

SHADE TREE COMMISSION - ANNUAL YEAR 2022 REPORT

The Shade Tree Commission would like to take this opportunity to reflex back on our accomplishments in 2022. These activities help insure our town's urban forest will stay strong for future generations.

First and most importantly with the help of our residents and public works department the STC oversaw the addition of 54 new trees planted throughout our town. It is important to note that 80% of these new tree are native plants that will support a healthier urban eco system. Last fall the STC finalized plans to implement Phase I of the King Street reforestation project. This plan calls for the Spring 2023 planting of 17 new trees along West King Street. The STC also planned and oversaw the planting of a selection of native plants that will help screen the Battlefield Park from neighboring homes.

Members of the Shade Tree Commission were also busy this year conducting over 85 site visits, some to our neighbor's homes to offer tree selection, planting and tree maintenance advice. Other visits involved meeting with developers to evaluate tree protection and replacement needs. A number of additional visits were made to our town's parks to determine and schedule tree maintenance needs. A couple of significant items resulting from these visits was identifying pruning needs in Rubino Park and the recognition of a number of very large dead trees located along the trails in the Battlefield Park. These trees have been removed for reasons of safety. Other dead trees located deeper in the woods have been left to serve as wild life habitat.

Last but certainly not least with the assistance of our Borough Manager we were able to save 6 large trees along 2nd Avenue from the chopping block. These mature trees were to be removed as part of a PECO project to upgrade their electrical system. While we had hoped to save a few more, to preserve 6 mature trees from removal was still a big win.

A total of \$15,000 was spent towards dead tree removal, tree and buffering plantings, and overall tree health in Year 2022.