

**Pennington Borough**  
**Community**  
**Forestry**  
**Management Plan**  
**2011 through 2015**

Prepared by Gabriel Rosko, Chair - Pennington Borough Shade Tree  
Commission, NJ CTE #548, ISA Certified Arborist NJ-0963A  
[12/15/11]

## **Table of Contents**

### I. Municipal Information Form

### II. Introduction

- Mission Statement
- Goals and Objectives
- Liability Statement

### III. Community Overview

### IV. Community Forestry Program Administration

- Organizational Chart

### V. Community Map

### VI. Training Plan

### VII. Public Education, Awareness, and Outreach

- Tree City USA
- Homeowner Information
- Arbor Day
- Big Trees
- Newspapers, Radio, Lectures
- Memorial Tree Program
- Adopt-A-Tree Program

### VIII. Statement of Tree Budget

- Budget Summary

### IX. Statement of Plan Implementation

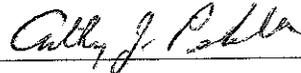
- Tree Inventory and Assessment
- Tree Hazard Identification and Management
- Tree Planting
- Tree Maintenance and Care
- Schedule of Work

### X. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)

### XI. Appendix

- Tree Planting Notification Letter
- Pennington Code, Chapter 13, Article 1 (Establishes Pennington Shade Tree Commission)
- Annual Reports
- Pennington Shade Tree Commission Tree Planting Program Brochure
- Tree Guide to Pennington, New Jersey Brochure

# Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality	Borough of Pennington
County	Mercer County
Address	30 North Main Street Pennington NJ
Contact Name and Title	Gabriel Rosko, Chairperson PSTC
Phone #	609-730-8367
Fax # and E-mail	<u><a href="mailto:gabrielrosko@comcast.net">gabrielrosko@comcast.net</a></u>
Organization Name	Borough of Pennington
Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature	 _____
Date of Management Plan Submission	December 2011
Time Period Covered in Management Plan	2011-2015

## Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Practices Identified in Management Plan:

- CSIP #1 Training
- CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
- CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness
- CSIP #4 Arbor Day
- CSIP #5 Tree Inventory
- CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment
- CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment
- CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
- CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management
- CSIP #11 Tree Planting
- CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- CSIP #15 Other

### ***Official Use Only Certification***

The above named municipality/county 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. Introduction**

This is the beginning of Pennington Borough's 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Forestry Management Plan for the years 2011 thru 2015 (5 years). Much has been accomplished during the past 5 years which will be reported on in Section III later in this plan. The purpose and mission for Pennington's tree resources have remained unchanged as have most of the goals. The biggest and most significant changes occur in the objectives. Objectives are the specific measurable tasks to be undertaken during the 5-year period.

This plan will identify the course of action for the next 5 years and will require extensive guidance from the Pennington Shade Tree Commission, support from the Mayor and Council, and, most importantly, participation and inclusion of borough residents. Approval of this plan by the State forester, upon favorable recommendation from the Community Forestry Council, will provide continued additional liability protection to the Borough by the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act and will continue to make the borough eligible to receive grant money from the New Jersey Forest Service to assist in the implementation of this plan.

### **Mission Statement:**

To ensure the viability and sustainability of Pennington's forests and shade trees for the economic, aesthetic and environmental benefits provided to Borough residents.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Pennington has a long history of caring for its trees and has an active shade tree program. The Borough of Pennington Shade Tree Commission (PSTC), authors of this plan, have developed the following goals and objectives for 2011 through 2015.

#### **Goal 1.**

Sustain the health and vigor of Pennington's trees in order to preserve the intrinsic local character.

#### Objectives of Goal 1:

- To maintain 80-90% tree canopy in the Borough.
- To identify insect or disease problems and initiate corrective action.
- To identify historic or specimen trees for special care and protection.
- To influence and control tree maintenance by utility companies and others.
- To diversify species and age class distribution of the Borough's trees.
- To continue aggressive monitoring for BLS, checking all pinoaks in late summer.
- To ensure diversity in new plantings

#### **Goal 2.**

Provide a continuous public education and tree awareness program in the Borough.

#### Objectives of Goal 2:

- To continue the Memorial Tree program.

- To provide information to homeowners on Borough web site concerning proper tree care including BLS, mulch availability, planting, pruning, mulching, watering, fertilization, insects and diseases, sidewalk conflict with roots, and song bird habitat creation.
- To provide at least 2 articles per year to local newspapers.
- To coordinate and cooperate with the Pennington Parks and Recreation Commission.
- To conduct an annual Arbor Day Program and tree planting at Pennington's public schools in connection with the Borough's Tree City USA activities.
- To provide opportunities for students to actively participate in the stewardship and awareness of Pennington's trees through a big tree search, tree planting or help with street tree data collection.
- To participate in Pennington Day by manning a booth to distribute information about the care and maintenance of trees, aided by a Tree Ring Competition and handouts of tree seedlings.
- To continue to meet the requirements for designation as a Tree City USA, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the NJ Community Forestry Program.

### **Goal 3.**

Maintain public safety by reducing hazardous trees and conflicts.

Objectives of Goal 3:

- To continue the program of detection and remediation of hazardous trees.
- To maintain tree trimming of the lower limbs of street trees for pedestrian safety.
- To inspect trees for hazardous conditions after storm events, and remediate as necessary
- To revisit and publicize the recycling program for chips and mulch as well as the utilization of sawlogs from removals.
- To identify tree/sidewalk conflicts and to pursue corrective action by the homeowner or municipality.
- To ensure that hazardous trees identified by borough residents, STC members or municipal employees are documented, evaluated and ranked for corrective action.
- To create a hazard tree assessment and corrective action plan for the Borough.

### **Goal 4.**

Maintain a computer database to help "manage" the Borough's trees.

Objectives of Goal 4:

- To use appropriate computer programs to record and display accumulated tree data.
- To utilize data to profile the Borough's trees.

- To utilize the data to produce a plan for maintenance, replacement, and planting of the Borough's trees.
- To utilize the data to diversify the species of the Borough's trees.
- To monitor trends in insect and disease problems.
- To use the inventory data to support grant applications.
- To continue to keep inventory up-to-date by entering new trees planted, trees removed and trees pruned.
- To develop a tree data report form for use in keeping the database up-to-date.

**Goal 5.**

Maintain an 80-90% tree canopy in the Borough.

Objectives of Goal 5:

- To plant a tree for every tree lost.
- To establish an annual objective for tree planting based on inventory data. {A suggested method is to divide the existing planting spots by 10, adjusting annually to recognize newly identified sites, and tree removals.}
- To focus on increasing diversity of planting stock.
- To continue to publicize the existing Memorial Tree Program.

**Goal 6.**

Support training for Pennington Shade Tree Commission members and Borough employees.

Objectives of Goal 6:

- To attend annual Federation of Shade Tree Commissions meetings.
- To maintain membership in the NJ Federation of Shade Tree Commissions.
- To maintain core training and continuing education requirements of the Community Forestry Assistance Act.
- To increase the knowledge and capabilities of Borough employees in tree care by attending at least one training session sponsored by Rutgers, the NJ Forest Service, or Federation on an annual basis.

**Goal 7.**

Establish a Borough tree nursery.

Objectives of Goal 7:

- To identify requirements such as size, access and utilities for tree nursery
- To continue to search for an appropriate location for a tree nursery.
- To seek state or other funding to start-up the nursery.

**Liability Statement:**

Trees in Pennington provide a desirable aesthetic addition to the landscape. Properly maintained, they add to the economic and environmental vitality of the Borough. Safe trees require constant vigilance and care. Even where excellent long-term planting of the right trees in the right place and good maintenance prevail, it is inevitable that trees mature and eventually need replacement.

Pennington Borough has a proven record of good maintenance and vigilance provided by a continuous survey of hazardous conditions and is committed to continuing its proactive programs to ensure public safety. Pennington's Shade Tree programs, while comprehensive and effective, are still constrained by a fixed budget that limits the amount of proactive and restorative work accomplished. It is the intent of this plan to focus available resources on the greatest needs and continue to emphasize healthy trees with the commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

The Pennington Borough Shade Tree Commission feels that by continuing existing programs and initiating the additional actions identified in this plan it will elevate public support for plan implementation and effectiveness. The actions taken as a result of this plan will also continue to demonstrate that well cared for tree resources are beneficial to the environment and public safety.

It is acknowledged that even with a vigilant proactive shade tree program not all hazardous conditions can be predicted, however, existing programs of good maintenance and care reduce the possibility of failure. Through implementation of this plan and continuance of the existing high quality programs, the Pennington Borough Shade Tree Commission will demonstrate its devotion to expending reasonable levels of resources in a prudent manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents. Pennington will, thereby, reduce its exposure to liabilities and increase public safety.

### III. Community Overview

The community overview portion of this section remains unchanged from the 2006-2010 plan and is included for its historic and continuity value.

"Pennington is located in the central part of New Jersey in Mercer County. Pennington emerged as a small crossroads community in the 1720s, then known as Queenstown. The name was changed to Pennington in 1747 and incorporated as the Borough of Pennington in 1890. Most of the present Borough was farmland from the early settlement period through the later 19th century. The Borough is 0.99 square miles in size and contains 633.6 acres. Pennington Borough has a population of 2585 citizens in the 2010 Census.

The Pennington Park and Shade Tree Commission was organized on January 13, 1915. The first goal was to maintain Kunkel Park (7 ac.) for group picnic grounds. During this time church, youth, and civic groups from the greater Trenton area came by trolley to enjoy the park. The Shade Tree Commission guided the establishment of street trees as the Borough was built up and new streets were established.

William P. Howe developed the south end of Pennington around 1910, planting 2500 shade trees along his newly developed streets. John A. Kunkel was instrumental in developing the north east section of Pennington in the late 1900's. With this long history, it is not surprising that Pennington is a town noted for its trees. Borough residents boast of the small town ambiance, always adding, "and we have beautiful trees too." A well maintained community forest just doesn't occur by accident. Pennington's success is a result of the long line of concerned and dedicated Shade Tree Commission persons, an enthusiastic municipal workforce, and the support of local residents.

Pennington is nearly 1 square mile in area, with the roadsides as well as most yards being heavily tree covered. The canopy or tree cover approximates 80-90%. The tree canopy not only creates an aesthetic appeal, but also adds environmental benefits such as summer cooling, buffers to winter winds, dust filtration, carbon sequestration and oxygen production. As with any living resource, change is inevitable and the health and sustainability of a community forest needs attention. This five-year plan is designed to focus the Shade Tree Commission's work for the benefit of Pennington's trees. The primary focus is on the municipality's trees along streets and open spaces.

A quick glance at Pennington's tree resource reveals a healthy, well maintained resource. Soils in the Borough tend to be poorly drained with an occasional shale outcropping. The soils are fertile but have some limitations to the growth of trees. One observation is that Pin Oaks grow well here and have been a favorite tree for planting in the past. Current and future efforts to add species diversity to the landscape are challenges to be met. Any future threat to the health of Pin Oak could have a devastating impact on Pennington's trees.

Reading through the Master Plan and the Borough Open Space Index, it is evident that trees and open spaces are important to the Borough's residents. The Pennington Shade

Tree Commission is not alone in the quest to retain the small town atmosphere of Pennington. Actions in this plan will augment the efforts of both the Master Plan and Open Space Index. Interestingly, the establishment of a Borough tree nursery is listed in the Master Plan. The Open Space Index lists various alternatives and considerations for various parcels for the nursery and will not be repeated in this plan. Keeping the Pennington Shade Tree Commission involved in the tree care recommendations for these parcels will benefit the Borough.

The Borough is nearly fully developed. The following table from the 1998 Master Plan; Borough of Pennington, New Jersey, prepared by the Borough Planning Board (with the assistance of Carl G. Lindbloom, P.P., A.I.C.P., Borough Planning Consultant) still provides an accurate summary of land use in the Borough.

<b>Land Use Plan, 1998</b>		
<b>Use Category</b>	<b>Acres (rounded)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Single Family	341.5	53.9
Multi Family	30	4.7
Town Center	14.5	2.3
Office/Limited Business	5	0.8
Highway Business	11	1.7
Regional Office	17	2.6
<b>Land Use Plan, 1998 (cont.)</b>		
<b>Use Category</b>	<b>Acres (rounded)</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Special Use	7	1.2
Recreation/ open space*	30	4.7
Public / semi-public*	80	12.6
Streets / Railroad	<u>98</u>	<u>15.5</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	634 (.99 sq. Mi.)	100.0

\*Some use overlap occurs.

### **5 Years of Progress:**

The implementation of the 2006-2010 Community Forestry Management Plan has been a challenging and rewarding experience. Not each and every objective was achieved, but significant accomplishments were made. Many of the objectives remain ongoing.

Annual accomplishment reports are included in Appendix 3. Highlighted achievements during the 2006-2011 plan period include:

1. Effective and efficient administration and meeting of the Shade Tree Commission.
2. Attendance at the Shade Tree Federation meetings, including maintenance of CORE trained persons (4) and up-to-date on continuing education units.
3. Numerous newspaper articles and website establishment.
4. Application for Grants. A federal ARRA grant of \$7,000 from DEP was received for downtown sidewalk tree planting; another federal grant project included the planting of four trees in a new landscaped island separating a parking area from S. Main Street.
5. Distribution of a brochure for Pennington Memorial Tree Planting Program.
6. Distribution of "Tree Guide to Pennington, New Jersey". A glossy map describing the listed trees and a map of their locations.
7. Continued maintenance of the Pennington Shade Tree Inventory and Assessment. The data is contained in the Rutgers Tree Inventory program and locations were noted on the tax map.
8. During the 2006-2010 period:
  - Trees Planted = 54
  - Trees Removed = 21
  - Trees Maintained/Pruned = 53
  - Programs and Events
    - i. Arbor Day
    - ii. Pennington Day

The Pennington Shade Tree Commission has responded well to the constant challenge to maintain the momentum of a volunteer shade tree commission, especially given the retirement of our experienced and effective former Chairperson, Sonny Porcella.

On the resource side, Bacterial Leaf Scorch disease has invaded some of Pennington's stately pin oaks. The inventory identified 51 trees with suspected BLS. In summer 2008 the PTSC examined all Red Oak family trees in the Boro, noted any trees with >30% decline, and took appropriate action which resulted in removal of at least 4 trees (which could be positively identified as being afflicted with the BLS pathogen.) . The PTSC has also the Pennington Day Booth to disseminate information to residents about BLS.

The overall benefits to Pennington for following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Forestry Plan included:

- > A strong partnership with the New Jersey Forest Service Community Forestry Program.
- > Training opportunities at New Jersey Shade Tree Federation meetings.
- > Opportunity to engage consultants to assist in planning.
- > Receipt of grant funds.
- > Increased liability protection.
- > Having a plan of work to guide PSTC focus and efforts.
- > Setting and reaching tree planting and maintenance goals.

The municipal tree resource has not changed significantly over the past 5 years. Our tree resource as quantified via inventory continues to be monitored, and was found to be in good condition. On-going challenges during the past 5 years include:

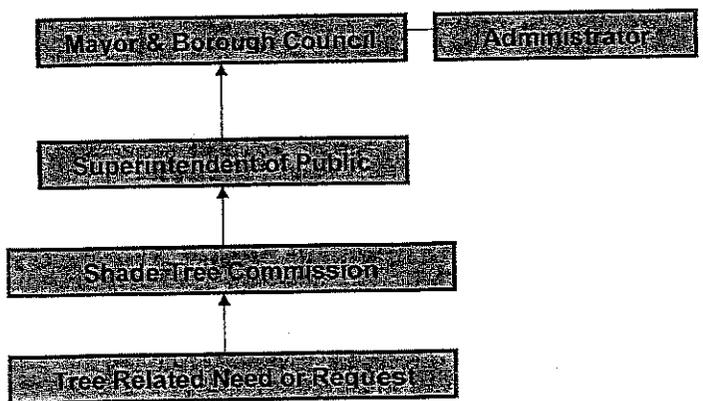
- Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), which comprises 15% of Pennington's trees, are largely near the end of their lifespan. Aging of the Callery pears and their problems with limb failure was noted in the 2004 inventory. More recently the PSTC has also identified prevalent fire blight. Many pears are in the County right of way, and are a County maintenance responsibility. Mercer County typically replaces pears with pears, whereas it is the policy of PSTC to replace Callery pears with alternative flowering species unless specifically requested by homeowners.
- The unpredictable course of BLS in Pennington's pin oaks. Pin oaks comprise 18% of Pennington's trees.

The link between the PSTC and the other agencies of the Borough has always been strong and included in the Master Plan. Pennington is essentially built out. The parks have been established and open space has been allocated. Linkages between the planning board and STC should be constantly nurtured to protect existing trees especially during housing upgrades and redevelopment. It would be a good exercise to review site plan requirements for tree protection during redevelopment and housing upgrades. There were no new or updated ordinances relating directly to the tree resource during 2006-2010.

The PSTC is responsible for overseeing the management of the Borough's trees. The PSTC reports to the Mayor and Borough Council. The public works department conducts or directs any work on the Borough's trees with guidance and coordination with the PSTC.

Citizen inquiry requests are first directed to the town clerk or to Gabriel Rosko, PSTC. The town clerk refers requests to the PSTC: The Chairperson, a commission member or combination thereof conducts an on-site evaluation of the situation and coordinates remedial action with the Superintendent of Public Works. The work may be undertaken by the Borough's Public Works department personnel, or in many cases, private tree expert companies are contracted. The PSTC takes special steps to inform residents and to gain permission to work on resident's trees near the public-right-of-way. Additionally, the PSTC administers the local ordinance providing for the planting, control, protection and improvement of shade trees and shrubbery upon public highways and public places in the Borough of Pennington. The Chairperson or a designated member will continue to act as liaison to the planning board and assist with site plan reviews.

### Organizational Chart





## **VI. Training Plan**

Some training is required by the State and some training topics are identified by individual STC member's assessment of their needs and interests. Training is usually limited by available time, interest, money and/or opportunities.

### **Required Training:**

CORE training is required by the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act for municipalities seeking approved status under the Act. The purpose of CORE training is to familiarize persons with the background of community forestry and shade tree commission, the legal aspects of managing trees, recognition of hazardous tree conditions and state planning and implementation assistance. To gain and retain approved status a municipality must have at least two persons CORE trained; one volunteer (usually the Chairperson) and one municipal employee (ideally someone from public works responsible for trees).

It is the intent of the PSTC to maintain at least the minimum CORE training requirements. Current CORE trained personnel are Morris Fabian from the Public Works Department, Gabriel Rosko, CTE (Chairman), Paul Morin and Sean Burns (members). In addition to CORE training, there is a continuing education requirement of 8 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) per year. Any individual can obtain these credits for the municipality not limited solely to those persons CORE trained. These credits can be most easily obtained by attending the Shade Tree Federation Meeting in October each year. There are also periodic training opportunities produced by the New Jersey Forest Service. The PTSC has consistently earned more than the required CEU throughout 2006-2010.

### **Elective Training**

Elective training should be determined by a deliberative process facilitated by the STC. All stakeholders, volunteers and public employees should be canvassed to assess training needs and interests. An annual training plan should be prepared.

In 2005 the PTSC identified a person to be responsible for managing the Shade Tree Inventory Data Base (Petra Ross-Macdonald, Secretary). The data base has been updated for tree planting and removal.

## **VII. Public Education, Awareness and Outreach**

The PSTC conducts an annual Arbor Day program for school children and participates in 'Pennington Day'. At a booth, PSTC members hand out leaflets and freely offer shade tree advice. Many times a free tree, such as a Kousa dogwood, is offered in a free raffle. The Borough Tree Guide and Memorial Tree Program are touted at these events.

### **Tree City USA:**

Tree City USA is a program created by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the NJ Forest Service to recognize municipalities of all sizes. The Tree City program is a national award given to small towns, townships, counties, and cities in recognition of outstanding stewardship in dealing with the community's tree resource. Pennington has achieved Tree City USA status for the past 23 years. The 20-year plaque was awarded during the 2006-2010 plan period. This is a significant accomplishment shared by only 100 municipalities in New Jersey. The rewards for Pennington for maintaining Tree City status are:

- Signs for community entrances.
- A Tree City USA flag.
- A walnut-mounted plaque.
- Recognition of stewardship and the gratitude of future generations.

To achieve Tree City USA status there are requirements and standards that must be met by the Borough. These are:

- A Tree Board or Department.
- A Community Tree Ordinance.
- A Community Forestry Budget with at least \$2 per capita devoted to trees.
- An Arbor Day observation proclamation.

### **Homeowner Information:**

Another high priority element of this plan is to provide homeowners with up to date information and knowledge about tree care. The PSTC wants to purchase and distribute existing information about tree care to Borough residents, especially new owners. Included will be information on PSTC policy on newly planted trees regarding homeowner's responsibilities.

- Proper pruning of newly planted and young trees.
- Mulching.
- Watering.
- Species recommendations for yard plantings
- Species to create habitat for song birds.
- Identification and treatment for most common insects and diseases.
- Planting methods.
- Sidewalk/Tree root conflicts.

Much of this information is in print and available from the International Society of Arboriculture, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and the NJ and US Forest Service,

however, these materials are not free. A grant from the NJ Forest Service would enable the PSTC to accomplish this task. These information packets will also be available as hand-outs at Pennington Day, and as a link on our Borough web site.

**Arbor Day:**

The PSTC will conduct an annual Arbor Day program in cooperation with Pennington's public schools by contributing a tree and participating in the tree planting ceremony, where tree seedlings are also distributed.

**Big Trees:**

One way to raise the awareness of youth about trees is to involve them in some way. The PSTC organized a Big Tree Hunt program in the 2006-2010 period, where students searched for and identified large specimen trees. The PSTC will continue to plan and conduct such events in the 2011-2015 period.

**Newspapers/Radio/Lectures:**

There are several objectives listed under Goal 2 that do not need repetition here, but are important in helping to achieve the PSTC mission.

**Memorial Tree Program:**

This program was continued during the 2006-2010 period. A brochure was produced and the program is operating successfully.

**Adopt-A-Tree Program:**

The PSTC did not to establish a formal Adopt-A-Tree program during the last plan period. The PSTC feels that Adopt-A-Tree is a good idea, but as Pennington currently approaches "planting the right tree in the right place" on an informed basis and with the uncertain state of grant availability the PSTC was not comfortable with committing to a formal Adopt-A-Tree program. The Adopt-A-Tree Program may be considered again in the future if grant availability and funding prospects change.

## **VIII. Statement of Tree Budget**

Pennington's shade tree budget from municipal funds has averaged about \$19,500 per year during 2006-2010. The value of volunteer time is estimated to be ~\$7000 per year. Annual reports and 'Tree City, USA' applications all indicate significant effort by the volunteers including timely and well written newspaper articles, on-site inspections, inventory and data recording, Arbor Day, coordination of tree planting and attendance at 7-8 shade tree commission meetings annually. Grants for tree planting garnered \$7,000 for the program. The value of the time spent by the Public Works Department on tree maintenance is estimated to be ~\$50,000 per year. Pennington's total investment in trees including volunteer services, public works, PSTC funds and grants was ~\$450,000 during the past 5-year period 2005-2010.

It is anticipated that resources for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5-year plan will be similar to the past. However, PSTC will prepare a budget request based on the needs quantified in the inventory. Pruning needs and maintenance (removals) are exceeding the capacity of the Borough employees and current budget. One of the benefits of a current tree inventory is the capability of communicating factual information in support of budget requests.

### **Estimated Annual Budget Summary**

PSTC Budget: \$20,000 +5% annual increment

(Tree Purchasing, Contracted Tree Work, Education and Outreach)

Public Works Tree Budget: \$50,000

(Leaf Pickup, Pruning, Deadwood, Brush Control, Tree Planting)

Volunteers (In-Kind): \$7000

Grants: \$5,000

**TOTAL ANNUAL ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$80,000**

## **IX. Statement of Plan Implementation**

The Borough of Pennington's Shade Tree Commission plans to continue the evolution of its excellent programs of assistance and stewardship during the next 5-year period. To maintain momentum and effectiveness it will be necessary to complete the transition to a new Chairperson and maintain individual leadership for the various tasks associated with successful shade tree programs. Any voids in administrative tasks or technical knowledge will be identified and addressed through training and/or consultation.

The Borough's public education, awareness and outreach programs are established and have had positive impacts and rewards. Ongoing programs will be continued and augmented as described in Section VII. Pursuing Tree City, USA designation annually, continuing Arbor Day celebrations, promoting Pennington's Tree Guide, soliciting contributions to the Memorial Tree fund, newspaper articles and participation in Pennington Day are all worthy and productive outreach objectives.

The PSTC acknowledges and recognizes the value of continuing education training and has a good record of attending the annual Shade Tree Federation meetings every fall (contact Donna Massa, Exec. Director @ 732-246-3210). Morris Fabian from public works who has been CORE trained acts as liaison to the PSTC. The training section of this plan, Section VI, outlines training needs for the PSTC to address. This responsibility is that of the Chairperson or their designee. Most successful training programs follow an annual plan prepared by a committee or designated lead person.

The remainder of this section will focus on the required basic implementation steps regarding:

- Tree Inventory and Assessment
- Tree Hazard Identification and Management
- Tree Maintenance and Care
- Tree Planting

### **Tree Inventory and Assessment:**

The PSTC continues to update its inventory of trees of Borough responsibility. The data is recorded in database software produced by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and modified by ForesTree Consultants. Inventory includes location (keyed to the tax map), tree statistics (height, DBH, % Deadwood, Species), a general condition class (good, fair, poor, dead), comments by S. Porcella and Les Alpaugh, assessment of bacterial leaf scorch in oaks and sidewalk conflicts. Reports can be generated and customized to satisfy nearly any need the PSTC may have. A written inventory report was produced and the database is available for the PSTC to use in planning and in support of budget requests.

The data collected during the inventory can be invaluable in assessing and understanding the needs of the Borough's tree resources. Managing the database includes making changes, additions and deletions as necessary to keep the information up to date. Information on planting spots, hazardous trees, trees to be removed, trees to be pruned, species diversity, sidewalk problems, elevation needs, insects and diseases and defects

have all been recorded and are can be utilized in program planning and implementation, budget justification and grant applications.

#### **Tree Hazard Identification and Management:**

Pennington's trees are continually monitored by PSTC members, Public Works Department employees, and Borough residents. Additional, comprehensive information is now available as a result of the tree inventory. Since the inventory has been completed the most hazardous conditions have been addressed.

The PSTC continues to identify hazardous conditions and create work plans to address them as funding permits. The public works department does its best to take expeditious care of the most serious cases.

#### **Tree Planting:**

In the past five years, Pennington has planted about 10 trees per year. This past year, however, lower prices per tree allowed the Boro to plant as many as 21 trees. The STC has an objective of planting 10-20 new trees each year. Achieving this objective requires planning. Available planting spots need to be identified, letters sent to residents, trees ordered and planting arrangements made. The tree inventory identifies planting spots and should facilitate this planning. Grant money from the New Jersey Forest Service is occasionally available to support tree planting. Serious thought must be given to diversifying species selection, especially in the face of Bacterial Leaf Scorch, fireblight and pear maturity failures.

#### **Tree Maintenance and Care:**

The Borough of Pennington removed 21 trees since 2006. A stated goal of previous plans was to establish a 10-year pruning cycle. This goal is still valid. The goal could be modified somewhat by using tree inventory data. During the inventory, each tree was assessed for pruning and elevation needs. Many trees did not need pruning. Utilizing the inventory data and keeping it up-to-date can focus available resources on the highest needs and save money over the long run. The PSTC is working in concert with the public works department to allocate a portion of its budget each year to tree maintenance and care based on a plan prepared annually utilizing input from the inventory, DPW employees, residents and STC members. The Chairperson or his/her designee will facilitate preparation of this plan in time to be supportive of budgeting requests.

#### **Schedule of Work**

##### **Borough of Pennington Community Forestry Program**

2011

- Tree resource maintenance including: Hazard tree assessment, Pruning and removal, Planting site identification, New tree planting
- PSTC organization including: Re-appointment of Chairperson and members as required, Membership recruitment.
- Training: Annual CEUs and new CORE training if required.
- Community outreach including: Arbor day event, Pennington Day booth.

- Reporting: file annual accomplishment report and Tree City USA application.
- Pursue goal of establishing a tree nursery in the Borough.

2012

- Tree resource maintenance including: Hazard tree assessment, Pruning and removal, Planting site identification, New tree planting
- PSTC organization including: Re-appointment of Chairperson and members as required, Membership recruitment.
- Training: Annual CEUs and new CORE training if required.
- Community outreach including: Arbor Day event, Pennington Day booth.
- Reporting: file annual accomplishment report and Tree City USA application.
- Pursue goal of establishing a tree nursery in the Borough.

2013

- Tree resource maintenance including: Hazard tree assessment, Pruning and removal, Planting site identification, New tree planting
- PSTC organization including: Re-appointment of Chairperson and members as required, Membership recruitment.
- Training: Annual CEUs and new CORE training if required.
- Community outreach including: Arbor Day event, Pennington Day booth.
- Reporting: file annual accomplishment report and Tree City USA application.

2014

- Tree resource maintenance including: Hazard tree assessment, Pruning and removal, Planting site identification, New tree planting
- PSTC organization including: Re-appointment of Chairperson and members as required, Membership recruitment.
- Training: Annual CEUs and new CORE training if required.
- Community outreach including: Arbor day event, Pennington Day booth.
- Reporting: file annual accomplishment report and Tree City USA application.

2015

- Tree resource maintenance including: Hazard tree assessment, Pruning and removal, Planting site identification, New tree planting
- PSTC organization including: Re-appointment of Chairperson and members as required, Membership recruitment.
- Training: Annual CEUs and new CORE training if required.
- Community outreach including: Arbor day event, Pennington Day booth.
- Reporting: file annual accomplishment report and Tree City USA application.
- Renew 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan.

## **X. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)**

Upon approval of this plan, the PSTC will be able to apply for Community Stewardship Incentive Program grants as they become available to help offset the cost of implementing this plan. The following is a list of possible CSIP grants for Pennington. Additional or revised grants may become apparent as work progresses or unforeseen events occur.

### **CSIP #1: Training**

Funds are needed to support training as defined in Section IV.

### **CSIP #2: Ordinance Establishment**

Funding may be requested to hire consultants or legal counsel to review and prepare a new tree ordinance.

### **CSIP #3: Public Education and Awareness**

No funds are needed specific to CSIP #3.

### **CSIP #4: Arbor Day Activities**

No funding specific to Arbor Day activities is needed.

### **CSIP #5: Tree Inventory**

Funding may be needed to hire a consultant to provide updates to the existing inventory. Section IX: Statement of Plan Implementation.

### **CSIP #6: Hazard Tree Assessment**

No funds specific to hazard identification are needed. Annual inventory updates and continued vigilance by the STC, DPW, residents and police will continue to identify hazardous trees. Section IX: Statement of Plan Implementation.

### **CSIP #7: Storm damage assessment**

No funds are sought for this purpose.

### **CSIP #8: Tree Maintenance and Removals**

The goal to prune each municipal tree at least once every 10 years cannot be met within current budget constraints. Inventory data will be used to focus available funds on the greatest needs. Grant funds may be requested to support pruning and removals noted in the inventory. This work should be contracted with a local certified tree expert. Section IX: Statement of Plan Implementation.

### **CSIP #9: Insect and Disease Management**

Trees in Pennington are relatively free from insects and disease. No additional funds are required for this purpose at this time. If Bacterial Leaf Scorch infections increase or worsen funds may be requested to take necessary action.

CSIP #10: Wildfire protection  
No funds are sought for this purpose.

CSIP #11: Tree Planting  
Funds will be requested when available to increase planting levels as per annual planting plans. Section IX: Statement of Plan Implementation.

CSIP #12: Tree Recycling:  
No funds will be requested specific to tree recycling.

CSIP #13: Sidewalk Maintenance Program  
Funding may be requested.

CSIP#14: Storm Water Management  
No funds are sought for this purpose.

CSIP #15: Other  
Plan Preparation: Historically, grants have been available for Plan preparation. This plan was prepared utilizing volunteer time.

## **XI. Appendix**

1. Tree Planting Notification Letter
2. Pennington Code, Chapter 13, Article 1 (Establishes Pennington Shade Tree Commission)
3. Annual Reports
4. Pennington Memorial Tree Planting Program Brochure
5. Tree Guide to Pennington, New Jersey

### **XI.1 Tree Planting Notification Letter:**

2010 -'11 Planting

Year

Dear Resident:

In the near future, the Shade Tree Commission and the Department of Public Works will be planting a tree in the public right-of-way in front of your house. If you have any questions or concerns about the planting, please let us know by calling or emailing the Chairman of the Commission at (609) 730-8367, [gabrielrosko@comcast.net](mailto:gabrielrosko@comcast.net).

The varieties of trees that are planted in the Borough have been carefully selected for their desirability as street trees, and whose characteristics for consideration included height, heartiness, species diversity, rooting characteristics and general aesthetic quality.

With an important bit of help from you, the tree to be planted will grow to provide many benefits to your neighborhood and Pennington. For the first two years after planting, the tree will need water when rain is scarce. So, during the spring, summer and fall, if more than ten days pass by with no rain, you could serve your community by watering the new tree. In the evening, let a garden hose run very slowly over the root area for about twenty minutes to thoroughly soak the root zone. If you notice any problems with the tree, please notify the Shade Tree Commission or Public Works.

Thank you in advance for your help in assuring that Pennington streets will be tree-lined far into the future. Enjoy your new tree(s).

Pennington Shade Tree Commission

Gabe Rosko, Chairman  
Carey Compton, Paul Morin  
Kate Fullerton, Sean Burns  
Petra Ross-MacDonald

## **XI.2 Pennington Code:**

### Article I. Shade Tree Committee

[Adopted 12-2-1985 by Ord. No. 406]

§ 13-1. Establishment; purpose; membership.

A. The regulation, planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery upon and in the streets, highways and public places of the Borough of Pennington, except state highways, unless the State Highway Department shall assent thereto, and except county highways, parks and parkways if a County Shade Tree Commission is operative and gives assent thereto, shall be exercised by and under the authority of the Borough Council. In order to aid the Borough Council in regulating the planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery upon and in the streets, highways and public places, there is hereby established a Shade Tree Committee.

B. The purpose of said Shade Tree Committee shall be to recommend legislation to the Borough Council and to make recommendations regarding the planting of shade trees in the Borough generally.

C. The Shade Tree Committee hereby established shall consist of seven members, who shall be residents of this municipality and, where feasible, have experience or expertise in the area of arboriculture or related fields.

§ 13-2. Initial appointments; terms.

The first Shade Tree Committee members shall be appointed by the Borough Council within 60 days after the effective date of this article, and their terms of office shall commence upon the day of their appointment and be for the respective periods of one, two and three years. The term of each appointee shall be designated in his or her appointment. All subsequent appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for the full term of five years, to take effect on January 1 of the calendar year next succeeding such appointment.

§ 13-3. Organization; expenses.

A. The Shade Tree Committee shall organize within 30 days after the appointment of its total membership for the remainder of the then calendar year and thereafter annually, by the election of one of its members as Chair and the appointment of a Secretary, who need not be a member.

B. Expenses of Shade Tree Committee members in discharging official duties, including expenses incident to attendance at professional meetings, will be reimbursed up to an amount appropriated by the governing body for that purpose in the annual budget.

§ 13-4. Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring by reason of the death, resignation or removal of any Shade Tree Committee member shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Borough Council.

§ 13-5. Powers and duties.

The Shade Tree Committee organized under this article shall have power to:

A. Recommend to the Borough Council legislation governing the regulation, planting and care of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery now located or which may hereafter be planted in any public highway and park or parkway and public right-of-way, except such as are excluded pursuant to § 13-1A of this article, including the planting, trimming, spraying, care and protection thereof.

B. Recommend legislation to the Borough Council regulating and controlling the use of the ground surrounding the same, so far as may be necessary for proper growth, care and protection thereof.

C. Recommend to the Borough's Superintendent of Public Works the moving or the requiring of the removal of any tree or part thereof dangerous to public safety.

D. Recommend to the Borough Council the making, altering, amending and repeal, in the manner prescribed for the passage, alteration, amendment and repeal of ordinances by the governing body of this Borough, any and all ordinances necessary or proper for carrying out the provisions hereof.

E. Recommend to the Borough's Superintendent of Public Works the care, treatment or removal of any tree situated upon private property which is believed to harbor a disease or insect harmful to trees or other vegetation, readily communicable to neighboring healthy trees or other vegetation, and to enter upon private property for that purpose, with the consent of the owner thereof, provided that the suspected condition is first confirmed by a certificate issued by or on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

F. Encourage arboriculture.

§ 13-6. Payment of costs.

The planting of trees on public property, as provided for in the annual budget for the Shade Tree Committee approved by the Borough Council, shall be paid for by the Borough. Where the Shade Tree Committee recommends to the Council the planting of trees on private property but within the public right-of-way, trees shall be planted, provided that the landowner agrees to pay for said trees.

§ 13-7. Procedure and payment for planting or removal of trees.

A. Where a private property owner has requested that a tree or trees be planted among the public right-of-way in front of his or her property, the Shade Tree Committee shall review this request and visit the premises if necessary. The Shade Tree Committee shall consider the type or types of trees which should be planted and their location and size. These considerations shall be made in conjunction with the affected property owner. Upon completion of these considerations, the Shade Tree Committee shall forward to the Borough's Superintendent of Public Works its recommendations, accompanied by an executed agreement of the property owner who will be benefited by the trees to pay for said tree or trees.

B. Where a tree or part of a tree located upon private property is dangerous to public safety, unless public safety requires immediate removal, the Shade Tree Committee shall

give the property owner 10 days' notice that it intends to recommend removal of such tree to the Borough's Superintendent of Public Works. Within that ten-day period, the property owner may request a hearing before the Shade Tree Committee, and the Shade Tree Committee shall report the property owner's objections to the Borough Council. If the Borough Council decides to have the tree or part thereof removed, the costs incurred shall be a lien against the property, unless paid by the property owner.

§ 13-8. Public improvements affecting trees.

No statute giving any person or state, county or municipal board, body or official the power or authority to lay any sidewalk along or to open, construct, curb or pave any street, or to do any similar act, shall be construed to permit or authorize any interference with or injury to a highway shade tree without the consent of the Borough Council. In all cases, the Borough Council shall reasonably cooperate with such person, board, body or official for the general public good.

§ 13-9. Estimate of expenses; annual appropriation.

A. During the month of October in each year the Shade Tree Committee shall certify to the Borough Council the estimated sum necessary for the proper conduct of work during the ensuing fiscal year, which shall include the sums estimated to be expended for such of the following terms as it is anticipated expenditure will be made for:

(1) Expenses of Shade Tree Committee members in discharging official duties, including expenses incident to attendance at professional meetings.

(2) Purchase of trees and shrubbery.

(3) Purchase of necessary equipment and materials and the cost of services for the prudent promotion of the work.

B. The Borough Council shall annually appropriate such sum as it may deem necessary for said purposes.

§ 13-10. Rules of procedure; meetings.

The Shade Tree Committee shall adopt rules or procedures, which shall provide for a regular public meeting each month.

§ 13-11. Development of Master Plan for planting of trees.

The Shade Tree Committee shall develop and recommend to the Borough Council a Borough Master Plan, setting forth those areas of the Borough in need of shade trees along the public right-of-way, the type of tree which should be planted and the approximate locations. The Master Plan should consider the type of zoning, the climate, soil conditions and other factors necessary to evaluate and develop such a plan. Upon completion of the Master Plan, any recommendations for the planting of trees made pursuant to this section should make reference to this plan, and any variance from the plan should be explained.

### **XI.3 Annual reports:**

Reports have been filed annually with the Community Forestry Program. Below is the most recent report.

## **Borough of Pennington, New Jersey**

### **COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

#### **Annual Accomplishment Report - 2010**

#### **Program Administration**

Members of the Pennington Borough Shade Tree Commission for 2010 were Carey Compton, Paul Morin, Petra Ross-Macdonald, Sean Burns, Kurt Pedersen and Gabriel Rosko.

#### **Training and Professional Development**

Sean Burns and Gabriel Rosko of the Shade Tree Commission attended the Shade Tree Federal Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Gabriel Rosko also attended the Garden State Tree Conference on the Cook College campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. We currently have 3 volunteer members of the commission which are CORE trained: Gabriel Rosko, Kurt Pedersen, and Paul Morin and one Municipal employee CORE trained: Morris Fabian

#### **Public Education/Awareness/Outreach**

Arbor Day was observed in Pennington Borough with a ceremony outside the Toll Gate Elementary School on Friday, April 30, 2010. Attending the event were three second grade classes from the Toll Gate School. The event featured the planting of a tree and a brief talk by Morris Fabian, of Pennington Public Works Department and Carey Compton a Shade Tree Commission volunteer, about how trees are properly planted and cared for. This was followed by the reading of the Mayor's Arbor Day Proclamation and the reading of poems about trees by second graders.

At the end of the ceremony gift bags containing tree "tube lings", information regarding the proper planting techniques and care of young trees, and "cookies", thin cross cut slices of a tree branch, were handed out to all attending student.

The Shade Tree Commission also had a booth at "Pennington Day", an annual street fair in downtown Pennington held in May. Commission members took turns maintaining the booth from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Leaflets and fact sheets about trees, including information sheets relating to Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle identification were available. White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) seedlings were also handed out to the public. A drawing also was held for the person who most accurately determined the age of tree based on the number of tree rings (shown on a large tree cross section). An Eastern Red Bud (*Cercis canadensis*) donated by a local nursery was awarded to the winner.

**Tree Budget**

The approved Shade Tree Commission budget for 2010 was \$19,500, a decrease from the previous year.

**Community Forestry Plan Implementation**

A major task of the Commission in 2010 was having a new 5 year Community Forestry Management Plan completed. The Commission worked closely together to craft an appropriate document. The Pennington Borough Shade Tree Commission has had a New Jersey Certified Tree Expert as a volunteer member since 2009 which has helped in the drafting of the Forestry Management Plan.

The Commission purchased 4 trees and ordered 17 trees in 2010 for planting in 2011. Because of the untimely drought, the PSTC could only plant two trees late in the year. The PSTC identified tree planting locations in the field, and worked with the Public Works Department in identifying hazardous trees for possible removal. The Shade Tree Commission over saw the removal of 5 hazardous trees, and the Public Works Department pruned 7 trees on several streets.

The Commission continued to administer the Memorial Tree Program. Under the program, trees are planted with a granite marker to memorialize or honor a person.

# XI.4 Pennington Memorial Tree Planting Program Brochure:

<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The Pennington Shade Tree Commission was created by an ordinance in 1916. This brochure reflects a continuing effort to promote the planting of shade trees along borough streets in a cooperative effort between Pennington and its residents and friends.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dedicated Trees</b></p> <p>Any person can purchase a tree in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one. This is a wonderful way to dedicate a tree to a loved one and at the same time contribute to the beautification of our town. When the tree is planted, a small, inscribed granite stone can be installed at the tree base. The 6" X 12" stone limits the inscription of a name to 14 spaces. The stone will be placed and secured in the ground when the tree is planted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planting of Trees</b></p> <p>All trees will be planted along a public street or in a Borough park. The Shade Tree Commission will make the final determination as to tree planting locations and species. Trees will be planted in the planting season, either fall or spring, which follows receipt of the request.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cost/Responsibilities</b></p> <p>The donor's contribution will go toward the purchase of the tree and the stone marker. This is a one time cost of \$280. The Borough of Pennington and the Shade Tree Commission are not responsible for replacement of any tree or stone once installed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Procedures</b></p> <p>Please complete and return the last panel of this brochure to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pennington Shade Tree Commission 30 North Main Street Pennington, NJ 08534</p> <p>Please make checks payable to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Borough of Pennington</p> <p>Upon receipt of payment you will be notified of the tree species, street location and anticipated planting date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tree Request Form</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Day Phone: _____</p> <p>Evening Phone: _____</p> <p>Plaque Inscription:</p> <p>Circle one: In Memory of _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Honor of _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Print name in all capitals)</p> <p>(Years of birth/death or event (year only))</p> <p>Mail or deliver this form with your check made payable to Borough of Pennington to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pennington Shade Tree Commission 30 North Main Street Pennington, NJ 08534</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>
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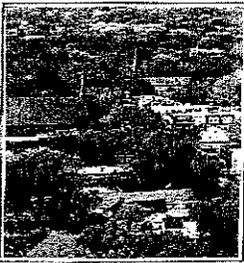
South Main Street - c. 1926

*This brochure was designed to inform the public about a program offered by the Pennington Shade Tree Commission.*



- Any person can purchase a tree to honor a loved one or in memory of a loved one.
- The tree will be planted in the Borough to help enhance the beauty of our community.
- A small marker will be inscribed and secured to the ground near the tree.

PENNINGTON  
SHADE TREE  
Commission

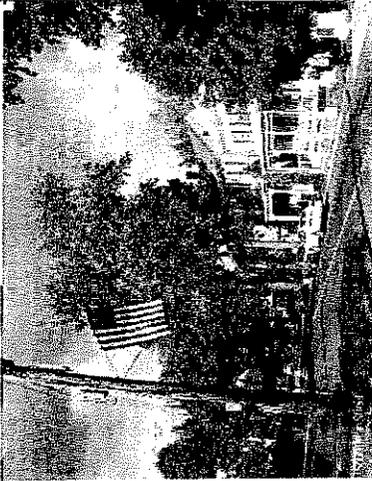


Tree Planting Program

30 North Main Street  
Pennington, N.J. 08534  
609-737-3276

Pennington Shade Tree Commission  
Pennington, NJ  
08534

# XI.5 Tree Guide to Pennington:



## Tree Guide to Pennington, New Jersey



A Tree City USA

Pennington State Tree Commission  
30 North Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534

## Welcome to Pennington

Located in Mercer County in central New Jersey, Pennington is a community known for its small-town ambience and tree-lined streets. Called *Quakersown* in the early 1700s, it quartered British and Hessian troops during the Revolutionary War.

Pennington incorporated as a borough in 1896. The Pennington Park and Shade Tree Commission was organized in 1915 to maintain Kunkel Park, a seven-acre reserve bordering Stony Brook. The park was named for John A. Kunkel, who was instrumental in developing the southern part of town in the late 19th century. Beginning about 1910, William R. Howe, a local nurseryman, developed the borough's south end, where he planted 2,500 shade trees.

Trees cover more than 80 percent of Pennington's one-square-mile area. The borough straddles the watersheds of the Delaware and Raritan rivers. Because it sits on a shale formation, Pennington's soils tend to be poorly drained. Pin oaks do well on such soils, and many have been planted on Pennington streets. Other well-represented species include catalpa pear, Norway spruce, sugar maple, Norway maple, red oak, and zelkova. Kunkel Park has many nice specimens of native forest trees such as American beech, black oak, and stagbark hickory. More than 50 tree species can be found throughout the borough.



Leaf and seed of a tree. Pennington, NJ

## A sampler of trees in Pennington, N.J.

**THE AMERICAN BEECH** (*Fagus grandifolia*). Common wild in mature upland forests. Paper, always toothed leaves remain through winter. Smooth grey bark, flat top crown. White oak on its landscape oak. The similar European beech, including several copper shaded varieties, is a popular ornamental.



**THE AMERICAN BASSWOOD** (*Tilia americana*). Native shrubs from Britain near bark (bark), once used for making rope. Also known as American Linden and has needles in small, round-tipped flowers. Grows 60-100 feet. Smokey Indian Linden is an import from Europe.



**THE AMERICAN PINE** (*Pinus strobus*). One of our native trees. It is killed off by Dutch elm disease, which arrived in 1930s.

**THE AMERICAN HOLY** (*Thuja occidentalis*). One of our native trees. It is killed off by Dutch elm disease, which arrived in 1930s.

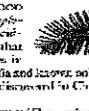
**THE AMERICAN OAK** (*Quercus alba*). Long, thin needles in pairs. Similar in name and pine.

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**THE NORTHERN RED OAK** (*Quercus rubra*). State tree of N.J. and common throughout state except near the shore. Grows 70-90 feet. In 19th century, many trees were planted. Bark, gum and is all. Bark ridged, with fat grey areas. Important timber species.



**THE RED MAPLE** (*Acer rubrum*). Also known as swamp or water maple. Common N.J. forest tree. Red flowers bloom in early spring. Seed pods, leaf stems, and new buds are red. Most Pennington specimens are smaller trees. Many are grown in pot office on Roosevelt Place.



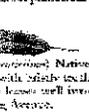
**THE AMERICAN Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*). Native to eastern U.S. and common along streams. One of our native trees. Grows 50-100 feet. Bark white and yellow, peeling. Broad leaves, pebble-like round seed heads. Specimens planted as street trees are usually the related tree on plantations.



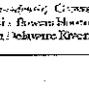
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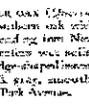
**THE SUGAR MAPLE** (*Acer saccharum*). One of our native trees. Grows 60-100 feet. Bark ridged, with fat grey areas. Important timber species.



**THE WHITE OAK** (*Quercus alba*). One of our native trees. Grows 60-100 feet. Bark ridged, with fat grey areas. Important timber species.



**THE WATER OAK** (*Quercus nigra*). One of our native trees. Grows 60-100 feet. Bark ridged, with fat grey areas. Important timber species.



**THE WHITE OAK** (*Quercus alba*). One of our native trees. Grows 60-100 feet. Bark ridged, with fat grey areas. Important timber species.



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