



# Resolution of the Township of Bernards

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
908-766-2510; [www.bernards.org](http://www.bernards.org)

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## **Resolution #2019-0128**

Acceptance of Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission  
Application for Tree City USA Recertification  
2018 Annual Report

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to § 2-17.4b. of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bernards, the Shade Tree Commission shall make an annual report to the Township Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shade Tree Commission is submitting a report pursuant to this requirement which shall remain on file with the Municipal Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards, that the report be accepted.

Agenda and Date Voted: 02/12/2019

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify this is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Bernards Township Committee on 02/12/2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Szabo, Municipal Clerk

Acceptance of Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission  
Application for Tree City USA Recertification  
**2018 Annual Report**

Community Forestry Program Administration

- As of January 2019, the Bernards Township STC was comprised of a nine-member volunteer body with seven regular and two alternate commissioners appointed by the Bernards Township Committee as well as a part-time secretary and liaisons from each of the Township Committee and the Department of Public Works (DPW). We are pleased to count among our commissioners in 2018 a New Jersey certified tree expert, a forestry expert with B.S degrees in botany and forestry and a biologist with a forest ecology B.S degree.

Training and Professional Development

- As of December 31, 2018, nine commissioners and one DPW township employee were CORE-trained.
- Five STC commissioners earned a total of 18 CEU credits in 2018.
- One commissioner attended the NJ Arborists ISA Garden State Tree Conference in March.
- Four members attended the 2018 NJ Invasive Species Task Force annual conference at Duke Farms in Hillsboro, N.J in April.
- Two members attended the 2018 Shade Tree Federation annual meeting in Cherry Hill in October.
- Several commissioners conducted frequent web-based research related to EAB and other tree issues.

Public Education/Awareness/Outreach

- The STC commemorated Arbor Day on April 27, 2018 with the reading of the Bernards Township Committee Arbor Day Resolution at three township elementary schools. At these celebrations, the students gathered for an assembly at which poems were read, skits performed and information shared about trees. The Shade Tree Commission prepared tree seedlings to distribute to students: Mount Prospect - 100 seedlings; Liberty Corner - 200 seedlings; Oak Street - 75 seedlings. The Arbor Day events were attended by a member of the Township Committee, multiple STC commissioners and residents.
- On Arbor Day on April 27, 2018, the STC distributed bare root trees in conjunction with a native tree give-away program hosted by the Somerset County Park Commission Environmental Education Center honoring Arbor Day.
- The STC planned its usual booth for Bernards Township Charter Day in May 2018, but unfortunately the event was rained out.
- We continue to update the STC section of the Bernards Township website with news and information helpful to township residents. Posted documents included:
  - a. Community Forestry Plan 2018-2022;
  - b. Avoid Volcano mulching!
  - c. Plant a Tree the Right Way!
  - d. Emerald Ash Borer Information
- The NJ Forest Service approved our 2018-2022 5 Year Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP). An approved CFMP is imperative for Bernards Township to comply with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act and eliminate our township's exposure to litigation due to the drastic decline and poor condition of the community tree resource.

Statement of Tree Budget

The 2018 STC budget consisted of (1) direct township funding; (2) an allocated portion of the DPW budget or expenses related to tree maintenance and cleanup on property under its jurisdiction; (3) a CSIP grant targeting hazardous ash trees in municipal parks; (4) fees assessed against developers and earmarked for planting trees under the direction of the STC and/or Township DPW; (5) mandatory tree planting expenses incurred by developers and

property owners in satisfaction of Bernards Township zoning requirements, and (6) in-kind service hours by volunteers devoted to tree-related matters.

### Plan Implementation

The 4<sup>th</sup> Community Forestry Assistance Act Five Year Plan, approved by the New Jersey Department of Forestry in March 2018, provided the roadmap for STC activities in 2018.

- In May, volunteers from a local corporation planted 200 trees in Pleasant Valley Park.
- The STC continued education activities for the public celebrating Arbor Day with tube seedling give-aways at schools, tree give-aways at the county park and posting numerous informational documents on the STC web page.
- The STC held Arbor Day celebration in 2018 and will continue its Arbor Day and Bernards Township Charter Day activities in 2019.
- The Shade Tree Commission presented a gavel block created from a piece of the "Basking Ridge Oak" by one of our Commissioners. This block is to be used in the Township Committee, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings.
- The STC filed an application to renew Tree City USA status for 2018. If approved, 2018 will mark our 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Tree City USA status.
- In 2018 a new STC DPW liaison was appointed and a new head of DPW was hired. The new DPW head attended two STC meetings and the new liaison regularly attended our monthly meetings to provide the same level of excellent support we received from the previous DPW liaison.
- The STC conducted windshield surveys to identify hazardous trees in two districts in 2018. Problem specimens were identified and referred to the DPW for pruning, removal or other appropriate corrective action. STC volunteers were supported by the DPW liaison and our NJ certified tree expert commissioner.
- The STC continued its tree inventory by planning replacement ash trees for Mountain Park as part of our EAB management plan.
- The STC will continue to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee to enhance our township parks and facilities and provide sustainable tree resources. Our focus in 2019 will be to continue ash tree identification and removal in the parks and other public spaces under township jurisdiction.



## New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program Annual Accomplishment Report

### Municipal Information

1. Reporting on year:

2018

2. Date of Report Submission

02/14/2019

3. Municipality:

Bernards Township

4. County

Somerset

5. CFMP 5-year Period

2018-2022

6. Contact Name

Judy O'Connell

7. Title

Shade Tree Commission Secretary

8. Organization name

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

9. Phone number

908-204-3063

10. Email

joconnell@bernards.org

11. Address

1 Collyer Lane  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920



Any time you see this logo, it means that the information provided can be directly placed into your Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City USA application, to be uploaded directly to their website: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>



### General Information

12. Does your community have a tree care professional on staff (employed or retained) e.g. Licensed Tree Expert, Cert. Arborist, Forester

- ☐ Yes, Employed
- ☒ Yes, Retained
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

13. Does your community have a tree inventory?

- ☐ Complete
- ☒ Partial
- ☐ No

14. Have you submitted your Tree City USA Application? 

Visit Tree City USA Page: <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/>

(Most of the information you supply in this report can be used for your Tree City USA application)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No



Urban and Community Forestry Program Administration

**This section has to do with the groups that are responsible for urban and community forestry in your community**

15. Municipal/County Department responsible for tree management

Department of Public Works

16. Dept. Manager

Jorge Casacuberta

17. Phone

908-204-3084

18. Email

jasacuberta@bernards.org

19. Name of Tree Advocacy Board (committee/commission/board)



Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

20. Commission/Committee Chair name

Randy Santoro

21. Phone


908-766-9709

22. Email

randysantoro@gmail.com



## Community Tree Ordinance

23. Do you have an ordinance related to:   
(this is TC Standard 2: please upload copy of ordinance to their website)

Yes

No

Tree Planting

☐☒

Tree Protection

☒☐Establishing a Committee or  
Commission☒☐

Enabling Ordinance

☒☐Tree replacement/no net  
loss☒☐

Tree Removal

☒☐

Tree Pruning

☐☒

Other

Other

Other



## Statement of Tree Budget

		CFMP Budget (this should be what your estimated budget for this reporting year is in your CFMP)	Reporting Year Actual (this should be the expenditures for this reporting year)
<b>Administration</b>	Municipal Salaries	\$ 36,294.00	\$ 36,294.00
	Fringe	\$ 12,705.00	\$ 12,705.00
	Indirect Costs		
	Volunteer Contribution (Rate can be found at www.independentsector.org)	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 20,838.00
	Other	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ 68,199.00	\$ 70,837.00
<b>UCF Stewardship</b>	Planting	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
	Pruning	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,000.00
	Removal	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 39,734.00
	Stump Removal		
	Leaf Collection		
	Insect/Disease Management		
	Emerald Ash Borer Management		
	Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ 84,500.00	\$ 80,734.00
<b>Education and Outreach</b>	Training And Education (Mun. + County Employee)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
	Training and education (Volunteer)	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 915.00
	Public Outreach	\$ 450.00	\$ 247.00
	Other	\$ 980.00	\$ 174.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$ 3,780.00	\$ 1,336.00
<b>Total</b>		\$ 156,479.00	\$ 152,907.00



For your Tree City USA Application Budget:  
(enter the totals provided here, as Standard 3, into your Tree City USA Online Application: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>)

Tree Planting and Initial Care	\$ 6,000.00
Tree Maintenance	\$ 35,000.00
Removals	\$ 39,734.00
Management	\$ 51,335.00





## Arbor Day

25. Did you celebrate arbor day in 2018?



(This is TCUSA Standard 4: Please upload your proclamation and evidence of celebration directly to the website: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>)

☒ Yes

☐ No

26. Date of arbor day celebration

4/27/2018

27. Type of arbor day celebration (please upload any photos directly to the arbor day foundation)

The Shade Tree Commissioners participated in Arbor Day Celebrations at three local elementary schools. At these celebrations, the students gathered for an assembly at which poems were read, skits performed and information shared about trees. Shade Tree Commissioners prepared numerous tree seedlings to distribute to students: Mount Prospect - 100 seedlings; Liberty Corner - 200 seedlings; Oak Street - 75 seedlings.



### Training and Education

28. Were your community's urban and community forestry training and education needs adequately addressed for both employees and volunteers?

☒ Yes

☐ No

29. Describe the best class or program for your municipal employee or volunteer in the last year:

Core Training

30. Provide any feedback or suggestions for improvement for the NJUCF training and education program:

Core Training is essential. All our commissioners are Core Trained.

31. Describe the programs you have implemented to educate and involve the public in Urban and Community Forestry this year and list participants:

1. Tree related info is posted regularly on the township website.
2. Volunteers from a local corporation planned 200 seedlings in one of our parks.
3. Commissioners talk to local merchants and religious organizations about tree pruning and planting.
4. Commissioners supported lectures offered by the Bernardsville Shade Tree Commission on EAB and forestry management on 4/24/2018 and 9/4/2018.
5. The annual township Charter Day celebration was rained out this year, so we could not implement our plan for the Shade Tree Commission booth.



## Plan Implementation

Please compare CFMP section 9-Statement of Plan Implementation objectives for 2018 and your actual accomplishments for 2018.

Examples: **CFMP Timeline Objective-Conduct Street Tree Inventory**  
**Accomplished this Year-Inventory started, but not yet complete**

### 32. CFMP Timeline vs This year actual

CFMP Timeline Objective: Review goals as set forth in 2018-2022 CFMP  
Accomplished this Year: Reviewed 2018 goals and initiated plans.

### \* 33. CFMP Timeline vs This year actual

CFMP Timeline Objective: Continue windshield survey with STC, DPW and CTE.  
Accomplished this Year: Surveyed 2 zones with CTE. Reported results to DPW.

### 34. CFMP Timeline vs This year actual

CFMP Timeline Objective: Establish a tree planing program for municipal parks.  
Accomplished this Year: Trees planted in Mountain Park to replace removed ash trees. Volunteers planted 200 trees at Pleasant Valley Park.

### 35. CFMP Timeline vs This year actual

CFMP Timeline Objective: Public relations activities will remain the same.  
Accomplished this Year: Charter Day cancelled due to rain. Arbor Day tree giveaways and tree plantings.

36. Which of the following urban wood products has your community produced?

- ☒ Wood chips or mulch
- ☐ Firewood
- ☐ Lumber
- ☐ Art or Jewelry
- ☐ Whole logs
- ☐ Compost
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None



### Highlights and Comments

37. Please provide one local urban and community forestry program highlight from the past year:

Attach any pictures to this report (any photos submitted can be used by NJUCF for promotional purposes)

1. Arbor Day celebrations in our elementary schools.
2. Commissioner created a gavel block from a piece of the "Basking Ridge Oak" to be used in the Township Committee, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings.
3. Volunteers from a local corporation planted 200 trees in one of our parks.

38. Please provide any comments or suggestions for the NJUCF program:

We appreciate any webinars you share. Very helpful!

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Electronic submissions are preferred to: [brian.mcdonald@dep.nj.gov](mailto:brian.mcdonald@dep.nj.gov)

Or via traditional post to: NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
State Forestry Service - Community Forestry Program  
Mail Code 501-04  
PO Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Mayor/County Freeholder Signature

Mayor Carol Bianchi  
1 Collyer Lane  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Dear Tree City USA Supporter,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I write to congratulate Bernards Township on earning recognition as a 2018 Tree City USA. Residents of Bernards Township should be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority.

Bernards Township is one of more than 3,500 Tree City USAs, with a combined population of 150 million. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Bernards Township is stepping up to do its part. As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you are helping to provide a solution to these challenges.

We hope you are excited to share this accomplishment. Enclosed in this packet is a press release for your convenience as you prepare to contact local media and the public.

State foresters coordinate the presentation of the Tree City USA recognition materials. We will forward information about your awards to your state forester's office to facilitate presentation. It would be especially appropriate to make the Tree City USA award a part of your community's Arbor Day ceremony.

Again, we celebrate your commitment to the people and trees of Bernards Township and thank you for helping to create a healthier planet for all of us.

Best Regards,



Dan Lambe  
President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Arbor Day Foundation Names Bernards Township Tree City USA**

Bernards Township, NJ, was named a 2018 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Basking Ridge achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

**About the Arbor Day Foundation:** The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

For more information, contact:  
Danny Cohn, 402-473-9563  
dcohn@arborday.org



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