**TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRESS, 2010-2012**

The Stratford Community Forestry Management Plan 2010-2015 (“CFMP”) sets forth a range of goals for tree maintenance and tree planting. This report summarizes the progress toward plan objectives, during the plan’s first three years, CY 2010, 2011 and 2012.

CFMP objectives are predicated on the basis of availability of resources, including dedicated line item funding for the Stratford Shade Tree Commission’s (SSTC) activities, emergency funds, such as clean-up and tree and stump removal resultant from storms, and in-kind activity by the borough’s Department of Public Works (“DPW”). Although borough resources allocated from the general fund have diminished over the past three years as compared to previous years, total funding has remained viable through the SSTC’s and the borough’s successful efforts to secure corporate and state funding and to make progress toward achieving plan goals and objectives:

**Tree Maintenance: Tree Inventory, Tree Hazard Assessment, Pruning and Removal;**

**Tree Replacement and Reforestation**

The Stratford Shade Tree Commission and the Borough of Stratford removed a total of fifty-six trees from 2010-2012, and replaced thirty-eight of the removals, for a net change of (18) in the community forest inventory. While the commission was able to remove dead trees during 2010-2012, of particular note is that virtually all tree placement and reforestation occurred during 2012; this accomplishment was due largely to the Shade Tree Commission’s successful efforts to infuse new grant funding sources to supplement borough funding. Atlantic City Electric provided an invaluable pro bono service to the borough in removing trees which were priorities not only for the borough but also for the utility company’s state mandate to remove trees that interfere with service wires throughout its service area which includes the borough of Stratford. The in-kind resources of the borough’s Department of Public Works (“DPW”) likewise contributed significantly to tree-removal, particularly among smaller trees, whose limbs were below service wires, and which are not part of the utility company’s mandate. See **Table 1** below.

The dramatic increase in the borough’s tree removal, tree replacement and reforestation is a function of the Commission’s implementation efforts to make notable progress toward its 2010-2014 CFMP initiatives. CY 2012 activities included surveying and documenting dead trees for removal, identifying placement of prospective new plantings from among curb-friendly species, and finally planting those replacements and providing for their ongoing maintenance ensure that each tree would be clearly established by the end of the first planting year. Consequently, as 2012 came to a close, the Commission made significant progress in building its community forest inventory and tracking the changes that occur with both tree removal and tree replacement. In reviewing the progress of the 2012 removal and replacement initiative, the Strafford Shade Tree Commission and the Borough of Stratford came remarkably close to approximating **no net change** in an era of chronically scarce funding for shade tree commissions.

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**TABLE 1**

**2010-2012 TREE MAINTENANCE, TREE REMOVAL, AND REFORESTATION**

**PROGRESS TOWARD COMMUNITY FORRESTRY PLAN OBJECTIVES**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| YEAR | FUNDING SOURCE | TREE REMOVALS | TREE REPLACEMENT |
| 2010: | NJ Stimulus Grant,$7,000  | 10 trees & stumps | 0 |
|  | Boro $22,875 | Tree removal, trimming | 0 |
| 2011 | Boro $2,857 | Storm cleanup | 1 (Arbor Day planting) |
| 2012 | ACE Vegetation Management Project pro bono services | 20 |  |
|  | Boro, 13,000 (bond issue) | 26 |  |
|  | For new planting and reforestation: - Boro budget $13,000* NJ American Water Co. reforestation and street-tree replacement grant $10,000
* School Budget for Arbor Day Plantings
 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL REMOVALS 2010-2012 | 56 |  |
|   | TOTAL REPLANTING |  | 38 |
|  | Net change in community forestry inventory, 2010-2012 |  | (18) \* |

**(\*) Represents a three-year replacement of 67.9 percent of tree removals; for CY 2012 alone the replacement was 82.6 percent of tree removals.**