trees become structurally unsound or otherwise fail, the cost of removing them often consumes monies available to replace, develop, or even maintain shade canopies. For individual urban homeowners, the expense of maintaining a tree might negate the ability of repairing the roof after a windstorm. Not all homes are insured, and not all insured homes are covered for full replacement costs.

Progressive management goals emphasize using tree landscapes as part of providing environmental, social, and economic benefits. Tradeoffs include situations where management actions improve one situation, such as lack of shade canopy, but also increase disservices in a win-lose situation. Stakeholders commonly have more complicated perspectives about trees. Residents of low-income neighborhoods may find that efforts to improve their streets also raise property values and housing costs beyond what they can afford. To them, neighborhood tree planting may be one indication of further changes coming

The "Beyond 'trees are good'..." article defines negative synergies as loselose scenarios where disservices are exacerbated and negative impacts compound. One example of negative synergy would be when recently planted trees die from insufficient maintenance. Management decisions that do not support allocating sufficient resources for young newly planted tree success often cause such trees to die from lack of maintenance.

For example, a large-maturing tree placed in a site with too little space, and suffering maintenance injuries will likely die before it reaches a size returning values exceeding its installation expenses. When planted trees die before returning benefits, they represent sunk costs, but they will not provide the long-term benefits





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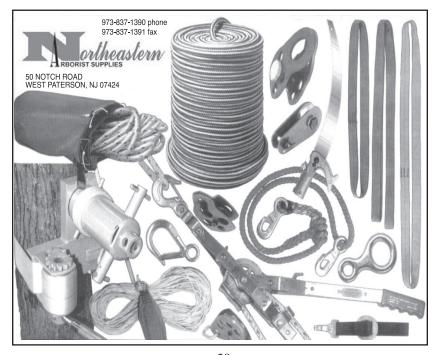
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TO ASK AND LISTEN IF PLANTING TREES IS **BEST**

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management programs seek. Further, such tree mortality may help persuade residents to resist supporting further public planting or investing in planting on their own properties.

Understanding that people's perceptions of trees and their cost-benefit balance are complex can help green advocates better serve reluctant audiences. Evaluating true services, disservices, and inherent costs begins with asking for stakeholder perspectives and heeding their concerns. Preparing integrated systems to serve each audience will become more intricate. However, the solutions will have the potential to yield more well-placed trees to produce sustainably effective outcomes.

This general interest article was written in reference to the scientific journal publication:

Roman, Lara A.; Conway, Tenley M.; Eisenman, Theodore S.; Koeser, Andrew K.; Ord ez Barona, Camilo; Locke, Dexter H.; Jenerette, G. Darrel; stberg, Johan; Vogt, Jess. 2020. Beyond trees are good: Disservices, management costs, and tradeoffs in urban forestry. Ambio. 21: 183. 16 p. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01396-8

Read the "Beyond trees are good..." article online at: www.fs.usda.gov/ research/treesearch/61426

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

Save the dates for these important events coming up in 2023

April 28th Arbor Day

May 17th NJSTF Tree Talk—7:00-8:30 pm EST

Zoom link to be sent to member email list in May

June 30th William J. Porter Award and Scholarship Application

Period closes

NJSTF Tree Talk—7:00-8:30 pm EST September 13th

Zoom link to be sent to member email list in September

October 26th-27th NJSTF 98th Annual Conference—Cherry Hill

November 14th-16th League of Municipalities 108th Annual Conference—

Atlantic City

December 6th NJSTF Tree Talk, 7:00-8:30 pm EST

Zoom link to be sent to member email list in December

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