

CONGRATULATIONS TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN!

The Township of Millburn was selected as the 2025 William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award Winner. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Neil Hendrickson and Liz Stewart presented the award to Stacie Phelps, Forester of Millburn Township on October 16, 2025, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 100th Annual Conference.

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. The Federation review committee noted that this year's applications featured an impressive range of creativity. Thank you to all the NJ towns & organizations who applied.

The Federation recognized the Township of Millburn as the 2025 winner and is pleased to share the following summary of the project:



Millburn Township proposes a reforestation project in Taylor Park to address the decline of a stand of ash trees that have served as a critical stormwater management asset in an area known for frequent flooding. Despite extensive efforts to preserve these trees through years of emerald ash borer treatments, they have begun to decline, necessitating proactive planning for their eventual loss.

By planting a diverse selection of native, flood-tolerant trees, the project will help mitigate flooding risks in a vulnerable area of the park, preserving recreational space for residents and protecting surrounding infrastructure.

This initiative will also provide an opportunity to educate the community about the importance of urban forestry, the threat of invasive pests like the emerald ash borer, and the vital role that trees play in flood control and climate resilience. The planned educational signage and community planting day will engage residents in the project, fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship over the park's natural resources.

Furthermore, the project aligns with the community's broader goals of enhancing public green spaces, promoting environmental sustainability, and maintaining Millburn's tree canopy for future generations.

The review committee noted that Millburn's project demonstrated the community's resilience when faced with the challenge of EAB ash tree loss. The chosen location is a small stand located within a very publicly accessible recreation area of the Township. Their proactive approach and extensive planning in revitalizing this forested corner of the park will yield significant long term benefits to the community. The NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to support the township of Millburn's efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS EMILY TUTTLE!

Emily Tuttle was selected as recipient of the 2025 William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Neil Hendrickson and Liz Stewart presented the award to Emily, a Rutgers undergraduate student majoring in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, on October 16, 2025, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 100th Annual Conference.



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

The review committee noted that Emily's essay, which described experiences of participating in a tree inventory research project, echoed a love for discovery, interest in science communication, and expressed newfound appreciation for the hidden wealth of benefits provided by and diversity in our community forests and public greenspaces.

Emily states, "As trees cannot speak for themselves, it is up to us humans to speak for them, which I plan on dedicating myself to for the rest of my life."

The NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to help support Emily Tuttle's current studies and future research career.

WILLIAM J PORTER AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE – DONNA MASSA

Every year, the NJ Shade Tree Federation has the privilege of acknowledging someone who has made great contributions to tree management, arboriculture, ecology, tree care, and/or urban forestry. This distinctive honor is made by the presentation of the William J. Porter Award of Appreciation. It is fitting to acknowledge our new honoree with the namesake of another person who has made countless achievements in the environment which specifically supports the tree industry.



During the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 100th Annual Conference, The William J Porter Award of Achievement was presented to Donna Massa.

Many of you know Donna Massa. She is the energizer bunny that was probably the role model for the battery commercials. An accountant by trade, Donna took over the reins as Executive Director of the Federation after Bill Porter retired. She breathes and lives for the Federation, yes even now, when she is in her Emeritus Status. Donna has always been a strong advocate for education and promoting the Federation to be in a position to meet the needs of our membership.

Donna Massa is an example of leadership and dedication to the arboricultural profession. She truly deserves being honored as the recipient of the 2025 William J Porter Award of Appreciation.

Congratulations Donna!