

Provide a copy of “Tree Canopy Goal” adopted by the Woodbridge Township Environmental Commission **at its meeting of Sept. 10, 2009. SEE BELOW**

**WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION OUTLINING TREE CANOPY GOAL**

WHEREAS, the Woodbridge Township Environmental Commission wishes to express its commitment to maintaining a diverse and healthy tree canopy in Woodbridge Township; and,

WHEREAS, urban forestry is defined as the art, science and technology of managing trees, forests and natural systems in and around cities, suburbs and towns for the health and well-being of all people, and the 2004 U.S. Census projection estimated that more than 83 percent of America’s residents live in suburban/urban areas; and,

WHEREAS, tree cover in suburban/urban areas east of the Mississippi has declined by about 30% over the last 20 years, while the foot print of these areas has increased by 20%, and with the decline in tree cover, significant air and water management costs have increased; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of tree canopy coverage is directly related to environmental quality, and maintaining a thriving tree canopy to function as a green infrastructure reduces the need and expense of building infrastructure to manage air and water resources – urban forests have a tremendous ecological and social value that must be actively and expertly cared for and managed for the long term; and

WHEREAS, trees and landscapes contribute to Woodbridge’s ecosystem in positive, productive, economic and socially beneficial ways, and if properly managed, the township’s trees will have a minimal negative impact on the environment and maximize value received for dollars expended on their maintenance in the long run, substantially benefiting our environment in a variety of ways, including:

- Improved air quality reduce the effects pollution
- Reduce storm water runoff and erosion
- Temper local climate -- cooling effect
- Conserve energy
- Increase property values
- Provide habitat for plants and animals
- Health -- reduce stress by contributing to a general feeling of calmness
- Act as screens -- preserve privacy, block unsightly views and muffle sound.
- Promote a sense of community -- improves aesthetics, influences one’s perception of their community, empowers residents with the idea that they can control and create their environment and enhances a community’s sense of social identity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Woodbridge Township Environmental Commission that the Commission affirms its support of all efforts to increase the percentage of Woodbridge Township's tree canopy to these levels:

Baseline: 29.5% tree canopy, year 2000^[1]
Interim Goals: 33% tree canopy by 2012; 36% tree canopy by 2018
Goal: 40% tree canopy by 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Christopher Adornato, Chair of Woodbridge Township Environmental Commission in the Municipality of Woodbridge Township in the County of Middlesex, and the State of New Jersey do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Original Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Woodbridge Township Environmental Commission at its meeting of Sept. 10, 2009.



Christopher Adornato