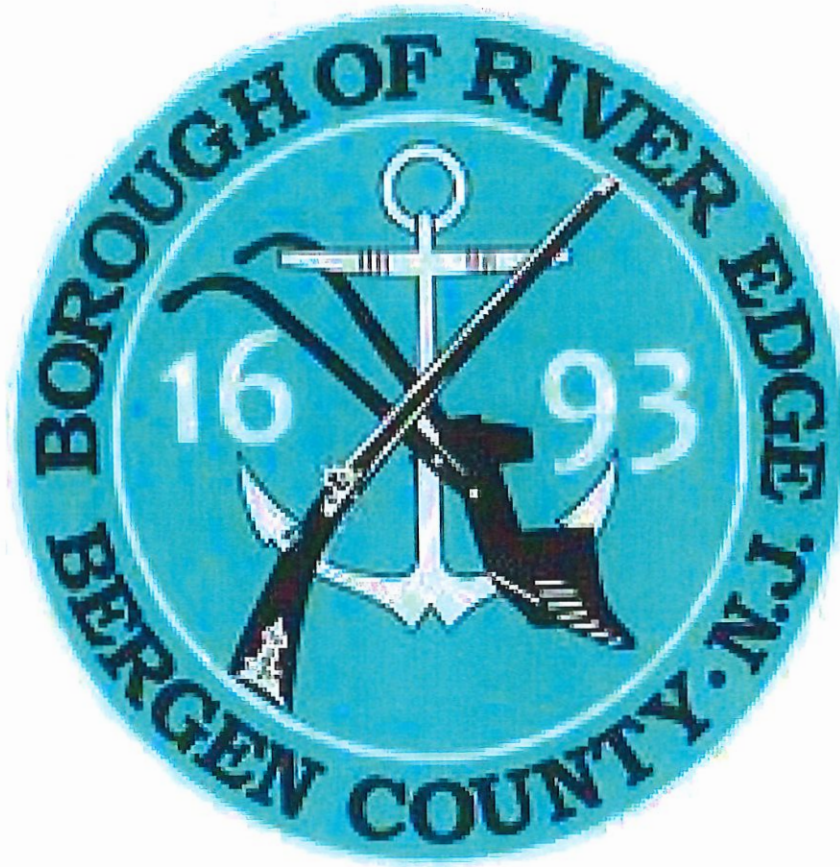


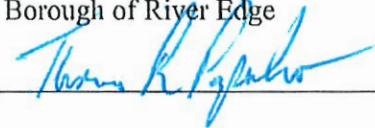
**Borough of River Edge
Community Forestry Management Plan
2026 - 2030**



Borough of River Edge
500 Riverside Way
River Edge, NJ 07661

Borough of River Edge Community Forestry Management Plan

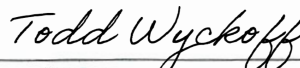
Municipal Information Form

Municipality	Borough of River Edge
Address	Municipal Complex 500 Riverside Way River Edge, NJ 07661
Contact Name and Title	Jason Milito CPWM, Superintendent, DPW
Phone #	(201) 599-6275
Fax # and Email	EPhillips@riveredgenj.org
Organization Name	Borough of River Edge
Mayor's Signature	 Mayor, Thomas Papaleo
Date of Management Plan Submission	November 2025
Time Period covered in Management Plan	2026-2030

Official Use Only Certification

The Borough of River Edge has made formal application to the New Jersey Forest Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forest Service has concluded that this plan meets the standards set forth by the State and the NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed


State Forester

9/2/2026

Approved Date

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This Community Forestry Management Plan was developed in collaboration with the Borough of River Edge Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Shade Tree Supervisor, Superintendent of Public Works, Township Mayor & Council along with Borough Stakeholders and revised by Leonard "Ted" Szczawinski NJ LTE # 340, Sterling Consultants LLC, Little Falls NJ. 07424-1023

Introduction

Mission Statement

The Borough of River Edge through the oversight of the River Edge Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) will improve and provide resources for the establishment, protection and maintenance of its shade tree resources as outlined in its Community Forestry Management Plan.

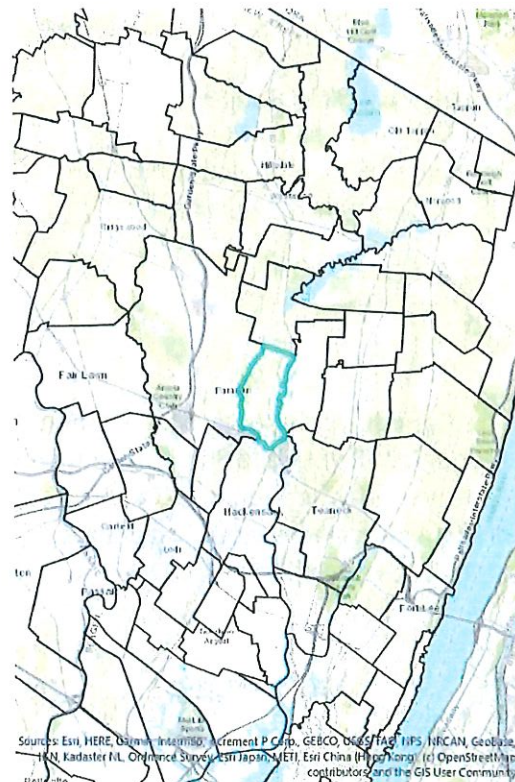
The Borough Administration and STAC believe that stewardship of the environment; most importantly its trees are valuable assets. The protection and maintenance of these trees as assets will provide long-term benefits to its residents.

The identification of Emerald Ash Borer activity in Bergen County and the methods of identification, monitoring, reporting, removal and quarantine of firewood of infested trees is still relevant to the trees within the community forest. Information continues to be made available to the community by resources provided through the NJDA EAB and Borough website.

Please note: the Borough of River Edge will be referred to as the Borough hereinafter, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee will be referred to as the STAC hereinafter Community Forestry Management Plan will be referred to as the CFMP hereinafter. The Shade Tree Supervisor will be referred to as the STS hereinafter & Department of Public Works will be referred to as the DPW hereinafter.

Introduction / Forest Data

While New Jersey has long been noted as the most densely populated state in the nation, it still has extensive areas of wildland and urban forests. With nearly 2,120,000 acres of upland and wetland forests, over 45% of the state's land area is forested (derived from the 2015 New Jersey Land Use/Land Cover). Forest ecosystems play an important role in providing wildlife habitat, wood products, recreation, carbon sequestration, clean air and water; therefore, information on the current status and trends is essential for

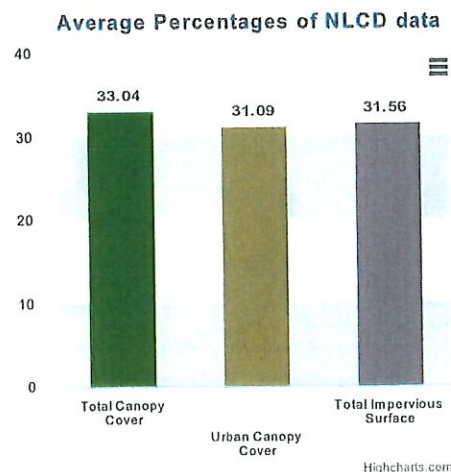


assessing the quality and quantity of these resources.

National Land Cover Database 2016

National Land Cover Database 2016 (NLCD 2016) is the most recent national land cover product created by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium of federal government agencies. The NLCD is a nationwide product derived from Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite imagery. While this information product is comparatively coarse based on 30x30 meter ground pixel sizes, it does provide a reasonable estimate of percent tree canopy cover layer and percent developed imperviousness. Percent tree canopy cover layer represents what percentage of a 30 x 30m pixel is covered by some sort of tree or other woody vegetation. Similarly, the percent imperviousness is the percent of a pixel covered with impervious surfaces such as asphalt, roofing material and/or concrete. More information on the NLCD can be found at the [NLCD website](#). The NLCD digital data was summarized to provide a municipal level estimate of percent tree canopy and impervious surface cover.

Higher amounts of tree cover can help counter urban heat island effects, buffer rainfall and provide wildlife habitat. The amount of impervious surface changes the natural hydrologic cycle by impeding precipitation infiltration to groundwater while increasing the amount of surface runoff. These changes have significant environmental consequences including impacts to ground water recharge, frequency and magnitude of flooding, elevated non-point source pollutant levels and degraded biological activity.



New Jersey Forest Service NLCD Analysis

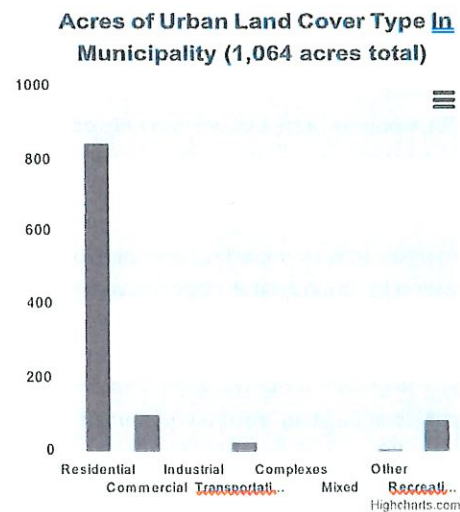
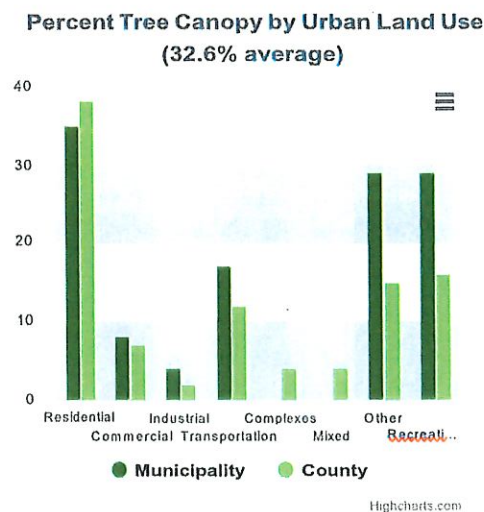
To help explore the developed landscape, NLCD canopy cover (described above) has been assessed for urban land, using the same pixel percentage basis for this analysis. NJDEP's Land Use 2015 data divides land use into broad

categories, like urban land, which are then broken further down into sub-categories, such as Residential and Transportation. Definitions for land category definitions can be found at [NJDEP's site](#).

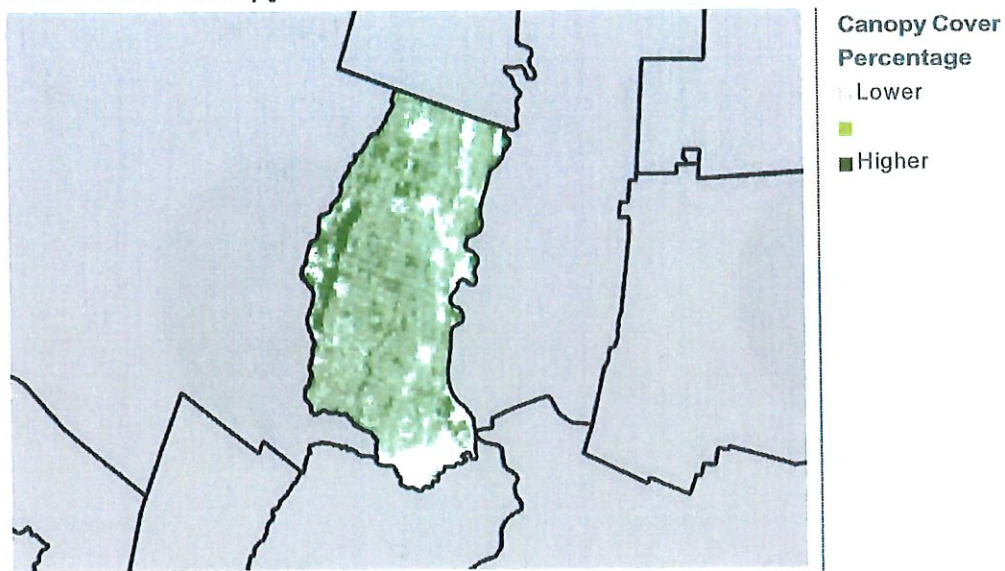
Knowledge of the distribution and area of such urban lands is needed to determine better land use policy, to project development demand and to implement effective plans for development, among other uses.

Applying this knowledge to canopy cover can help understand and assess where gaps in canopy are, and where or how to increase canopy. Canopy percentage and distribution of total acreage for the land cover types can help inform policy and planning for tree planting, maintenance and conservation.

Dark green bars represent the average percent canopy in River Edge Borough's urban land use category, such as the average canopy percentage for commercial areas of town. Lighter green bars represent the average in this class for all of Bergen County.

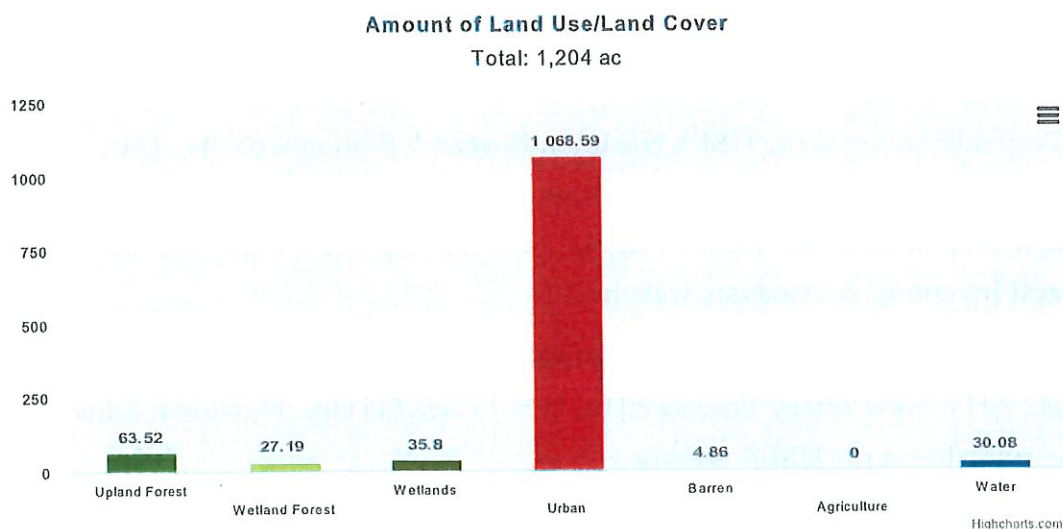


NLCD 2016 Canopy Cover



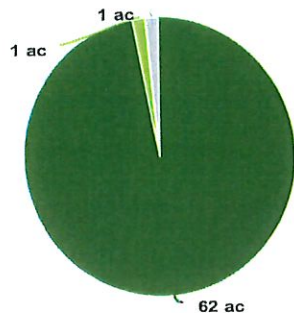
Land Cover Types

Land use/land cover digital GIS mapped data interpreted from high-precision aerial photography acquired in 2015 provides the most comprehensive mapping of general forest types across the state. At the broadest level of generalization, forest land cover is categorized into upland vs. wetland forest. These broad classes are then further delineated into conifer, mixed or deciduous-dominated forest and scrub/shrub cover types. For more information, please go to the [NJDEP 2015 Land Use/Land Cover page](#).



Amount of Upland Forest

Total: 64 ac

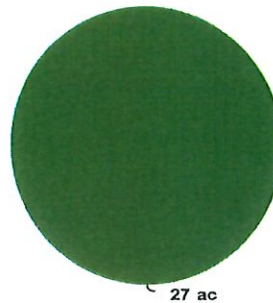


Highcharts.com

- Deciduous
- Coniferous
- Mixed
- Scrub / Shrub

Amount of Wetland Forest

Total: 27 ac



Highcharts.com

- Deciduous
- Coniferous
- Mixed
- Scrub / Shrub

County Level Statistics

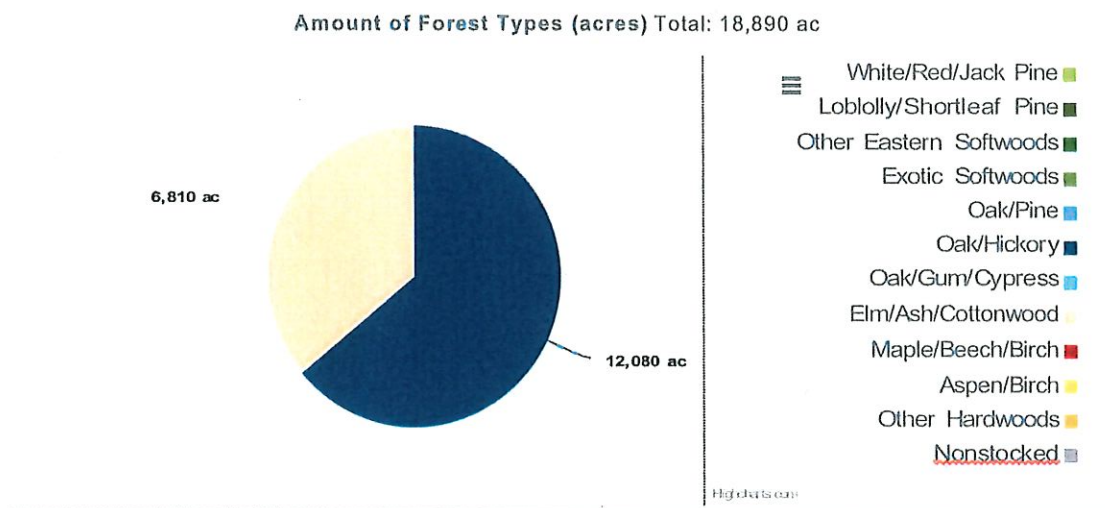
Introduction

The U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program defines a tree as any perennial woody plant species with central stems and distinct crowns that can attain a height of 15 feet at maturity. An electronic record of every tree measured in this inventory, as well as a glossary of additional terms, is available online at the [USFS Northern Research Station website](#). The following County level information was compiled by the USFS FIA and reproduced here. To access the original FIA data, go to the [US Forest Service Forest Inventory & Analysis website](#).

The following text describing the various forest attributes is taken from Crocker et al., 2017. New Jersey Forests 2013. U.S. Forest Service, Newtown Square, PA; available at the [USFS website](#).

Bergen County Forest Composition Summary

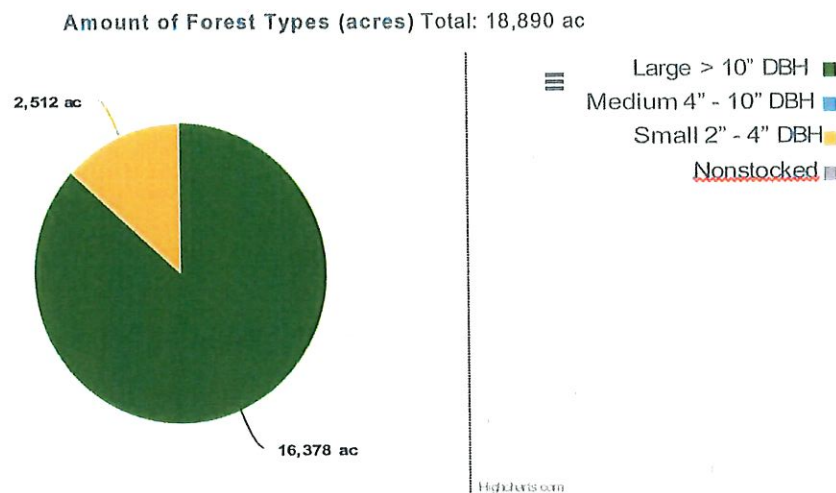
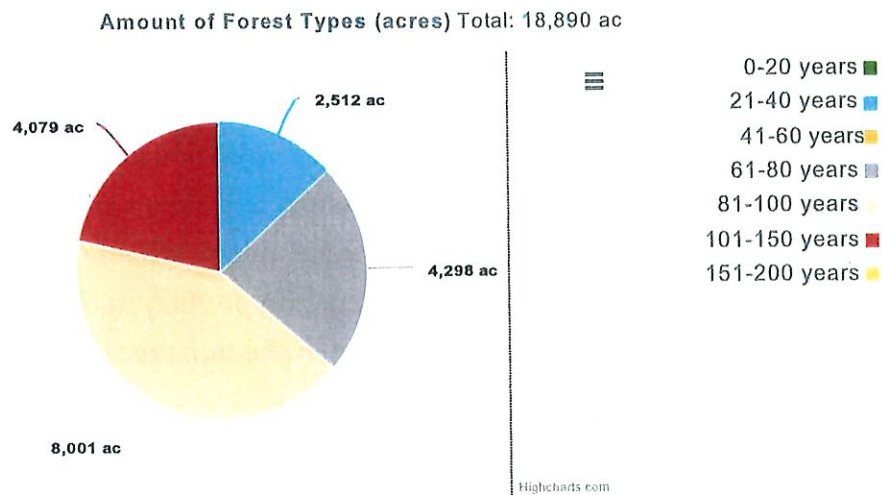
Forest composition is constantly evolving. Influenced by the presence or absence of disturbances such as timber management, recreation, wildfire, prescribed burning, extreme weather, and invasive species, the current state of species composition is a reflection of historical and environmental trends within a forest. As a result, the composition of species in a forest is an indicator of forest health, growth, succession, and the need for stand improvement, i.e., management. Knowledge of the distribution of species within a stand allows for the measurement and prediction of change. A complete list of the tree species measured in the most recent inventory can be found in the [New Jersey Forests 2013 Appendix 1](#).



Bergen County Forest Size & Age Classes

Reversion of farmland to forest and successful preservation efforts have helped to maintain a consistent forest land base since the 1970s concurrent with human population growth. As these forests continue to mature, maintaining a diverse range of size and age classes will become increasingly important in terms of overall forest health and sustainability. Forest composition and structure affect the suitability of habitat for each species. Some species depend upon early successional forests or the ecotone (edge) between different forest stages. Yet other species require old-growth forests or interior forests. Many

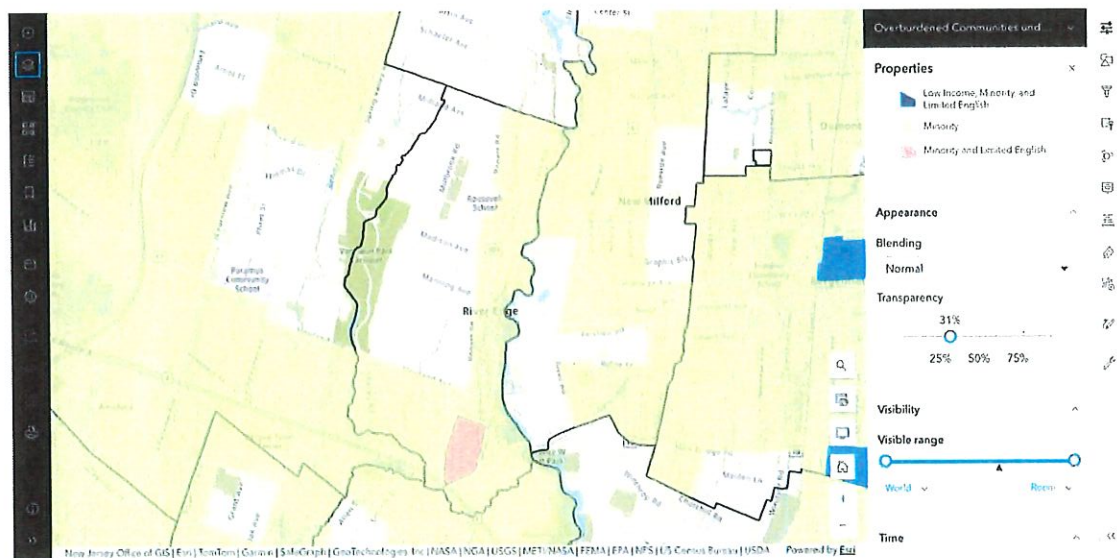
species require multiple structural stages of forests to meet different phases of their life history needs.



Overburdened Community & Environmental Justice

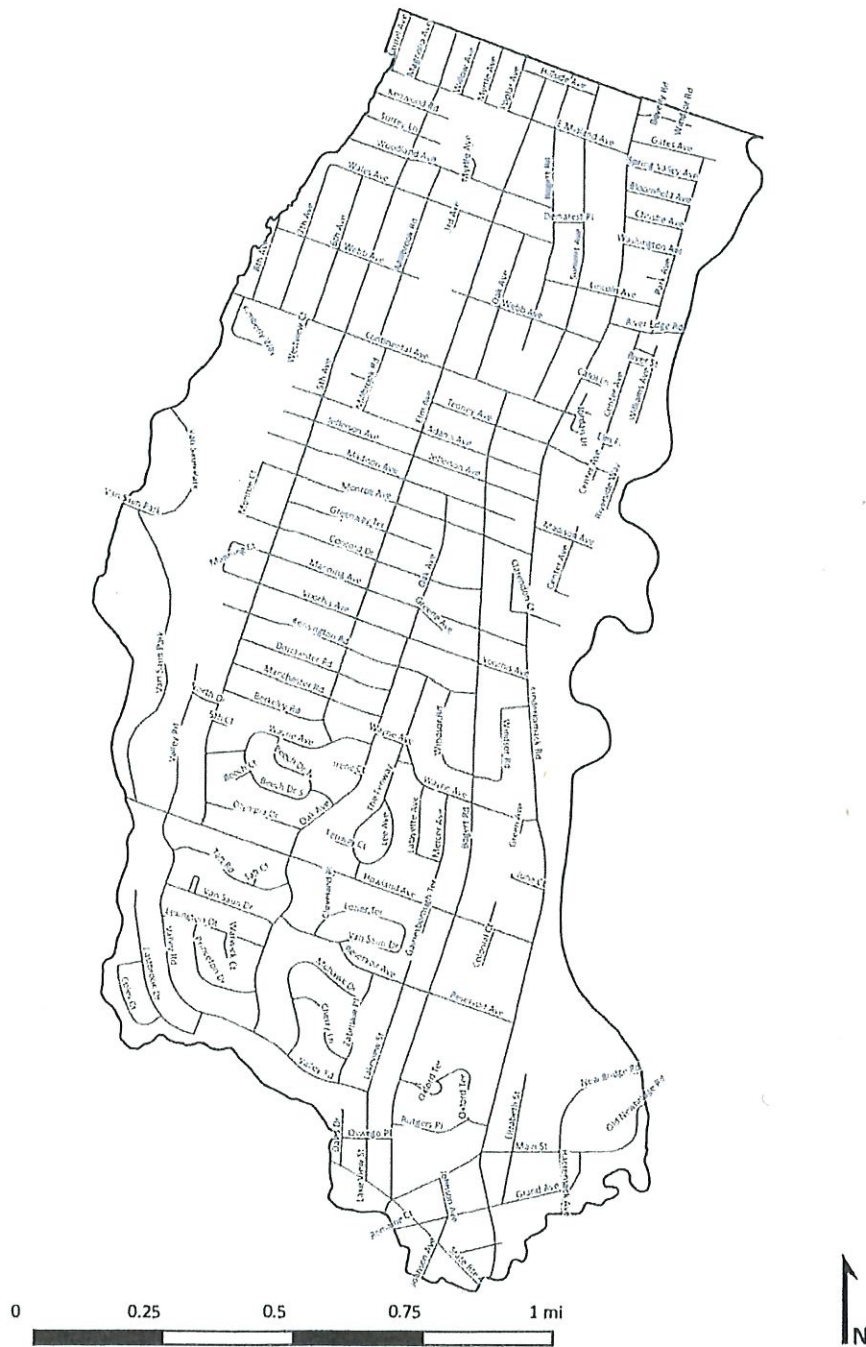
According to the NJDEP's definition of an Overburdened community as stated below the Borough of River Edge meets the criteria of qualifiers, therefore the included maps identify the Borough as containing Overburdened communities within its municipal borders. "Overburdened community" means any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which: (1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households; (2) at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or (3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency. Section 3 of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law

N.J.S.A. 13:1D-159 requires the NJDEP to "notify a municipality if any part of the municipality has been designated an overburdened community pursuant to this act". This

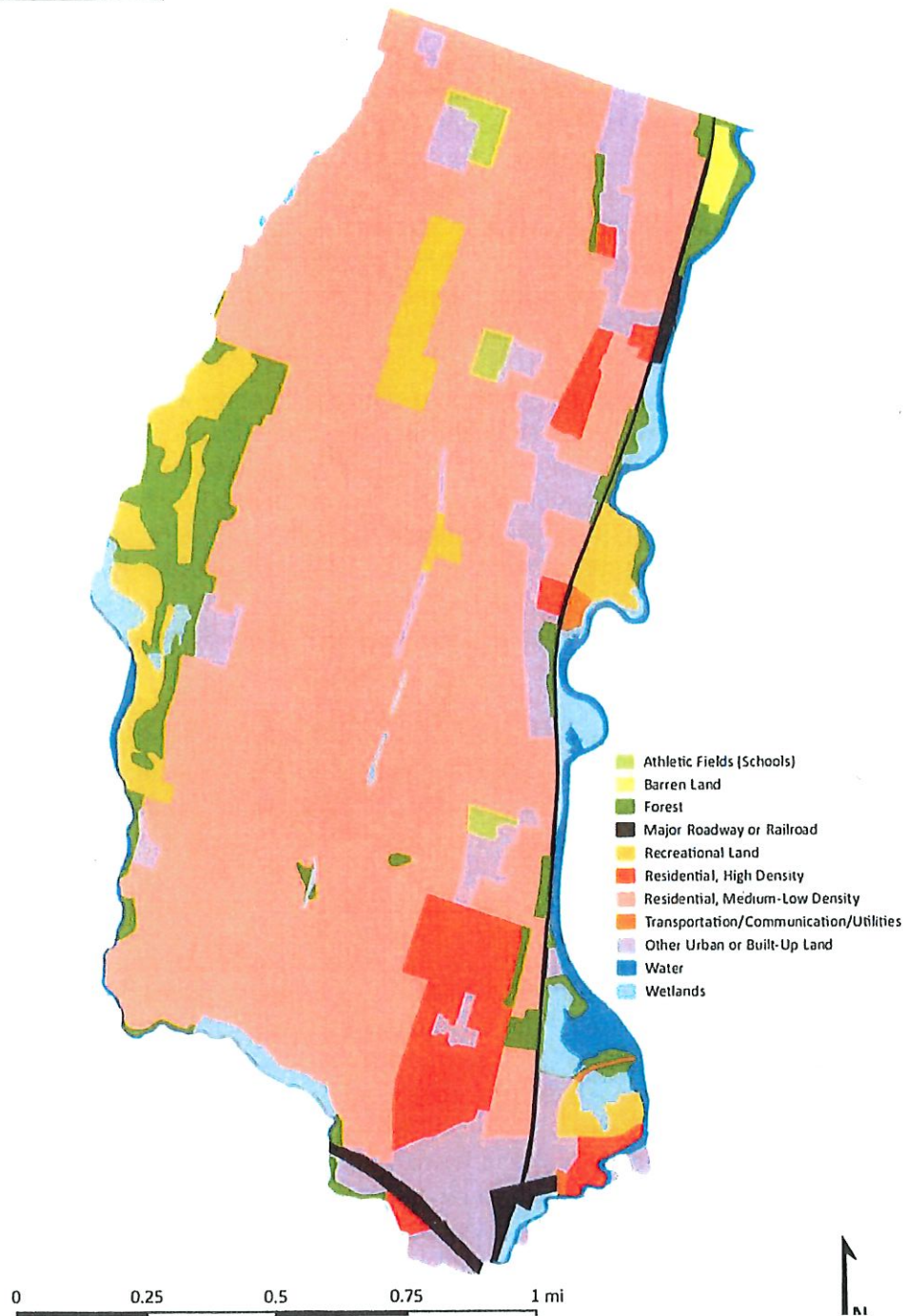


<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/ej/docs/njdep-ej-methodology-documentjanuary-2025.pdf>

Map of the Borough of River Edge



Land Use Map



Liability Statement

Although street trees are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require care, maintenance and eventually replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to planting “the right tree in the right place,” can help ensure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the area, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety.

Our community must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each need of our community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and step-by-step work towards a healthy forest with commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

We feel, by taking logical steps outlined in the Management Plan, we will garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety. We also want to become more pro-active in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and high risk/hazard assessment, we will position the Borough of River Edge’s Shade Tree Commission to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other high risk/hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions will be predicted. But it is much like trying to predict which tooth might break next. Good maintenance and care will reduce the probability, but unexpected events may still occur.

Following this Management Plan will demonstrate that the Borough of River Edge is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents and thereby reduce its exposure to liabilities and increase public safety.

Overview of the Previous CFMP

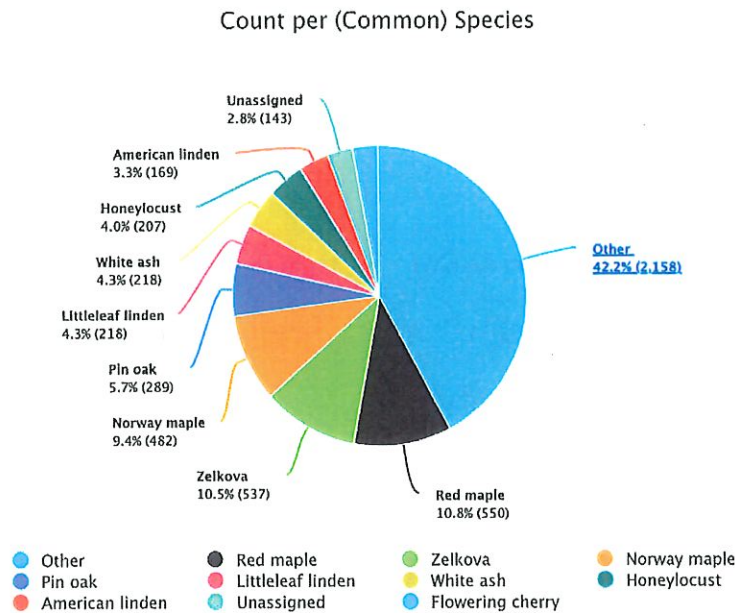
The Shade Tree Commission, as with all levels of municipal government were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This time in history saw unprecedented disruption to normal operations over a two-year period. This disruption at all levels of government prevented many goals and processes from being carried out and caused extensive delays and changes that rippled over the past few several years. The Borough continued its community forestry program work with a commitment unlike most communities. The impacts changed community interaction, meeting format and introduced virtual meeting formats and challenges to accomplishing even simple tasks that involved group activities and gatherings. A gap in CFMP programming developed over the next five-year period with previous CFMP goals and activities being given extensions.

In 2024 the Commission was reorganized as the Shade Tree Advisory Committee which continued to carry out the activities outlined with a focus on continuing to maintain the goals and activities outlined in the approved 2016 - 2020 CFMP. This was made possible with the assistance of the Borough’s Mayor & Council, Borough Clerk, DPW Superintendent, CFMP consultants, NJ DEP Division of Parks and Forestry Community Forestry personnel and the NJ Community Forestry Council. The CFMP continued to guide

the implementation of shade tree related activities as a blueprint that outlined the collaborative efforts that needed to exist within the Borough between the Mayor & Council, Borough Clerk, STAC, Consulting Arborist, DPW, and STS, and our local Utility's.

The Borough continues to generate an interest in community forestry and is positioned to capitalize on a series of activities including, NJDEP MS4 tree Removal Ordinance enforcement, Grants, Arbor Day ceremonies, training and professional development of staff and education and outreach with community residents.

The CFMP provides the Borough's STAC a guide for planting trees to replace those lost through storms and severe weather. The STAC continues to plant trees on streets, public parks, municipal property and right of ways. The STAC has been able to address planting throughout the community and increase the diversity of existing tree species already being managed.



The Borough conducted a complete computerized tree inventory in 2003, it has continually added trees located in parks and in right of ways, over the past 20 plus years. River Edge's community forest structure and composition data is managed in real time, in the TreeKeeper GIS. The inventory comprises approximately 90% of trees within the streets, including some public parks and greenspaces throughout the Borough. There are approximately 500 possible planting sites located in public right of ways that will be utilized for upcoming tree planting goals aligned with the CFMP.

The current inventory is comprised of 89 species, from approximately 50 diverse genera. Maples are the most prominent species with *Acer platanoides* comprising 9.2%, and *Acer Rubrum* 10.8% as most prevalent, followed by Zelkova at approximately 10.5% and Pin Oak at 5.7%, Little leaf Linden at 4.3% and Honey locust at 4.0%. Ash was considered a prominent species when the previous plan was crafted however, the Borough has seen

losses from the Emerald Ash Borer's activity in Bergen County. The Borough was responsive in the treatment of these trees wherever a catastrophic loss could have caused deforestation of neighborhoods. A program of monitoring and treatment continues to be in place and in some cases effective in managing this species.

The Borough continues to make infrastructure improvements within the community and is dedicated to planting trees that have been removed as casualties of the construction process. The practice of monitoring a community forest so its composition follows the 10-20-30 rule (F. Santamour) will **promote tree diversity to prevent catastrophic losses from pests and disease outbreaks**. A combination of new plantings addressing community-based enhancement projects, reforestation and protection of existing Ash species will ensure that a plan of species diversity is maintained. The TreeKeeper GIS provides data that is continually queried by the STS, STAC and a Borough administration regarding pest and disease concerns, along with strategic planting and the treatment of vulnerable trees is following a prescribed strategy of monitoring through its GIS. See projects listed below.

Bogert Road sidewalk replacement (2025)
Borough Hall Remodel (2025)
Townwide Tree Planting (2025)
Ash Tree Treatments EAB (2025)

Bogert Road sidewalk replacement (2026)
Townwide Tree Planting (2026)
Ash tree Treatments for EAB (2026)

Continental Sidewalk replacement (2027)
Townwide tree planting (2027)
Ash Tree treatment for EAB (2027)

Townwide Tree Planting (2028)
Memorial Park Pathway Replanting (2028)

The establishment of a Borough Shade Tree Supervisor to oversee permitting and DPW shade tree operations, insures a steady two-way stream of communication that provided open dialogue on the shared interests of improving the tree resources. Arborist Eric Phillips was promoted from within the DPW's shade tree operations crew. Jason Milito, CPWM and Superintendent of the DPW has been proactive in addressing the ever-changing NJDEP regulations and more specific the on-going residential construction responsible for the resulting loss of canopy. The relationship STAC members built with Superintendent Milito has been a benefit in meeting the training and tree maintenance goals outlined in the previous five-year CFMP. His extensive experience and tenure in the Borough continue to support and benefit the STAC in its efforts.

Mr. Milito, Superintendent of the DPW and a member of his staff attended a workshop on December 12, 2024, on “Utilizing shade tree inventory data to effectively manage the community forest” held at the River Edge Borough DPW in River Edge N.J., which he sponsored. The topics covered included: A300 Tree Maintenance Standards and Best management Practices for Planting, Pruning and Pest Management.

One of the requirements of the CFMP was to have at least three members of the STAC and DPW trained, this was completed by the STS Eric Phillips along with three of our DPW staff. One of the benefits of the training was that Eric Phillips a Core trained Public Works staff member was so motivated by the training that he continued to pursue his interest in arboriculture and forestry and is seeking membership in the International Society of Arboriculture and is in the process of attaining his License as a NJ Tree Expert.

Although some of the goals set during the previous 5-year management plan were ambitious, the STAC honed their skills as a cohesive group of individuals and more so as a commission that met its core principles of reforestation, education and improving the health and safety of the Borough’s trees. One of our most important decisions was to delegate field responsibilities to the Shade Tree Supervisor within the borough to accomplish this balanced oversight, through the tree removal permit process and more familiarity with the trees in communities GIS database.

The STAC holds annual Arbor Day activities, which included all age groups of our community and continues to be well received. The STAC’s outreach to the local community civic organizations most notably the Boy Scout Troop 184 has fostered Arbor Day programs that offered the opportunity to educate and nurture stewardship and care of the Borough’s trees by future generations residing within the community. The sites selected for our Arbor Day ceremonies were also geared to include and benefit the broad range of adult generations, young families, parents and grandparents alike.

The Borough’s Mayor, Council Member, Recreation Director Department of Public Works actively support Arbor Day activities. Each Arbor Day celebration includes planting a tree, an overview of the benefits of trees. This annual ceremony garners the attention of the residents, posts on social media platforms and local newspaper coverage. The articles provide information about the STAC and its activities in the Borough. Using the community website, the STAC included opportunities to learn about trees, their care and how to get involved in Arbor Day ceremonies.

The Borough conducted a major tree planting initiative along one of its main thoroughfares to improve the health, safety and structure trees lining the roadway. The DPW and STAC communicated a clear message of how important trees, and their care are to the business owners and residents of the Borough of River Edge. The STAC continued to meet regularly to assess the progress towards the goals outlined in the CFMP in some cases there were achievements and in some cases setbacks to reflect on. The STAC addressed concerns such as how to prepare for damage caused by storms.

The Borough has contracted with Licensed Tree Expert Ted Szczawinski annually for continuing education programs and to assist in meeting the requirement outlined in their

five-year CFMP. The DPW and STAC members actively participated in developing their annual CEU training courses. These continuing education courses were run after regularly scheduled STC meetings and as in-house training for DPW employees.

These educational programs are open to the Borough's Department heads and personnel as well as residents. The topics included basic tree biology, proper pruning & planting, tree species, tree inventory & site selection and the identification of high risk/hazardous trees and their management.

Overall Program Goals

The STAC would like to continue its CFMP for the next five-year period and beyond. The previous five-year plan addressed many goals such as, tree Inventory management, planting, education, training for the staff and volunteers, Arbor Day programs, recycling of wood waste and its eligibility for CSIP grants and alternate sources of funding.

The goals of the next five-year plan are to implement and refine their tree removal permit process (NJDEP MS 4 aligned) and funding. This process will support the planting and restoration of the tree canopy throughout the community, as it follows the successes achieved through the original program goals. The CFMP will also include revised goals to continue to improve the Borough's community forestry program.

Element # 1

Effectively manage the Boroughs trees through the comprehensive tree inventory to identify future planting sites and address the current tree resource maintenance needs.

Objective 1. Improve tree care and maintenance through its tree inventory GIS. This will account for all trees planted within the borough rights-of including those installed through the NJDEP MS4 Tree Removal Permit ordinance.

Objective 2. Work in collaboration with Borough departments (STAC, STS & DPW) to document tree decline and failures by adding locations that included resident concerns, tree failure from defects, along with routine maintenance improving the Borough's tree safety.

Objective 3. Track and evaluate the permit process in the GIS system to monitor the changes to overall canopy restoration.

Objective 4. Continue to provide continuing education training of volunteers and paid in-house personnel belonging to the STAC, DPW & STS.

Element #2

Increase participation in public education & awareness of the Borough's Community Forestry Management Plan.

Objective 1. Use social networking platforms to notify residents of the STAC meeting schedules and STAC sponsored continuing education programs, Arbor Day activities and tree planting, maintenance, removal activities and to involve the community in the development of all future CFMP's.

Objective 2. Continue to develop a relationship with the Bergen Record, the Pascack Press and the online editions of NorthJersey.com, which are community newspapers of the North Jersey Media Group and the primary resources for providing print notifications of meeting dates and current news. The Bergen Record, Patch and NorthJersey.com are based locally at 1 Garret Mountain Plaza Woodland Park, NJ 07424-0471

Objective 3. Continue to publicize events on the Borough's own website. This 24/7 access website along with sharing information through the Borough's Newsletter. The STS acquires membership with the International Society of Arboriculture to receive communication materials and resources.

Element #3

Streamline the current Tree Hazard Identification & Mitigation Program.

Objective 1. Increase efficiency of the current process of addressing high risk/hazardous tree removal by monitoring the GIS database and conducting annual hazard tree inspection and assessment utilizing currently trained personnel and consultants as needed.

Objective 2. Implement uniform high risk/hazard assessment procedures learned in hazard tree identification continuing education programs by STS & DPW Personnel.

Objective 3. Removal of all high-risk trees identified as high risk/hazardous in a timely manner with the assistance of DPW personnel and private contractors.

Element #4

Improve current Tree Maintenance and Plant Health Care Program.

Objective 1. Continue to provide on-going educational programs to all STAC members, STS personnel and DPW personnel on proper pruning, cultural care and best management practices for maintaining trees.

Objective 2. Continue to provide insect and disease identification and reporting information provided by USDA, NJDA and NJ Forest Service and Rutgers, Bergen County Extension Office to all STAC members, STS and DPW personnel.

Objective 3. Monitor tree pruning activities planned by public utilities: PSE&G, Verizon and Cablevision regarding pruning type, frequency cycles, and scheduling.

Element #5

Institute a sustainable plan to address future planting of trees within the Borough rights-of-way and residential properties based on MS4 Permit Ordinance.

Objective 1. STAC will review current planting specifications and broaden the list of suitable site-specific trees to increase the diversity of the tree resource for replacement plantings within the right of ways (ROW) by the Borough for contractor's and residents.

Objective 2. Provide educational training for Borough residents, contractors, field employees, STAC members and Department supervisory staff on proper tree selection and proper planting techniques.

Objective 3. Continue to seek alternate funding sources for Community Forestry Grants and funds provided by the NJ Community Forestry Program.

Element #6

Arbor Day Activities.

Objective 1. The STAC and STS will continue to promote and celebrate Arbor Day through scheduled school program activities with students from the local grammar schools.

Objective 2. The STAC will coordinate Arbor Day activities that involve more community-centered organizations (Scouting organizations, Recreation, civic groups, etc.) that foster a renewed stewardship in trees and their preservation.

Objective 3. Provide information and resources on proper plant selection and planting to residents, schools and community groups available through the STAC website and local library.

Benefit of The Borough CFMP

The Borough of River Edge has long been a community that has valued its trees. The residents continue to support the efforts of tree preservation and stewardship through youth involvement in Arbor Day along with seedling give aways at events like River Edge Day and the River Edge Run which both take place in April coinciding with the Borough's Arbor Day event. Bergen County's Van Saun Park with its zoo and 130 acres spanning through the Boroughs of River Edge and Paramus has solidified the desire to maintain a park like setting in the community. The trees serve residents in the capacity of benefits of providing shade for heat mitigation, ornamental value for aesthetics, habitats for viewing wildlife and erosion control especially, along the Hackensack River, all providing residents with an unmatched urban forest experience.

In 2013, the River Edge Shade Tree Commission received the ISA's Harry J. Banker Gold Leaf Award via nomination by the New Jersey Arborists, Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture for outstanding Arbor Day activities landscape beautification

activities. In 2014, the Borough's Shade Tree Program was recognized as a Sterling Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for leadership and innovation in urban forestry. The Borough of River Edge continues to provide a stable budget for its Shade Tree Program and finds strong resident support for its programs and past and future plans.

Through the training, educational programs and completion of required annual reports, the STAC and STS can evaluate its progress and reset goals when needed. The STAC quickly realized that the goals outlined in the previous five-year CFMP were to be viewed as dynamic and ever evolving, through the activities involved in all of the plan's components the STAC has continually made progress towards achieving the plans core goals and principles; creating a reliable high risk/hazardous tree inventory, addressing the timely removal of high risk/hazardous trees, proper maintenance of new and existing trees and education of its members and the community.

The CFMP has allowed our Shade Tree Advisory Committee the opportunity to become a more cohesive and forward-thinking group guided by the STS and the plans outline and goals, it has truly been a model that improved and maintained the community forest within the borough of River Edge. We have learned that the NJ DEP Division of Parks and Forestry Community Forestry personnel and the NJ Community Forestry Council is not only a source of information, but they are also a resource to guide us in our accomplishment of an improved urban forest. The STAC has learned to be more collaborative in our efforts and to engage with our stakeholders to build a better program and community that cares about its trees.

Community Overview

River Edge is a Borough in Bergen County, as of the 2010 United States Census, the Borough's population was 12,049. River Edge was formed as the Borough of Riverside by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on June 30, 1894, On December 1, 1930, the borough's name was changed to River Edge based on its location along the Hackensack River on its eastern border. River Edge is accessible by several major roadways, including U.S. Route 4 Nearby roadways include, New Jersey Route 17, and the Garden State Parkway.

The Borough is approximately 1.88 square miles, it has 29.50 miles of streets and is also crisscrossed by several Bergen County Routes, including, CR503 which include 3.85 miles of roadway along with 0.38 miles of State Highway Route 4, managed by NJDOT. River Edge is home to the Historical New Bridge Landing a strategic crossing of the Hackensack River during the American Revolution. The Borough includes a section of Bergen County's Van Saun Park.

The Borough of River Edge has long been a community that has valued its trees. The residents continue to support the efforts of tree preservation and stewardship through youth involvement in Arbor Day along with seedling give aways at Borough events that coincide with the Borough's Arbor Day event. Bergen County's Van Saun Park's 130 acres spanning through the Boroughs of River Edge and Paramus has solidified the desire to maintain a park like setting in the community. The trees serve residents with an unmatched

urban forest experience in the capacity of benefits of providing shade for heat mitigation, ornamental value for aesthetics, habitats for viewing wildlife and erosion control especially, along the Hackensack River.

In 2013, the River Edge Shade Tree Commission received the ISA's Harry J. Banker Gold Leaf Award via nomination by the New Jersey Arborists, Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture for outstanding Arbor Day activities landscape beautification activities. In 2014, the Borough's Shade Tree Program was recognized as a Sterling Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for leadership and innovation in urban forestry. The Borough of River Edge continues to provide a stable budget for its Shade Tree Program.

As a Borough located in the County of Bergen, River Edge shares the goals of preserving Open Space and future improvement that conform to design standards encouraging sustainable development within the Borough. Where an Official Map and/or Master Plan have been adopted or where the Master Plan or Official Map is mute or does not exist, development is designed to promote good planning and enhance the safety and public welfare of the Borough.

The Borough's STAC received a CSIP Grant back in 2003 to complete a Borough wide tree inventory, they contracted Davey Tree Expert Co., to identify and map trees, rate condition and prescribe maintenance and removal plans to mitigate the Boroughs existing high risk/hazardous trees. The Borough will continue to address obvious high risk/hazardous situations and their timely removal in their approach to continue to mitigate potential hazards.

Where required, buffers may include evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, fences, walls, berms or any combination which will provide a visual separation and screening. Landscaping of required buffers and screens shall consider the opportunities presented by existing site features and shall be compatible in scale and character with the surrounding prevailing landscape and project features and designed as part of the overall landscaping plan. The required buffer area shall be kept in its natural state where wooded, and, where natural vegetation is sparse or nonexistent, the area shall be planted with approved trees, shrubs and groundcover to provide a year-round natural screen, in accordance with a landscaping plan approved by the Board and Council.

Program Administration

The CFMP is a guide for all STAC activities; its goals are overseen by the STS in collaboration of the Mayor & Council, Borough Clerk, and DPW. A set of Borough ordinances (see appendix for attached ordinances) provide for the implementation and regulation of activities surrounding NJDEP's MS4 tree removal and replacement, planting, care and insect & disease management.

The residents elect the mayor, for a 4-year term, Thomas Papaleo has been the elected Mayor since 2023. The residents elect the Borough Council of 6 persons for a 3-year term, staggered so that two-member positions are up for election each year.

Councilwoman Lissa Montisano-Koenis is DPW and The Shade Tree Advisory Committee liaison. The Borough Clerk, Lissette Aportela, is a fulltime employee and the highest-ranking administrative official in charge of the Borough's day-to-day operations.

The STAC was created by ordinance, No. ordinance reference #. (See attachment in the Appendix). The Committee consisting of 5-7 residents of the Borough appointed by the mayor, who serve for staggered 3-year terms. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee members; **Michelle Cariddi**, **Theresa Esposito**, Jason Milito CPWM and Eric Phillips STS and Councilwoman Lissa Montisano-Koenis Council Liaison to the committee. The STAC conducts activities that are following Borough ordinances continuing accreditation with New Jersey Community Forestry Program. By ordinance, the STAC advises the Borough council on the regulation, planting, care and control of the Borough's tree resource.

Jason Milito, DPW Superintendent, is responsible for the maintenance of all township roadways, traffic signs and signals, and right of ways he is also in charge of the Water Department. The DPW has full complement of forestry equipment that includes an aerial lift truck and chipper that is used for maintenance of trees on Borough property, including the public schools (See the list below). Eric Phillips the shade tree supervisor oversees daily tree care operations, he is also responsible for the Borough's tree removal permit approval and replanting compliance. Utility contractors working within the Borough have provided tree care services in exchange for equipment staging and parking, this has provided the opportunity for the community to receive additional services with no incurred cost.

Shade Tree Equipment

- 75ft International forestry bucket truck
- 18xp Bandit chipper
- 250xp Bandit chipper
- 12" Eager Beaver chipper
- International hook-lift truck with chip box
- International hook-lift truck with 20yrd container for logs and other dpw functions
- Stihl Chainsaws: 4-200's, 2-362's, 2-462's, 2-500i, 2-660's, 1-880, 4 pole saws
- Gas powered portable winch
- Caterpillar front end loader used to pick up logs and other dpw functions
- Caterpillar backhoe for picking logs and stumps
- Assorted tools include hand-held leaf blower & backpack leaf blower

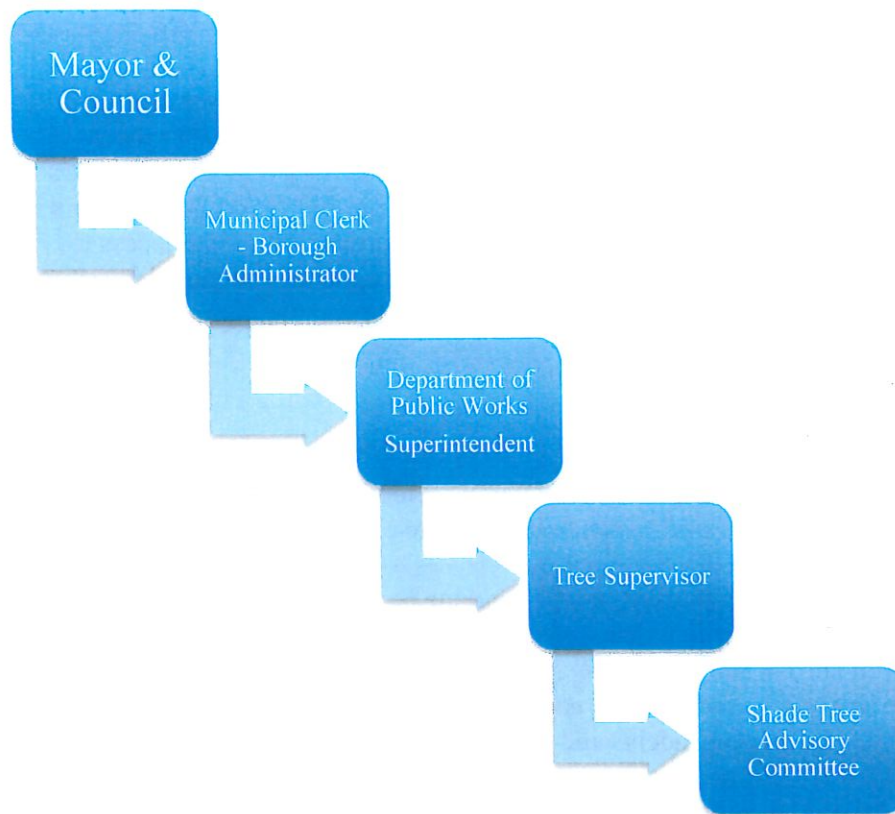
The STAC is guided by the STS in high risk/hazardous tree situations whereas the STS monitors trees on public and private property, and when problems are found, gives approval to the residents regarding the permit process for removal of trees (see Appendix Code).

The Borough's STS Eric Phillips is Core trained and is in process of attaining his licensure as a NJ Tree Expert. The Borough contracts with NJ Licensed Tree Expert for professional services including education and training. Leonard "Ted" Szczawinski a NJ Licensed Tree Expert and managing member of Sterling Consultants LLC providing educational training programs and has prepared this management plan. All current requests for tree removal within a Borough ROW are handled by a permit process through the DPW office. The STS is responsible for reviewing and approving the resident's removal request and code enforcement.

The CFMP is aligned with the Borough's Master Plan by linking its Council approved Landscape Plan with the re-development goals of the community. Storm water management and flood prevention, major road renovation projects, ADA compliance projects, business district planning and residential construction are aligned to the CFMP and Borough's tree removal and replacement ordinance. The Building Department and code enforcement officer are in communication with the Borough's STS to ensure new construction and renovation projects are alignment with township Shade Tree Ordinances, CFMP, Master Plan and Stormwater Management Plan. This includes the installation of buffers that may include evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs to provide a visual separation and screening.

Landscaping of required buffers and screens shall consider the opportunities presented by existing site features and shall be compatible in scale and character with the surrounding prevailing landscape and project features and designed as part of the overall landscaping plan. The required buffer area shall be kept in its natural state where wooded, and, where natural vegetation is sparse or nonexistent, the area shall be planted with approved trees, shrubs and groundcover to provide a year-round natural screen in accordance with the plan approved by the Board and Council.

Current Administration Flow chart



Training Plan

The Borough currently has CORE trained individuals: Eric Phillips, Shade Tree Supervisor and DPW staff member. All Current STAC members will attend annual in-house planting, pruning, plant health care workshops and hazard tree identification training provided during regularly scheduled meetings by an approved continuing education provider, Sterling Consultants LLC. The training of STC members, Borough STS and DPW employees will benefit from attending Hazardous Tree ID training, Plant Identification training along with training in the following areas: Drafting Specifications, Planting & Installation, Infrastructure Conflicts, ANSI A-300 Pruning Techniques, Tree ID & Inventory, Tree Selection, Invasive Pests & Diseases, Budgeting & Appropriations.

Within the next three-to-five-year period two additional STAC members or Borough employee will receive CORE training to maintain two CORE trained personnel as STAC

member attrition. The STAC and Borough Clerk continue to provide opportunities for ongoing training and continuing education opportunities to its volunteers, employees and residents. The STAC plans to continue its in-house educational programs to attain (CEU's) that meet the guidelines for the training skills and accreditation program set forth by the New Jersey Community Forestry Program.

The Borough STAC will continue membership in the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation; this organization will assist the STC in staying connected with the current information available to protect its trees and for the educational resources and valuable content it provides through its publications and annual meeting. The STC Chairperson will attain membership in the International Society of Arboriculture, so that it has access to industry publications and educational resource that are more national and global in scope, this will be helpful in having access to diverse perspectives on common issues faced with the preservation of trees.

Public Education / Awareness / Outreach

The public awareness and educational materials offered by membership in the NJ Shade Tree Federation and ISA Local Chapter and ISA are extremely useful in communicating information and developing press releases to connect STAC activities with community residents. The Borough website will continue be utilized as the main access to keep residents updated as to activities, scheduled events, forms, Borough STAC ordinances and as a resource with current information at any time of the day or evening. The STC will continue to provide an open invitation to its educational programs held during its regularly scheduled meetings for Borough residents and personnel.

The STAC annual Arbor Day activities, which includes all age groups of our community continues to be well received. The STAC's outreach to the local community civic organizations most notably the Boy Scout Troop 184 has fostered Arbor Day programs that offered the opportunity to educate and nurture stewardship and care of the Borough's trees by future generations residing within the community. The sites selected for our Arbor Day ceremonies were also geared to include and benefit the broad range of adult generations, young families, parents and grandparents alike.

The Borough of River Edge has long been a community that has valued its trees. The residents continue to support the efforts of tree preservation and stewardship Bergen County's Van Saun Park with its zoo and 130 acres spanning through the Borough of River Edge supports the desire to maintain a park like setting in the community. The trees serve residents in the capacity of benefits of providing shade for heat mitigation, ornamental value for aesthetics, habitats for viewing wildlife and erosion control especially, along the Hackensack River, all providing residents with an unmatched urban forest experience.

The Borough's Mayor, Council Member, Recreation Director Department of Public Works actively support Arbor Day activities. Each Arbor Day celebration includes planting a tree, an overview of the benefits of trees. This annual ceremony garners the attention of the residents, posts on social media platforms and local newspaper coverage. The posts and articles provide information about the STAC and its activities in the Borough. Using the

community website, the STAC included opportunities to learn about trees, their care and how to get involved in Arbor Day ceremonies.

The STAC will continue to collaborate and build a relationship with Rutgers NJAES, new local Extension Agent, Master Gardeners and speakers to provide training, resources and information that addresses public education, tree selection, planting, pruning and identifying high risk/hazardous conditions, etc. The STAC has had great success with providing print notifications and current news with information about the goals and purpose of the CFMP. This relationship built with the media will continue to be a vehicle for communicating proper tree care and the goals of the five-year plan.

Statement of Budget

The Borough's administration and Shade Tree Advisory Committee are looking to improve the budgeting process and dedication of funds needed to provide the proper level of service to its residents. Green Community along with other grant fund sources will continually be sought to offset the costs of special projects and necessary expenditures. The process of developing the CFMP has provided the much-needed collaboration between departments that share similar goals with varied resources.

Applying for available Green Community Grants will allow the Borough to fund Shade Tree Commission activities that would otherwise be a burden on the current proposed budget. Grants if awarded will provide the necessary funds to expand activities in the following areas:

Arbor Day as noted in each year of the CFMP and identified as Goal #6, Arbor Day Activities. The funds received will be used to purchase several trees and planting supplies along with tube seedlings and printed tree care and publications from the National Arbor Day Foundation, specifically brochure #19 "How to Select and Plant a Tree", to residents. The funds will make it possible to involve more civic-centered organizations to foster a renewed stewardship in trees and the need to continue to plant and preserve. The STAC will seek support from local community organizations to promote and celebrate Arbor Day through a series of scheduled activities with children and Municipal leaders by conducting multiple events; one at the public schools, the Borough Library and the Parks.

Tree Inventory as noted in Year 2 of the CFMP and identified as Goal # 1, Provide updates to the current tree inventory to include all trees located in the Borough right-of-way, their current condition, mitigation to improve health to address the current tree resource maintenance needs. The funds will make it possible to contract a company to perform updates to the existing tree inventory of the Borough. This inventory will also assist with identify future planting sites.

Tree Planting as noted in Year 3 of the CFMP and identified as Goal #5, Institute a sustainable plan to address future planting of trees within the Borough right-of-way. The funds received will be used to purchase trees for planting and conduct training. A portion of the funds will also be utilized to continue with the training that was introduced in the prior 5

-year plan for field employees, STAC members and Borough Department supervisory staff. The STAC would like to expand this training to include residents and contractors on proper planting techniques, current planting specifications and how to identify the most suitable site-specific trees to increase the diversity of the trees for planting within the right of ways (ROW).

Outreach Activities as noted in Year 5 of the CFMP and identified as Goal #2, Increase participation and awareness of the Borough's CFMP. The Borough's outreach through communication of the importance of having defined goals identified in the CFMP and receiving funding to offset costs will continue to cultivate interest and lead to the development of the next 5-year plan. As in the previous years, an application will be made for a Green Communities Grant to provide financial assistance with development of all future 5-year plans.

The funds received will be used to hire a consultant to work with the Borough to develop and update the existing CFMP. The Borough's Shade Tree Commission realizes the need to seek grants for financial support from the Community Forestry Program and the NJ Community Forestry Council to offset the cost of plan development. The Borough has found success in applying for funding to achieve CFMP goals and activities including this current submission. The Borough values the opportunities afforded through the grants and other funding acts as well as their relationship with the NJ DEP Division of Parks and Forestry Community Forestry personnel and the NJ Community Forestry Council.

The previous 5-year period budget utilized for tree care services is outlined below:
The contribution of volunteer hours from 2021 - 2025 is calculated between \$31.41 - \$36.97 per hour over the 5-year period.

Five-Year Historical Tree Care Budget for River Edge Borough

Tree Care Budget	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1) Municipal Funds	\$16,500	\$12,500	\$13,500	\$15,500	\$16,500
2) In-Kind Services (Volunteers, etc.)	\$21,000	\$23,000	\$24,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
3) Trust or Project Funds	\$9,250	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$13,500	\$14,500
4) Total Budget amount, lines 1-4	\$46,750	\$45,500	\$49,500	\$55,000	\$57,000
5) Tree Maintenance & Removal Costs In- house	\$ 161,199	\$162,799	\$165,399	\$167,599	\$172,627
6) Tree Maintenance & Removal Costs Contractors	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$10,000
7) Purchases of Trees and Planting Supplies	\$ 12,500	\$10,500	\$9,500	\$13,500	\$35,391
8) Dedicated Tree Care Equipment: Aerial lift, Chipper & Truck & Equipment	\$ 39,300	\$41,100	\$44,500	\$42,200	\$43,600
Total Expenditures Add lines 5-8	\$221,999	\$226,399	\$234,399	\$237,299	\$ 261,618

The five-year budget for the period 2026-2030 tree care services is outlined below:
The contribution of volunteer hours from 2026 -2030 is calculated at \$36.97 per hour
over the 5-year period.

Five-Year Projected Tree Care Budget for River Edge Borough

Tree Care Budget	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1) Municipal Funds	\$12,750	\$12,900	\$13,250	\$ 13,500	\$13,500
2) In-Kind Services (Volunteers, etc.)	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
3) Project Funds for CSIP's	\$20,000	\$14,000	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$20,000
4) Total Budget amount, lines 1-4	\$42,750	\$35,900	\$37,750	\$40,000	\$42,000
5) Tree Maintenance & Removal Costs In- house	\$148,779	\$193,405	\$202,079	\$208,141	\$214,385
6) Tree Maintenance & Removal Costs Contractors	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,000
7) Purchases of Trees and Planting Supplies	\$35,391	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
8) Dedicated Tree Care Equipment Purchases and supplies	\$ 44,300	\$ 45,186	\$46,090	\$ 47,012	\$47,952
Total Expenditures Add lines 5-8	\$238,470	\$279,591	\$290,169	\$297,153	\$305,337

Overall Program Goals

The STAC would like to continue its CFMP for the next five-year period and beyond. The previous five-year plan addressed many goals such as, tree Inventory management, planting, education, training for the staff and volunteers, Arbor Day programs, recycling of wood waste and its eligibility for CSIP grants and alternate sources of funding.

The goals of the next five-year plan are to implement and refine their tree removal permit process (NJDEP MS 4 aligned) and funding. This process will support the planting and restoration of the tree canopy throughout the community, as it follows the successes achieved through the original program goals. The CFMP will also include revised goals to continue to improve the Borough's community forestry program.

Element # 1

Effectively manage the Boroughs trees through the comprehensive tree inventory to identify future planting sites and address the current tree resource maintenance needs.

Objective 1. Improve tree care and maintenance through its tree inventory GIS. This will account for all trees planted within the borough rights-of including those installed through the NJDEP MS4 Tree Removal Permit ordinance.

Objective 2. Work in collaboration with Borough departments (STAC, STS & DPW) to document tree decline and failures by adding locations that included resident concerns, tree failure from defects, along with routine maintenance improving the Borough's tree safety.

Objective 3. Track and evaluate the permit process in the GIS system to monitor the changes to overall canopy restoration.

Objective 4. Continue to provide continuing education training of volunteers and paid in-house personnel belonging to the STAC, DPW & STS.

Element #2

Increase participation in public education & awareness of the Borough's Community Forestry Management Plan.

Objective 1. Use social networking platforms to notify residents of the STAC meeting schedules and STAC sponsored continuing education programs, Arbor Day activities and tree planting, maintenance, removal activities and to involve the community in the development of all future CFMP's.

Objective 2. Continue to develop a relationship with the Bergen Record, the Pascack Press and the online editions of NorthJersey.com, which are community newspapers of the North Jersey Media Group and the primary resources for providing print

notifications of meeting dates and current news. The Bergen Record, Patch and NorthJersey.com are based locally at 1 Garret Mountain Plaza Woodland Park, NJ 07424-0471

Objective 3. Continue to publicize events on the Borough's own website. This 24/7 access website along with sharing information through the Borough's Newsletter. The STS acquires membership with the International Society of Arboriculture to receive communication materials and resources.

Element #3

Streamline the current Tree Hazard Identification & Mitigation Program.

Objective 1. Increase efficiency of the current process of addressing high risk/hazardous tree removal by monitoring the GIS database and conducting annual hazard tree inspection and assessment utilizing currently trained personnel and consultants as needed.

Objective 2. Implement uniform high risk/hazard assessment procedures learned in hazard tree identification continuing education programs by STS & DPW Personnel.

Objective 3. Removal of all high-risk trees identified as high risk/hazardous in a timely manner with the assistance of DPW personnel and private contractors.

Element #4

Improve current Tree Maintenance and Plant Health Care Program.

Objective 1. Continue to provide on-going educational programs to all STAC members, STS personnel and DPW personnel on proper pruning, cultural care and best management practices for maintaining trees.

Objective 2. Continue to provide insect and disease identification and reporting information provided by USDA, NJDA and NJ Forest Service and Rutgers, Bergen County Extension Office to all STAC members, STS and DPW personnel.

Objective 3. Monitor tree pruning activities planned by public utilities: PSE&G, Verizon and Cablevision regarding pruning type, frequency cycles, and scheduling.

Element #5

Institute a sustainable plan to address future planting of trees within the Borough rights-of-way and residential properties based on MS4 Permit Ordinance.

Objective 1. STAC will review current planting specifications and broaden the list of suitable site-specific trees to increase the diversity of the tree resource for replacement plantings within the right of ways (ROW) by the Borough for contractor's and residents.

Objective 2. Provide educational training for Borough residents, contractors, field employees, STAC members and Department supervisory staff on proper tree selection and proper planting techniques.

Objective 3. Continue to seek alternate funding sources for Community Forestry Grants and funds provided by the NJ Community Forestry Program.

Element #6

Arbor Day Activities.

Objective 1. The STAC and STS will continue to promote and celebrate Arbor Day through scheduled school program activities with students from the local grammar schools.

Objective 2. The STAC will coordinate Arbor Day activities that involve more community-centered organizations (Scouting organizations, Recreation, civic groups, etc.) that foster a renewed stewardship in trees and their preservation.

Objective 3. Provide information and resources on proper plant selection and planting to residents, schools and community groups available through the STAC website and local library.

Statement of Actionable Plan implementation linked to above Elements

Year 1, 2025

1. Conduct periodical high risk/hazardous situation and tree condition review, including the identification and mitigation of dead, dying. And declining trees throughout community by STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew. Coordinated by STS, STAC Members and Consulting Arborist where needed. Schedule the removal of high risk/hazardous trees.
2. Track and document tree decline, and failure locations visited to perform inspections of tree defect, failure and routine maintenance to improve tree safety. Coordinated by STS, DPW Superintendent DPW Shade Tree Crew Members and STAC Chairperson.
3. Schedule periodical training session for training in High Risk/Hazard Tree Identification, for STAC, STS and DPW staff. Coordinated by STS and DPW Superintendent.
4. Conduct Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Coordinated by STAC Chairperson, media press release completed and submitted by the STS and DPW Secretary.
6. Submit annual accomplishment report to NJ DEP Forest Service. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairperson, submitted by Borough Clerk.

Year 2, 2026

1. Review updates to GIS tree inventory. Coordinated by STS, STAC Chairperson, Shade Tree Crew, DPW Superintendent and Borough Clerk.
2. Conduct annual high risk/hazardous situation and tree condition review including the identification and mitigation throughout community by STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew. Coordinated by STS, STAC Members and Consulting

- Arborist where needed. Schedule the removal of dead, declining and high risk/hazardous.
3. Use media and social networking platforms to notify residents of the STAC meeting schedules, continuing education programs, Arbor Day activities and tree planting, maintenance activities. Coordinated by STS, STAC Chairperson and the STC/DPW Secretary.
 4. Apply for grant funding opportunities to update Tree Inventory. Coordinated by the STS, STAC Chairperson and by Borough Clerk.
 5. Schedule Annual Training session in High Risk/Hazard Tree Identification, Plant ID or Right Tree Right Place for STS, STAC and DPW staff. Coordinated by STS and DPW Superintendent.
 6. Conduct Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson, media press release completed and submitted by the STAC/DPW Secretary.
 7. Contact community organizations to offer education on trees and to assist in promoting the CFMP. Coordinated by STA and STAC Chairperson, Community Organization Leaders, media press releases completed and submitted by the STAC/DPW Secretary.
 8. Submit annual accomplishment report to NJ DEP Forest Service. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairperson, submitted by Borough Clerk.

Year 3, 2027

1. Conduct periodical high risk/hazardous situation and tree condition review, including the identification and mitigation of dead, dying. And declining trees throughout community by STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew. Coordinated by STS, STAC Members and Consulting Arborist where needed. Schedule the removal of high risk/hazardous trees.
2. Apply for grant funding opportunities for Tree Planting. Coordinated by the STS and STAC Chairperson and by Borough Clerk. Review GIS Inventory and selection of suitable species and oversee the planting of trees.
3. Apply for grant funding opportunities for Arbor Day. Coordinated by the STS, STAC Chairperson Chairman and by Borough Clerk.
4. Schedule Annual Training session for High Risk/Hazard Tree Identification, Plant ID or Right Tree Right Place for STAC, STS and DPW staff. Coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson
5. Contact community organizations to offer education on trees and to assist in promoting the CFMP. Coordinated by STAC Chairperson STS, Community Organization Leaders, media press releases completed and submitted by the STAC/DPW Secretary.
6. Conduct Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Coordinated by STC Chairman, media press release completed and submitted by the STC Secretary.
7. Submit annual accomplishment report to NJ DEP Forest Service. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairperson, submitted by Borough Clerk.

Year 4, 2028

1. Review GIS inventory database and present a structure and composition report to track trends over past 4-year period. Present data to STAC and Borough mayor and council to begin planning next 5-year CFMP.
2. Apply for grant funding opportunities for Tree Planting. Coordinated by the STS, STAC Chairperson and by Borough Clerk.
3. Conduct a review of street tree planting sites throughout the community by the STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew, coordinated by STS, STAC Members. Select suitable species and oversee the planting of trees.
4. Schedule Annual Training session in High Risk/Hazard Tree Identification, BMP in Urban Forestry, Plant ID or Right Tree Right Place, etc. for STS, STAC members and DPW staff. Coordinated by DPW Superintendent.
5. Conduct Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson, media press release completed by the STAC/DPW Secretary.
6. Review current planting specifications and the list of suitable site-specific trees to increase the diversity of the tree resource for planting within the right of ways (ROW) by the Borough for contractor's and residents. Coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson, STAC Members and Consulting Arborist.
7. Provide information and resources on proper plant selection and planting to residents, schools and community groups available through the Borough's website and local library and through press releases coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson, media press release completed and submitted by the STC/DPW Secretary.
8. Submit annual accomplishment report to NJ DEP Forest Service. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairperson, submitted by Borough Clerk.

Year 5, 2029

1. Apply for grant funding opportunities for next 5-year CFMP to be written. Green Communities Grant Coordinated by the STS and STAC Chairperson and by Borough Clerk.
2. Conduct periodical high risk/hazardous situation and tree condition review, including the identification and mitigation of dead, dying. And declining trees throughout community by STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew. Coordinated by STS, STAC Members and Consulting Arborist where needed. Schedule the removal of high risk/hazardous trees.
3. Conduct a review/audit of tree maintenance of the community by the assigned STS and Borough DPW Shade Tree Crew, coordinated by the STS and STAC Chairperson.
4. Schedule Annual Training session in High Risk/Hazard Tree Identification, BMP in Urban Forestry, Plant ID or Right Tree Right Place, etc. for STS, STAC members and DPW staff, coordinated by DPW Superintendent.

5. Conduct Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Coordinated by STS and STAC Chairperson, media press release completed and submitted by the STAC/DPW Secretary.
6. Submit next 5-year CFMP to NJ Forestry Service for approval. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairman, STAC members, DPW Superintendent and Consulting Arborist, submitted by Borough Clerk.
7. Submit annual accomplishment report to NJ DEP Forest Service. Prepared by the STS, STAC Chairperson, submitted by Borough Clerk.

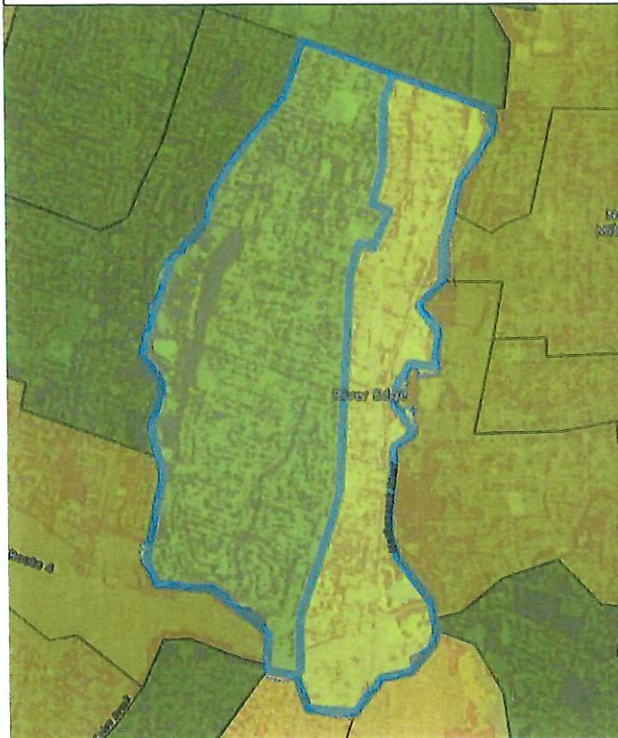
Appendix

The appendix includes the following items in the order provided

Borough of River Edge Tree Canopy Map and Report pg. 34- 37

Borough River Edge Shade Tree Ordinances

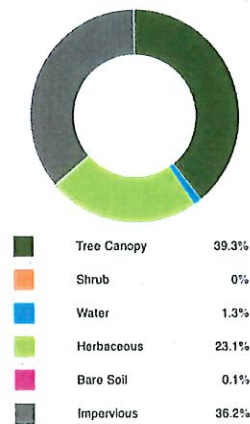
Tree Canopy Cover 2017 & 2023 – Borough of River Edge



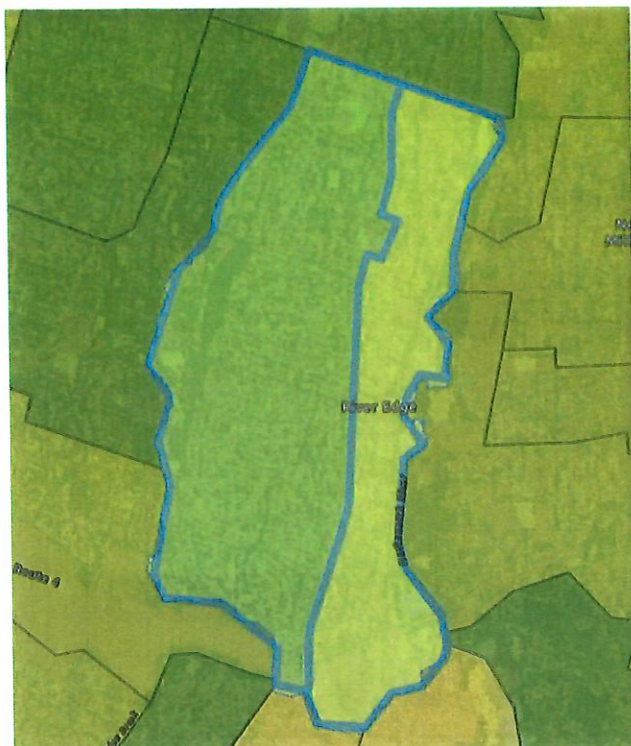
2 Census Tract ID 2 Selected

State	NJ
Total Assessed Area	1,200 acres
Historical Canopy (2017)	35.7% (423 acres)
Current Canopy (2023)	39.7% (471 acres)
Gain in Canopy	4.1% (48 acres)
Relative Canopy Change	+11.9%
Urban Heat Index	1

Land Cover Classification



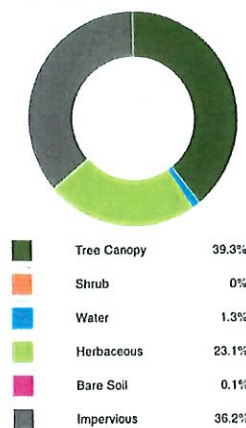
Historical Canopy Map 2017 Data



2 Census Tract ID 2 Selected

State	NJ
Total Assessed Area	1,200 acres
Historical Canopy (2017)	35.7% (423 acres)
Current Canopy (2023)	39.7% (471 acres)
Gain in Canopy	4.1% (48 acres)
Relative Canopy Change	+11.9%
Urban Heat Index	1

Land Cover Classification



Current Canopy Map 2023 Data

Borough of River Edge Tree Canopy Analysis 2017 - 2023



SELECTED AREA ANALYSIS

NJ CENSUS TRACT: 34003048200

3.7% (29 ACRES)
GAIN IN CANOPY

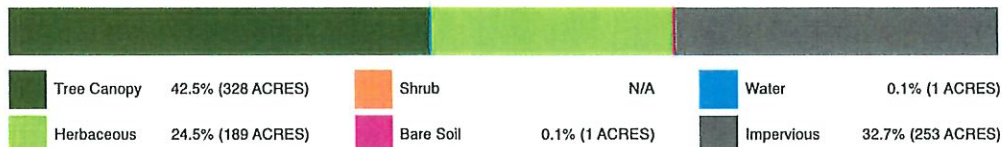
773 ACRES
TOTAL ASSESSED AREA

Historical Canopy (2017) 38.9% (300 ACRES)

Current Canopy (2023) 42.6% (329 ACRES)

Urban Heat Index **1**

LAND COVER DISTRIBUTION



NJ CENSUS TRACT: 34003048100

4.8% (20 ACRES)
GAIN IN CANOPY

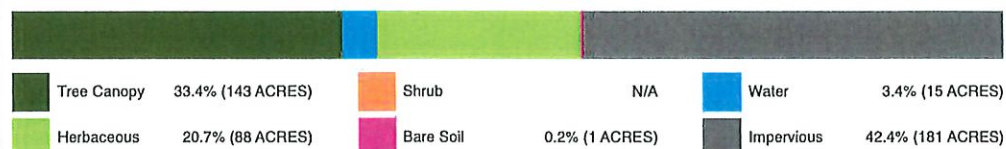
427 ACRES
TOTAL ASSESSED AREA

Historical Canopy (2017) 29.8% (123 ACRES)

Current Canopy (2023) 34.5% (143 ACRES)

Urban Heat Index **2**

LAND COVER DISTRIBUTION





CANOPY IMPROVEMENT SCENARIOS

The following pages present potential scenarios for canopy growth, focusing on converting bare soil and herbaceous areas into tree canopy. Use this data in conjunction with on-the-ground knowledge to develop community tree planting initiatives based on these findings.

CAUTIOUS APPROACH

(2% Conversion Rate)

ESTIMATED TOTAL TREE PLANTINGS **450**

478 ACRES (+6)

ESTIMATED NEW TOTAL CANOPY

39.8% (+0.5%)

ESTIMATED NEW CANOPY COVERAGE

MODERATE APPROACH

(5% Conversion Rate)

ESTIMATED TOTAL TREE PLANTINGS **1,050**

486 ACRES (+14)

ESTIMATED NEW TOTAL CANOPY

40.5% (+1.2%)

ESTIMATED NEW CANOPY COVERAGE

ACCELERATE APPROACH

(10% Conversion Rate)

ESTIMATED TOTAL TREE PLANTINGS **2,100**

500 ACRES (+28)

ESTIMATED NEW TOTAL CANOPY

41.7% (+2.3%)

ESTIMATED NEW CANOPY COVERAGE

These findings and associated canopy projections are based on estimated calculations and available land cover data. The actual Possibly Planting Area (PPA) and resulting tree canopy increases depend on multiple site-specific factors including soil quality, the presence of existing infrastructure or gray structure impediments, city ordinances, local policy constraints, and tree planting survival rates. Readers should interpret these figures as illustrative rather than definitive, and further feasibility studies are required before implementation.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR URBAN FOREST DATA

WHY TREE CANOPY MATTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL: Reduces air pollution, manages stormwater, and supports biodiversity.

ECONOMIC: Increases property values and reduces energy costs for cooling

SOCIAL: Improves mental health, provides recreation spaces, and builds community.

TREE CANOPY

The layer of leaves, branches, and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

LAND COVER

Land cover classification is the process of categorizing the surface of the Earth into different types of land cover.

Each land cover type is determined by dividing the area of a specific land cover type by the land area, which includes the water area.

- **Tree canopy:** (forests and individual trees) - Woody vegetation is generally taller than 10-15ft
- **Shrub:** (briar, scrubby vegetation) - Woody vegetation is generally less than 10 feet tall
- **Herbaceous vegetation:** (grass or other non-tree vegetation)
- **Impervious surface area:** (buildings, roads, sidewalks, parking lots, asphalt, concrete, tarmac)
- **Soil:** (barren land, sand, exposed earth)
- **Water bodies:** (lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, etc.)

URBAN HEAT INDEX

The NatureScore Urban Heat Index (UHI) identifies areas with high heat risk in cities to guide greening efforts. It combines temperature data with environmental and built factors—such as vegetation, surfaces, buildings, water, and roads—then uses AI to predict urban heat islands at a fine scale. Each area receives a score from 1 (lowest risk) to 10 (highest risk) to show where intervention is most needed.

Urban Heat Islands are areas that experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas due to human activities and reduced vegetation. Heat islands increase energy costs, air pollution, and heat-related illness.

**EVERY 1% INCREASE IN TREE CANOPY CAN REDUCE
LOCAL TEMPERATURES BY 0.5-2°F!**

Chapter 384

TREES

ARTICLE I Shade Tree Advisory Committee		§ 384-10.	Violations and penalties.
§ 384-1.	Findings.		ARTICLE III Utilities
§ 384-2.	Creation; organization.		
§ 384-3.	Duties.	§ 384-11.	Wire and utility trimming.
§ 384-4.	Tree planting participation.		ARTICLE IV Tree Protection
ARTICLE II Tree Removal and Replacement		§ 384-12.	Purpose.
§ 384-5.	Purpose.	§ 384-13.	Definitions.
§ 384-6.	Definitions.	§ 384-14.	Tree protection permit required.
§ 384-7.	Tree replacement requirements.	§ 384-15.	Project permit application process.
§ 384-8.	Exemptions.	§ 384-16.	Fees.
§ 384-9.	Enforcement.		

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Property maintenance — See Ch. 330.

ARTICLE I

Shade Tree Advisory Committee

[Adopted 11-3-2003 by Ord. No. 1447;¹ amended in its entirety 4-22-2024 by Ord. No. 24-10]

§ 384-1. Findings.

- A. The shade trees existing within the Borough of River Edge are of vital importance to the public good due to their aesthetic and environmental benefits and the economic value that they lend to properties within the Borough of River Edge as a consequence of their existence.
- B. The loss of any shade tree within the Borough of River Edge is a loss to the entire community and, as such, should be avoided except when removal is necessary for reasons of safety, public necessity, or unavoidable development.

§ 384-2. Creation; organization.

- A. A Shade Tree Advisory Committee is hereby created to discharge the duties hereinafter detailed with the goal of preserving the shade trees in the Borough of River Edge.
- B. The Committee shall be organized as follows:
 - (1) The Committee shall consist of five regular members and two alternate members. All Committee members shall be residents of the Borough of River Edge and shall serve without compensation. All Committee members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council.
 - (2) The first Committee members shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this article, and their initial terms of office shall commence upon the date of their appointment and be for the respective periods: The terms of the initial appointments of the regular members shall be staggered such that one member shall be appointed for a one-year term, two members for a two-year term, and two members for a three-year term,. Thereafter all regular members shall be appointed for a term of three years.
 - (3) There shall be two alternate members, designated as "Alternate No. 1" and "Alternate No. 2" who shall serve during the absence or disqualification of any regular member or members. Alternate members may attend and speak at all meetings of the Committee but shall not vote except in the absence or disqualification of any regular members. Alternate No. 1 may vote in the absence or disqualification of a regular member. Alternate No. 2 may vote in the absence or disqualification of more than one regular member or in the absence or disqualification of Alternate No. 1 and a regular member. One alternate member shall be initially appointed for a one-year term and one alternate member shall be initially appointed for a two-year term. Thereafter, alternate members shall be appointed for a term of two years.
 - (4) There shall be elected a Chairperson and Secretary by and from the regular membership of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee on an annual basis. No member shall serve as Chairperson or Secretary for more than two consecutive years.
 - (5) Members are eligible to obtain continuing education credits (CEUs) for the Borough as required under the New Jersey Community Forestry Program, in addition to the CORE training for new

1. Editor's Note: This ordinance superseded former Ch. 384, Art. I, Shade Tree Committee and Tree Maintenance, adopted 12-18-2000 by Ord. No. 1320.

members. The Committee needs to coordinate with the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works to determine which two individuals will obtain the (CEUs) for the Borough annually, which are a minimum total of eight credits. The Borough shall only pay for the training courses for Committee members. Members may select any courses listed by the Rutgers University Urban Forestry Program. Members are required to notify the Borough Administrator which course they wish to be registered for so that a purchase order can be generated.

§ 384-3. Duties. [Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20]

The duties of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee shall be as follows:

- A. The advising of the Mayor and Council, in writing, at least annually, of such policies, practices, procedures, and actions that should be considered for the replacement and preservation of shade trees within the municipality as part of the Borough's overall governmental philosophy.
- B. To advise, through a liaison to be decided by the Mayor and Council, the Department of Public Works concerning the maintenance of shade trees within the Borough and, in general, to be a resource for the Mayor and Council in facilitating the various agents and employees of the Borough in protecting and/or replacing such trees as presently exist.
- C. To generally act as a subject matter expert in preparing reports to the Mayor and Council for submission to the New Jersey Community Forestry Program, coordinating with the Borough Grant Writer for the submission of any grants, and in the absence of a grant writer, submit grant applications associated with shade trees to the Mayor and Council for further action.
- D. Coordinate Arbor Day activities with the River Edge Board of Education and River Dell Board of Education.
- E. The Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis, except for the months of July and August. At least 30 days' prior to the end of a calendar year, the Committee shall provide the Borough Clerk with a calendar of meetings for the next year.
- F. Notwithstanding that the Committee is advisory only and not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA),² meetings shall be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and the requirements of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).³ Agendas must be provided to the Borough Clerk for posting on the Borough website no less than a week prior to the meeting. Minutes of the meeting must be approved at the following meeting and forwarded to the Borough Clerk for posting on the Borough website after approval.
- G. Help the DPW Superintendent or its designee to administer the provisions enumerated in Article IV, Tree Protection.
- H. Such other advisory duties as the Mayor and Council shall, from time to time by resolution, entrust to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee in furtherance of the aforementioned goals and objectives.

§ 384-4. Tree planting participation. [Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20]

Members of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee and designated volunteers who have signed a participation agreement and waiver may plant trees as part of the Borough's shade tree replenishment

2. Editor's Note: See N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

3. Editor's Note: See N.J.S.A. 47:1a-1 et seq.

program in accordance with this section. Volunteers shall not plant any trees without the expressed consent of the DPW Superintendent, Chief of Police, and Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. The process shall be as follows:

- A. The Advisory Committee shall notify the DPW Superintendent, Chief of Police, and Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs via email of the proposed tree location.
- B. The DPW Superintendent, Chief of Police, and Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs shall review the location and any other related concerns and shall advise the Advisory Committee whether the tree planting and location are approved or disapproved, together with the reasons therefor, via email. The Borough Administrator shall also be informed of any approved or disapproved planting.

ARTICLE II

Tree Removal and Replacement**[Adopted 10-21-2002 by Ord. No. 1401; amended in its entirety 4-22-2024 by Ord. No. 24-10]****§ 384-5. Purpose.**

As required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, under the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program, the Borough of River Edge must establish requirements for tree removal and replacement to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

§ 384-6. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this article clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The use of the word "shall" mean the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

APPLICANT — Any "person," as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this article.

CRITICAL ROOT RADIUS (CRR) — The zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet per inch of DBH. For example, a tree with a six-inch DBH would have a CRR of nine feet (six inches x 1.5 feet/inch = nine feet).

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH) — The diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point 4 1/2 feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 1/2 foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

HAZARD TREE — A tree or limbs thereof that meets one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.

- (1) Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
- (2) Is dead or dying;
- (3) Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrian or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
- (4) Is causing severe damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, etc.); or
- (5) Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a certified arborist or licensed tree expert (L.T.E.).

PERSON — Any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm or association.

PLANTING STRIP — The part of a street right-of-way between the public right-of-way and the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic or between the abutting property line and the curb or traveled portion of the street, exclusive of any sidewalk.

RESIDENT — An individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this

ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

STREET TREE — A tree planted in the sidewalk or a planting strip in the public right-of-way adjacent to the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic. This also includes trees planted in planting strips within the roadway right-of-way, i.e., islands, medians, pedestrian refuges.

TREE — A woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

TREE CALIPER — The diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four inches, the measurement is taken 12 inches above the soil line.

TREE REMOVAL — To kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, over-mulching or improper mulching, and improper grading and/or soil compaction within the critical root radius around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of tree treatments intended to manage invasive species. Removal includes grinding of the tree stump.

§ 384-7. Tree replacement requirements. [Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20; 3-27-2025 by Ord. No. 25-7; 10-9-2025 by Ord. No. 25-18]

- A. Any person who seeks to remove any street tree, unless exempt under § 384-8, shall be required to obtain a tree removal permit from the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works and shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
- B. Any person who seeks to remove any tree with a DBH of six inches or more from any property within the Borough of River Edge, unless exempt under § 384-8, shall be required to obtain a tree removal permit from the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works and shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.
- C. The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with the most recent list of native trees published by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection which shall be listed in Appendix A.
- D. Replacement tree(s):
 - (1) Shall be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than the tree removed or meet the tree replacement criteria in the table below;
 - (2) For nonconstruction removals, must be planted within 12 months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the Borough;
 - (3) If a construction permit is issued, replacement must be completed before a certificate of occupancy is issued by the Building Department;
 - (4) Shall be monitored by the applicant for a period of two years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within 12 months;
 - (5) Shall not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements; and
 - (6) The permit site will be reinspected before close out of the permit.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table

Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)
1	DBH of 2.5" (for street trees) or 6" (for non-street trees) to 15.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed
2	DBH of 16" to 25.99"	Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed
3	DBH of 26" to 35.99"	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed
4	DBH of 36" or greater	Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed

- E. Administration or application fee for the processing of each tree removal permit is \$100. Any subsequent application or request shall be subject to the same fee requirement. All application fees will be deposited into the shade tree fee account. A refundable bond in the amount of \$400 per tree must be provided at the time of application. Bonds will be refunded once the replacement tree or trees have been planted and inspected by the Superintendent of Public Works or designee.
- F. Replacement alternatives: Unless the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works has determined otherwise, all property owners must replace any tree removed with 100% of the trees that are required in § 384-7D (Tree Replacement Requirements Table) on the approved tree permit that allows the tree removal be done on the property. For any trees that are not replanted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, with the approval of the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works, the applicant shall do one of the following:
- (1) Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.
 - (2) Pay a fee of \$400 per tree not replanted in accordance with the tree replacement criteria in the above table. This fee shall be placed into the Borough's Shade Tree Trust Fund.

§ 384-8. Exemptions. [Amended 3-27-2025 by Ord. No. 25-7; 10-9-2025 by Ord. No. 25-18]

All property owners shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the following cases. Proper justification shall be provided, in writing, to the municipality by all property owners claiming an exemption including photos, a detailed explanation as to why they should be exempt and any statements from a licensed tree expert or arborist.

- A. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;
- B. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the Borough;
- C. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan;
- D. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;

- E. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
- F. Hazard trees may be removed with no fee, provided however, that the grinding of the tree stump is required as part of the removal process.

§ 384-9. Enforcement.

This ordinance shall be enforced by the DPW Superintendent and by the River Edge Police Department and/or Code Enforcement Officer, during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

§ 384-10. Violations and penalties. [Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20]

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this article shall upon conviction be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2,000, imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days or community service for a period of up to 90 days, or any combination thereof. In addition, the Borough may recover the sum of \$400 for each tree that would have been required for mitigation pursuant to § 384-7. Any additional sums recovered shall be deposited into the Borough's Shade Tree Trust Fund.

- A. Any person either i) undertaking a regulated project or ii) required to obtain a permit for the removal, construction or replacement of a sidewalk pursuant to § 362-22 of Article IV of Chapter 362 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of River Edge with respect to a sidewalk which interferes with, or adversely affects, a Borough shade tree shall secure a tree protection permit from the DPW Superintendent and will provide the Borough of River Edge with a cash tree bond in accordance with the Tree Bond Table below for each Borough of River Edge tree adjacent to or on said property for a duration of up to a maximum of three years starting from the time a certificate of occupancy is issued. After two years, the tree/trees will be evaluated by the Committee, and based upon the evaluation, the DPW Superintendent will determine whether the cash bond be extended or utilized to remove and replace any or all of the Borough of River Edge trees on said property.

Tree Bond Table

Category	Tree (DBH)	Tree Bond Amount
1	DBH of 2.5 inches to 15.99 inches	\$1,500
2	DBH of 16 inches to 25.99 inches	\$2,000
3	DBH of 26 inches to 35.99 inches	\$2,500
4	DBH of 36 inches or greater	\$3,000

ARTICLE III

Utilities

[Adopted 11-19-2012 by Ord. No. 1773; amended in its entirety 4-22-2024 by Ord. No. 24-10]

§ 384-11. Wire and utility trimming.

- A. Any public utility or its agents may upon receiving (written) permission from the Superintendent of Public Works or his designee, at least 72 hours prior to the start of work, prune or remove trees for line clearance of utility wires in nonemergency situations pursuant to a line-clearance program.
- B. Any public utility or its agents may undertake emergency tree work to restore electrical service or spot work to prevent interruption of electrical, telephone, telegraph, cable television or other wire services. In such event, the utility shall notify the Superintendent of Public Works or his designee, of said work within three business days of its beginning.
- C. The Superintendent of Public Works shall notify the Advisory Committee and coordinate with the River Edge Police Department in writing for its records of any pruning or removal of trees by any public utility or its agents.

ARTICLE IV
Tree Protection
[Adopted 4-22-2024 by Ord. No. 24-10]

§ 384-12. Purpose.

- A. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge finds that the preservation, protection, and planting of trees and other plants conserves and enhances the Borough's physical and aesthetic appearance, and generally protects the public health and safety and general welfare.
- B. The intent of this article is to limit the adverse impact of damage and removal of Borough trees associated with construction. This article preserves and perpetuates the Borough's tree stock located on public property and within the public right-of-way, through the establishment of regulatory controls for the preservation of street trees.

§ 384-13. Definitions.

As used in this article, the terms hereinafter set forth shall be defined and deemed to have the following meanings:

CASH LANDSCAPE BOND — A cash deposit in United States currency, bank or certified check made out payable to the Borough of River Edge.

COMMITTEE — The Shade Tree Advisory Committee of the Borough of River Edge including any of its duly appointed members and any of its duly authorized agents.

GROSS FLOOR AREA — The gross floor area of a principal structure or building measured from exterior walls of the building or principal structure.

ISA — The International Society of Arboriculture.

PUBLIC PROPERTY — Any road, easement, passageway or area under the jurisdiction and control of the Borough of River Edge.

REGULATED PROJECT — Any undertaking involving new construction or development of existing residential property affecting 50% or more of the existing gross floor area or demolition of an existing principal structure or building affecting 50% of the total gross floor area.

REGULATED TREE — Any living woody perennial plant having a diameter greater than 1 1/2 inches measured at a point four inches above the base of the root flare. This definition shall apply to any tree situated in or along any public property, park, field, public right-of-way, easement or encumbrance under the ownership and control of the Borough of River Edge. The term "regulated tree" shall also mean public tree(s) as provided in the context within the article.

SHADE TREE REPLACEMENT FUND — "Trust Other Fund - Dedicated Shade Tree Escrow Account" and is the dedicated depository account Committee for tree permit fees, tree replacement fees, expert fees and cash landscape bonds.

§ 384-14. Tree protection permit required.

- A. Any person undertaking a regulated project shall secure a tree protection permit from the DPW Superintendent and will provide the Borough of River Edge with a cash landscape bond in the amount of up to \$5,000 for each Borough of River Edge street tree adjacent to or on said property for a duration of up to a maximum of three years starting from the time a certificate of occupancy is issued.

After two years, the tree/trees will be evaluated by the Committee, and based upon the evaluation, the DPW Superintendent will determine whether the cash bond should be extended or utilized to remove and replace any or all of the Borough of River Edge trees on said property. Valuation of trees shall be based upon current ISA standards.

- B. In the undertaking of a regulated project, the owner, contractor or other person in charge thereof shall place such guards around all nearby trees as will effectually prevent injury to such trees.
- C. All deposits from this section shall be deposited into the Borough's Shade Tree Replacement Fund.

§ 384-15. Project permit application process.

- A. Project permit application submission. Upon filing of a demolition or building permit for a regulated project, a tree protection project permit shall be required for the removal and/or protection of public trees. A permit application for the removal and/or protection of said trees shall be submitted to the DPW Superintendent, together with a copy thereof to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee for review.
- B. Application contents. An application for a tree removal and protection project permit shall consist of the following:
 - (1) The name and address of the owner of the land.
 - (2) The description of the lands in question, including the lot and block numbers of the land as shown on the current Tax Map of the Borough of River Edge; a survey or plot plan locating public and private trees; tree location placed on existing survey or plot plan need not be certified by any licensed professional.
 - (3) The quantity, DBH caliper size, location and species of regulated tree(s).
 - (4) The proposed dates for commencement and completion of the project.
 - (5) Name and address of the person having express charge, supervision, and/or control of the proposed protection or removal of tree(s).
 - (6) A tree protection plan.
- C. Application review.
 - (1) The DPW Superintendent or designee shall review the project permit application. The DPW Superintendent or designee shall then provide written notice to the applicant indicating one of the following determinations and the valuation of regulated trees and landscape bond amount: **[Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20]**
 - (a) The protection permit is granted; or
 - (b) The project permit is granted subject to prescribed conditions attached to such notice.
 - (2) The DPW Superintendent shall render a decision on a project permit application and furnish the required notices within 30 calendar days following submission of a completed application.
 - (3) Failure of the DPW Superintendent to render a decision within the thirty-day period, or within any extension of time granted by the applicant, shall constitute and have the same effect as an approval of the application.
 - (4) Any proposed change in the approved project shall be submitted to the DPW Superintendent

and referred to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee for its review and recommendation. The DPW Superintendent's determination concerning the approval of the amended project shall be determined in the same manner as an original application for a protection permit.

- (5) The applicant shall maintain a copy of the approved protection permit at the project location. A copy of the protection permit shall be available for inspection by the DPW Superintendent and a representative of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee.
 - (6) Cash landscape bonds must be submitted and posted prior to the start of the project. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder to make the cash deposit.
 - (7) Appeals.
 - (a) The valuation determinations and decisions of the DPW Superintendent shall be reviewable on written appeal to the Mayor and Council. Said appeal shall be filed within 21 days' of written notice of the decision of the DPW Superintendent. The appeal before the Mayor and Council shall be a de novo hearing in which the DPW Superintendent shall produce testimony supporting the disputed tree valuations or actions.
 - (b) In the event of a dispute concerning the release of a cash landscape bond, said dispute shall be submitted to the Mayor and Council for final resolution and direction.
- D. Jurisdiction. The protection assessment of regulated trees may be determined based upon the appraisal of a trained forester or licensed tree expert or the DPW Superintendent or designee.

§ 384-16. Fees.

An application for a tree protection permit shall be accompanied by the required fees as set forth below:

- A. Administration or application fee for the processing of each tree removal permit is \$100. Any subsequent application or request shall be subject to the same fee requirement. **[Amended 9-9-2024 by Ord. No. 24-20]**
- B. Escrow deposit where the DPW Superintendent determines that a tree expert is needed for tree evaluation. Expert fees incurred by the DPW Superintendent shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- C. All deposits from this section shall be deposited into the Borough's Shade Tree Replacement Fund.