



Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program

2013 Cycle funded by PSEG

\$2,000 Final Report

Funded by:



I. Instructions

Please complete the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants **Final Report** below. Completion of this report is a condition of your grant award. If this documentation is not received on time, your municipality may not be eligible to apply for future Sustainable Jersey grants.

Extensions: If you would like to request an extension beyond the final report deadline DO NOT complete this report. Please a request for an extension to grants@sustainablejersey.com detailing why an extension is needed and the anticipated completion date.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the final report, your grant award project, or the Small Grants Program please email at grants@sustainablejersey.com or call Samantha McGraw at 609-771-2938.

II. Grantee Information

Municipality: Ridgewood

County: Bergen

Name of Person Submitting Report: Monica Buesser

Title: Shade Tree Commission Chair

Phone: 201-612-0519

Email: mkbuesserd@gmail.com

III. Project Summary

Project Title: \$2000 Capacity Building Grant for Shade Tree Commission

A. Project Description

Please provide a 2-3 sentence description of what was accomplished with your grant funds. This information will be posted on the Sustainable Jersey website, provided to the grant program sponsor and used in Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program related materials.

The Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission's main goal with this grant was to connect with residents and educate them about the value of trees in our community. Our accomplishments include, establishing our own URL that connects residents directly to our Village run webpage, sending postcards to residents informing them of our Adopt-A-Tree program, procuring equipment to establish a Village run tree nursery and obtaining professional advice about our downtown tree wells from a certified arborist.

B. Variations from Original Proposal

Please summarize any modifications to activities or projected outcomes outlined in the original grant proposal.

The \$2000 was originally designed to provide \$300 for the purchase of saplings. The Shade Tree Commission has received free saplings from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation for the past several years. Therefore, the \$300 was used to purchase large sturdy pots for a new tree nursery in Ridgewood. The bare root saplings will grow for several years and then be planted throughout the town on Village property.

Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission was granted approved status in January 2017. This delayed the utilization and implementation of this grant.

C. Grant Impact

Please describe the impact of the effort on the municipality. This includes who benefited from the grant activities and how, and the potential impact on future endeavors.

Ridgewood residents have benefited from the creation of the Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission. Our mission to educate residents and encourage the planting of trees has resulted in a budget passed by the Village Council which will allow the planting of almost 200 trees throughout the Village this year. Before the Shade Tree Commission was formed no trees were planted for over 5 years. The Adopt – A – Tree (AAT) program has made it possible for residents to replace trees in the Village owned right of way rather than waiting several years for Village replacement.

Advertising AAT and our direct URL thru postcards informs residents of our existence, purpose and their ability to participate. Other funds used for the new nursery will benefit all residents for years to come. The saplings in the nursery will be planted on Village owned property throughout town. Lastly, advice from a certified arborist is key to future success with tree planting. The arborist work and recommendations for our downtown tree wells enhances the survival of current and future plantings.

IV. Supporting Documentation

A. Sample Materials

Please upload samples of communications distributed to the community related to the grant activities (i.e. articles, event flyers, reports, or other educational materials). The uploaded files should be in PDF format and multiple documents can be combined into one file.

B. Photographs

Please provide at least **TWO** photographs of green team activities related to the grant. Whenever possible the photographs should include members of the community. Please describe each photograph (i.e. Photo 1 - Green Team Shredding Event, Photo 2 - etc.) and then attach each photograph in .jpg format separately to your email. Sustainable Jersey reserves the right to use the photographs provided in reports to the grant program sponsor, presentations, and other program related materials.

Description of Photos:

Shade Tree Commission members: Monica Buesser, Bron Sutherland, Carolyn Jacoby, Andrew Lowery Potting bare root saplings for new Village tree nursery

Shade Tree Commission members: Ian Keller, Andrew Lowery, Shade Tree Department: Tim Cronin Excavating downtown tree well to help determine cause of tree failure.

Shade Tree Commission: Andrew Lowery, Tim Cronin (Shade Tree Dept), Micheal Sedon (Deputy Mayor) Planting Day for Adopt-A-Tree

V. Lessons Learned

Please reflect on any challenges encountered in completing the grant related activities, how they were overcome, and advice for undertaking similar or related efforts in the future.

Several issues hindered the process. The Village website was undergoing a complete update. The link to the Shade Tree Commission was problematic. Thankfully the purchase of a new URL and having it directed to our Village webpage has made Shade Tree information much more accessible for residents.

The purchase of saplings has become unnecessary as the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation has saplings available for free. The saplings have to be utilized on Village property. In order to maximize the potential of these saplings they are being grown in pots for up to two years at our new Village tree nursery. Purchasing large sturdy pots to plant the bare root saplings was an ideal use of the \$300 budgeted for sapling acquisition.

Adopt-a-tree postcards were sent to a portion of our residents. The \$900 allotted did not cover all of our 25,000 residents, so we targeted the mailing to areas that have lost trees due to storm damage and sidewalk conflict. In the future, the Shade Tree Commission will ask for funding from the Village council to cover the cost for sending a mailing to the entire population. Adopt-a-tree plantings can be done on all Village owned property so residents can help us reforest the entire town from street trees to park trees to downtown tree wells.

Having the ability to utilize the services of a certified arborist is priceless. Services obtained are not available from regular landscapers or tree nurseries. The \$700 was utilized to help save our struggling downtown trees. In the future, downtown tree wells will be replaced or reconfigured to help the trees survive.

VI. Project Expenditures

Please provide an itemized list of expenses paid for by the grant funds. For Example: Garden Plants: \$525.00, Tools (rakes and shovels): \$125.00, etc. The expenditures can be listed in the text box below OR provided via an uploaded file.

*NOTE: In order to close out the grant, the **total amount of the awarded grant must be spent**. Since your municipality was awarded a \$2,000 grant, the total amount spent and reflected in this report should match or exceed this amount.*

Project Expenditure Summary:

\$2000 Capacity Building Grant for Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission was spent on the following

\$900 Adopt-A-Tree Post Cards printed and mailed

\$100 URL www.Ridgewoodshadetree.org

\$700 Arborist services and consultation on downtown treewells

\$300 Large pots for planting saplings in new Village tree nursery

VII. Grantee's Certification Declaration

Please upload a [Grantee Certification and Declaration](#) signed and dated by your business administrator or other authorized representative.

Questions regarding the final report requirements?

Email grants@sustainablejersey.com or call Samantha McGraw at 609-771-2938.

You will be notified when your final report is approved