

## **STC Minutes 11/20/14**

Under the Sunshine Law "Adequate Notice of this meeting has been made by sending notice on December 2, 2013 to THE RECORD and THE RIDGEWOOD NEWSPAPER, by positioning on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Borough Hall, and filing a Notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk

- Roll call – Present: Charlie Amorese, Jim Bieber, Margot Pohl, Henry Semmler, Liz Anievas, liz stewart  
Absent: Jennifer Dougherty, liaison Councilwoman Murphy

Start: 7:15pm

### **Budget**

- Will close out 2014 Budget- last PO due by 12/19
- Bergen county open space – discussed projects to submit

### **Construction/Development:**

- # 29 Bonds on file to date
- Total Wine – plantings seem to be done, there was no contact to STC for inspection
- Howland Ave paving – work being done. As per contract will be getting money for trees to go in escrow

### **Correspondence:**

- Tennis Cts: Pine trees – waiting on estimate.

### **Meeting & training update:**

- NJSTF meeting 10/24-10/25: Jen, Jim, liz and DPW (Ken, Scott and Jason) attended
  - Good information on hardy tree types to plant, trees and human health, trees in storms, emerald ash borer.
  - Ken received \$500 scholarship – will be taking CTE prep course in spring.
- 2015 NJSTF conference – head count so we can submit for budget

### **Tree Planting 2014:**

- Planted 101 trees total in 3 days. Will let state know to come for inspection.

### **On-going Projects/5-year plan:**

- Tree Tagging in Arboretum
- Arbor Gards –started to remove from trees
- RESTC pamphlet – revise and put in library and at Borough Hall.

### **DPW update:**

- Behind on tree work due to other work needed in town. Doing removals Mon/Fri

- **Year-to-day**

- Workorder update: 216
- Trees pending planting to date: 678+
- Stump list to date: 116+

End: 8:10pm



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# How to Manage Community Natural Areas

**Managing natural areas may sound like a contradiction of terms. But your help is needed if remnants of woodlands are to survive in the nooks and crannies of our cities and towns. These unique communities of life need protection from the inroads of development. Even more, they need active management to prevent deterioration from abuse and neglect.**

Thoreau once wrote, "A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it. A township where one primitive forest waves above while another primitive forest rots below — such a town is fitted to raise not only corn and potatoes, but poets and philosophers for the coming ages."

Philosophy aside, wooded areas in and around our communities offer practical benefits as well. They prevent soil erosion, cleanse the air, buffer noise, counter the heat-absorbing effect of buildings and pavement, and offer the kind of recreational opportunities that new industries and savvy home buyers look for in selecting a new location. They also provide a home for wildlife and can be a life saver for migrating birds. Woodlands are clearly an attribute, but as part of an urban forestry program they also present a number of challenges.

One challenge is the need to gain broader public appreciation for these little strips and odd lots of nature among the concrete and asphalt of our busy society.

Another — and closely related to the first — is to ward off the invasion of development. Parcels of woods on public property are often the first to be eyed for building affordable housing, expanded parking lots or other often-meritorious projects. "Under-utilized land" is the term sometimes used by the decision-makers.



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Finally, there is the question of keeping natural areas truly natural. All wooded areas offer educational, recreational and environmental benefits to some degree. But to the ecology-minded, there is the beauty and value of fine art in seeing a forest of native vegetation function on its own through successive generations of trees and understory. This challenges the manager to first understand the ecology of the site, then root out weedy invaders, and finally, to provide a helping hand to restore the native system.

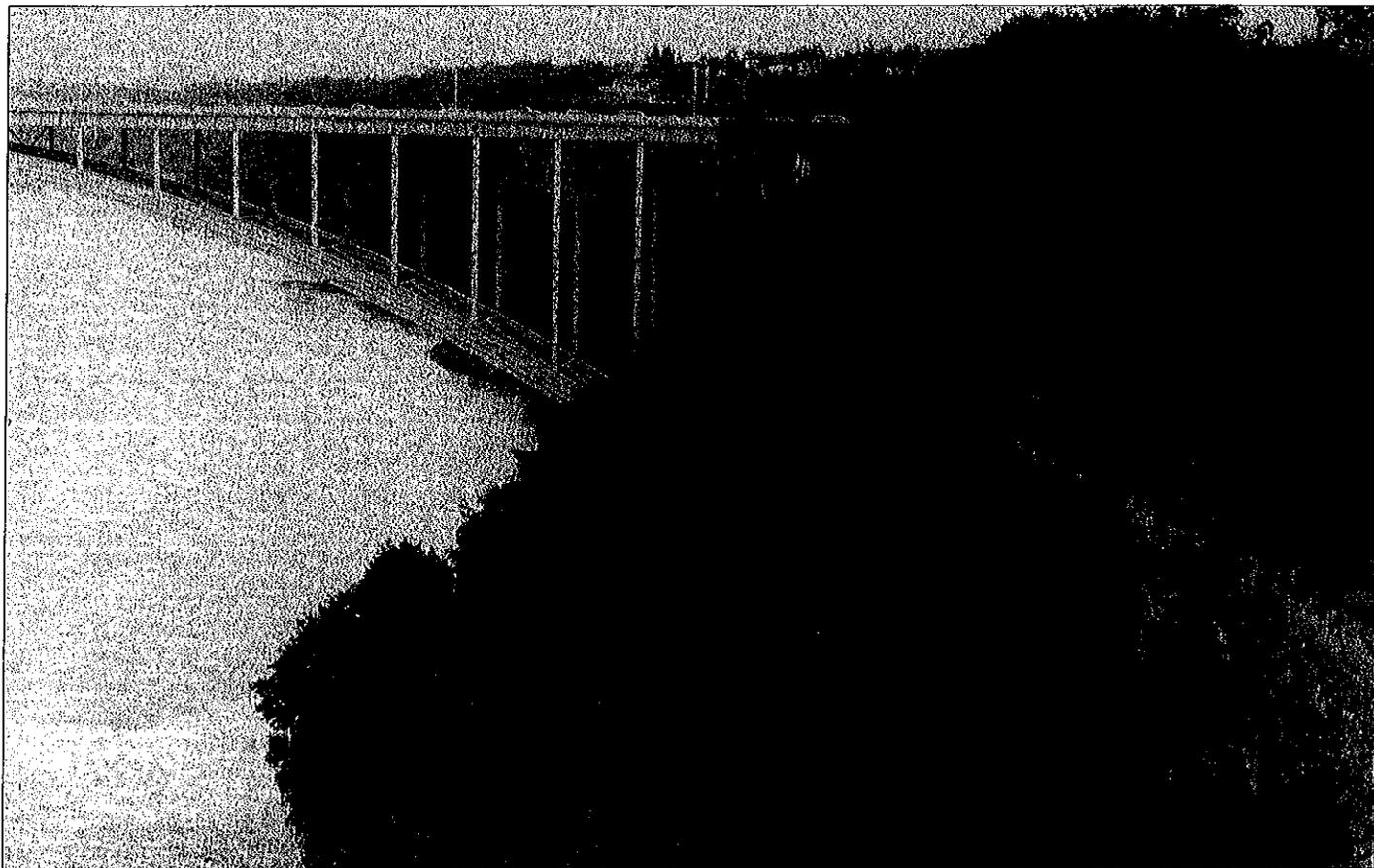
# Where Are Natural Areas?

Natural woodlands are found in communities of all sizes. Just across the Potomac from our nation's teeming capitol, 43 acres of verdant forest can be found in Alexandria, Virginia. In little Nebraska City, Nebraska, ancient oaks and tenacious berry bushes grace the edges of Table Creek, much as they did when Arbor Day Founder J. Sterling Morton lived at nearby Arbor Lodge. Tracts of woods can be found almost everywhere, occupying the land so unobtrusively they are too often virtually ignored and taken for granted.

In your community, look for natural areas in places like these:

- **Municipal, county and regional parks.** These are the most common locations of community natural areas.
- **Ravines and steep slopes.** Trees and understory vegetation on these sites are often protected by virtue of difficult terrain. In turn, they hold soil in place and protect waterways from siltation.
- **Buffers** around zoos, industrial sites and other large public or private facilities.
- **Arboretums** that have managers who value native vegetation as well as exotic trees.
- **"Paper streets."** These are publicly-owned easements marked out on maps for possible use as streets in the future.
- **Edges of rivers and creeks.** A plant community here is called riparian habitat and often contains a unique assemblage of life.

- **Wetlands** such as lake shores and swamps.
- **Golf courses.** Older courses are often fringed or divided with woodlands. In Ocean City, Maryland, when a new golf course was developed, the owners saved 90 acres of woods and wetlands on a 200-acre site. Their goal was to demonstrate environmental responsibility and their reward has been a booming business from golfers who appreciate the beauty and serenity of the natural scene.
- **Residential property.** Old estates slated for subdivision and new areas planned on former farm land are particularly rich in woods.
- **Abandoned industrial sites,** particularly along rivers where vegetation quickly reclaims the site.
- **School property.** In some cases, innovative teachers convert the woodlands on their own grounds into marvelous outdoor laboratories.
- **Greenways.** Flood plains, old railroad beds and utility rights-of-way offer recreational pathways, often adjacent to natural strips of vegetation. In China, "bamboo beltways" are planned to link panda preserves; in the U.S., greenways could just as easily link communities.
- **Landfills.** With the passage of time, the waste piles of humanity can support rich areas of vegetation. Near Toronto, excavated materials dumped at the edge of Lake Ontario became so natural looking that there was an outcry from citizens when development was suggested for waterfront recreation!



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*Small parcels of the wild can be found in most communities. Some, like the famous river banks of Niagara, are an integral part of the community's visual identity. Others are more easily overlooked, but are just as important.*