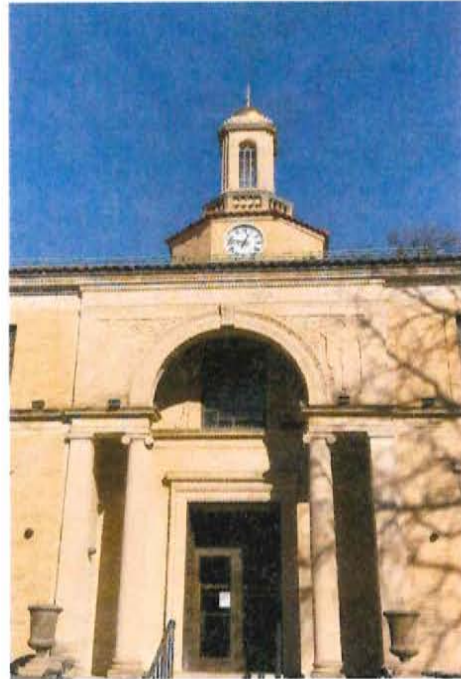
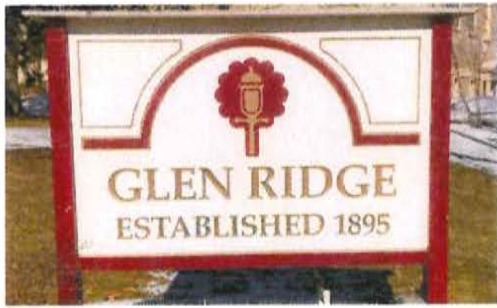



BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE



4th COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2029

Prepared for the Borough of Glen Ridge by RichView Consulting

Appendix 1. Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality	<u>Borough of Glen Ridge</u>
County	<u>Essex County</u>
Address	<u>825 Bloomfield Avenue</u>
	<u>Glen Ridge, NJ 07028</u>
Contact Name and Title	<u>Michael Zichelli, Borough Administrator</u>
Phone #	<u>(973) 748-8400</u>
Fax # and E-mail	<u>mpzichelli@glenridgenj.org ; trees@glenridgenj.org</u>
Organization Name	<u>Prepared by RichView Consulting in cooperation with the Borough of Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission.</u>
Mayor/County Commissioner's	
Signature	<u></u>
Date of Management Plan	
Submission	<u>2/24/2025</u>
Time Period Covered in	
Management Plan	<u>January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2029</u>

Official Office Use Only

The above-named municipality/county has made formal application to the New Jersey Forestry Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forestry 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

Approved Date _____

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Section 1. Introduction & Background

1.1: Mission Statement

The public shade trees of Glen Ridge are our heritage and responsibility. The Shade Tree Commission is charged with developing a flexible strategic plan, practical goals and defined steps to ensure that shade trees are planted, maintained and monitored over time. This commitment to healthy trees represents a long-term investment in the beauty and historic character of Glen Ridge.

1.2: 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 insure 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 and every 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 proactive in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and hazard assessment, we will position the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Glen Ridge to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions will be predicted. 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 Glen Ridge is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents and thereby reduce its exposure to liability and increase public safety."

1.3: Community Overview

1.3.1: Overview

[The Borough of Glen Ridge](#) is a fully developed, urban area with most land categorized as residential. The Borough is situated in [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7a](#) with [25 year climate projections](#) predicting a possible Zone 8 shift. There were no continuous forested parcels large enough to register as pixels in the 1992 [USDA FS National Forest Type Dataset](#) within the Borough. A strip of historic open space running alongside the active rail line and buffering Toney's Brook is dense enough to be categorized as Deciduous Forest in the [NJ DEP 2020 Land Use/ Land Category update](#). This area is affectionately called The Glen, and serves as passive recreational greenspace.. The other dense areas of urban forest canopy appearing in [FS 2016 Tree Canopy Cover data](#) displayed in Figure 1 are on private property.

Street trees comprise most of Glen Ridge's publicly managed tree resource. A significant portion of residences' electric utility lines are located in backyards, with sidewalks featuring active, historic streetside gas lamps. In general, underground gas utilities constrict planting zones, but the lack of overhead utility lines lends to growth of impressive, closed canopy conditions.

The original founders' vision of Glen Ridge was a "residential park" threaded with green spaces and pathways to foster a sense of community connectedness (Glen Ridge, 2014). 129 years after the original vision was documented, the urban forest is central to the Borough's character, with large avenues providing park-like areas and tree lined streets making Glen Ridge a highly desirable place to live.

The Borough is devoted to its community tree resource and has made significant strides in the shift from reactive to proactive mature tree management, "re-greening" efforts, and community engagement. Today, after 25 years of management under 3 consecutive Community Forest Management Plans, Glen Ridge has 3,486 public street trees and a population of 7,969 and canopy cover of 40%, a dedicated [Shade Tree Commission](#), supportive administrators and council, a trained and equipped municipal department of public works, and a [part-time borough forester](#) who is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert.

1.3.2: Community Maps

Map 1. Land Use/Land Cover of the Borough of Glen Ridge. [Source: NJDEP. Configuration date: 1/24/2025](#)



Map 2. Canopy Coverage of the Borough of Glen Ridge.

Source: [TreeCanopy.us](https://treecanopy.us), configuration creation date: 12/9/2024. Current (2023) tree canopy coverage is defined as forests and individual trees. Trees are defined as woody vegetation generally taller than 10-15ft. Canopy displayed as raster layer with 60cm accuracy display over open street base. Census Block Groups are outlined in blue.

Legend
■ Current Canopy (2023)
— Block Group Boundary

Table 1: Canopy Coverage Change Over Time by Census Block Group

Census Block Group ID:	2017 Historic Canopy	2023 Current Canopy	Canopy Change	Relative Change
340130160001	37.4% (54 acres)	37.1% (54 acres)	-0.3% (<1 acres)	-0.8%
340130160002	39.4% (41 acres)	42.6% (44 acres)	+3.3% (3 acres)	+8.4%
340130160003	51.9% (53 acres)	54.7% (55 acres)	+2.8% (3 acres)	+5.4%
340130160004	38.4% (37 acres)	40.6% (39 acres)	+2.1% (2 acres)	+5.6%
340130160005	47.2% (58 acres)	48.5% (59 acres)	+1.3% (2 acres)	+2.8%
340130160006	46.5% (63 acres)	47.2% (64 acres)	+0.7% (1 acres)	+1.6%
340130160007	45.3% (55 acres)	45.6% (55 acres)	+0.3% (<1 acres)	+0.6%



Map 3. Glen Ridge has two OBCs identified by NJ Environmental Justice Law's criteria. 2,496 of Glen Ridge's 7,969 people (31% of the population) live within the green shaded areas.

2022 Overburdened Communities under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law in Glen Ridge Borough, Essex County



An overburdened community is 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. Census block groups with zero population and located immediately adjacent to an OBC are labeled as "adjacent." Existing or proposed facilities located in adjacent block groups may be required to conduct further analysis in accordance with the Environmental Justice Rules.

Disclaimer: The boundary information in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles used for the maps are for statistical data collection and tabulation purposes only; their depiction and designation does not constitute a determination of jurisdictional authority or rights of ownership or entitlement and they are not legal land descriptions.

Municipalities	Toll Road
Municipality of Focus	Interstate
Overburdened Community Criteria	US Highway
Adjacent	State Highway
Limited English	NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Low Income	Date: 12/15/2023
Low Income and Limited English	N
Low Income and Minority	0 0.2 0.4 Miles
Low Income, Minority, and Limited English	
Minority	
Minority and Limited English	

1.3.3: History, Accomplishments, & Barriers to Success

In 1912, the borough's town council passed an ordinance precluding the placement of power lines along its streets. This was done principally so that large trees could be planted. Indeed, 1912 was the year when an allee of pin oaks was planted along Ridgewood Avenue.

In 1914 the original Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission documented a total of 3,738 trees in the borough right of way. Residential streets were being diligently lined with trees in the early and mid 1900s which created some impressive allees of pin oaks and London planes. Unfortunately, starting in the 1960s, it became the policy to plant almost nothing but maples. So, by the end of the century, maples constituted well over 60% of all public trees.

In the 1990s, when the town began to hemorrhage trees, it was due to both maple-decline and the aging out of trees. The 2011 CFMP goal and objectives focused on the immediate need to expertly identify hazardous situations, and prune or remove these unmaintained trees to reduce risk to the public. Removals occurred at a rapid rate, leaving some parts of the Borough uncharacteristically bare.

Prior to the establishment of the Shade Tree Commission in 2010, the borough's arborist planted a wide array of tree species, many of them on the smaller side. The Commission, however, has focused on planting larger trees whenever possible. Fully 70% of the trees planted in the last 5 years have been larger species, predominantly oaks, London planetrees, and American elms.

The Shade Tree Commission participated in the development of the Borough's 2015 CFMP, which introduced a regular maintenance pruning cycle and intensive annual planting goals. In 2019 the Shade Tree Commission far surpassed the 2015-2019 goal to plant 800 trees by planting their 1,000th tree and continued to plant an average of 129 trees each year. In 2021, The Borough of Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission, under leadership of Chair Elizabeth Baker, was awarded the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Achievement Award in recognition of efforts rising to address these challenges with actions producing tangible results and benefits for the community. In 2024 the Borough successfully finished its first rotation of its new 5 year zone-based mature tree maintenance cycle plan.

These combined efforts have balanced the Borough's priorities between prolonging the lives of healthy heritage trees and re-greening the areas left bare after the rapid maple die-off. Resulting in a rapid redistribution of the borough forest composition and structure, creating a proportionally young, diverse, healthier, and safer urban forest for the Community of Glen Ridge.

1.4: Urban Forest Structure, Composition, and Trends

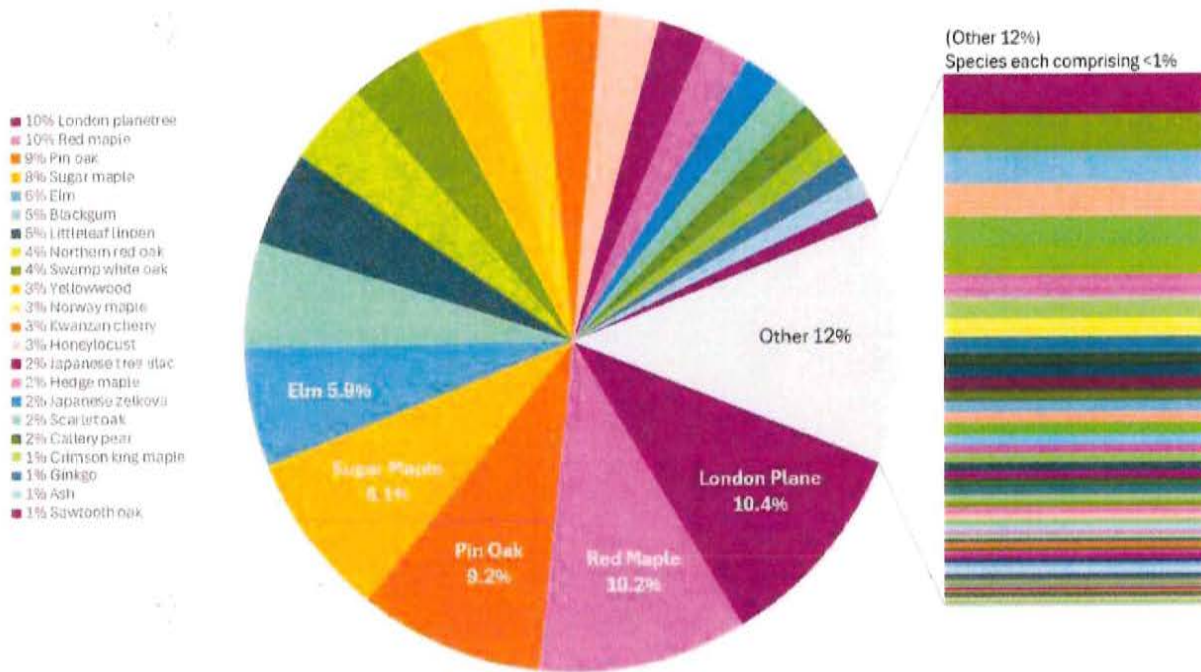
1.4.1 Scope of Data

In 2020 the borough completed its second, modern full street tree inventory. The scope was a full inventory of street and park trees. The data for which is available to the public via the Borough's TreePlotter map online: <https://pg-cloud.com/GlenRidgeBoroughNJ/> The tree inventory is updated using the Borough Arborist's removals and planting lists annually, and in-field whenever RichView Consulting professionals conduct tree work within the Borough. All analysis in section 1.4 is based on the Borough's tree inventory, exported October 2024, which contained: 3,460 "Alive" Trees, and 20 "Dead" Trees at time of export.

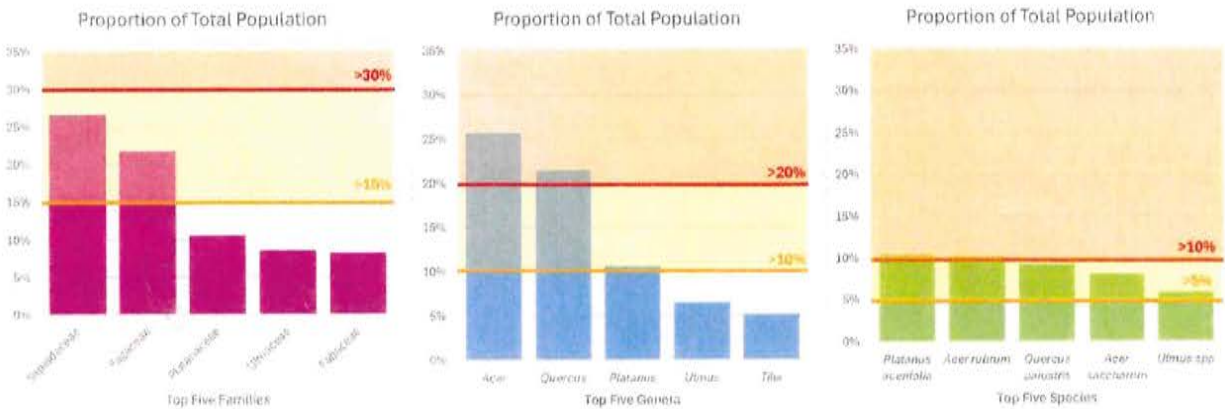
1.4.2 Figures & Discussion

Species Composition: Figure 1: Glen Ridge's street tree inventory species profile contains 83 unique species. Species comprising less than 1% of the Borough's population are in "Other".

Glen Ridge Street Tree Species Composition

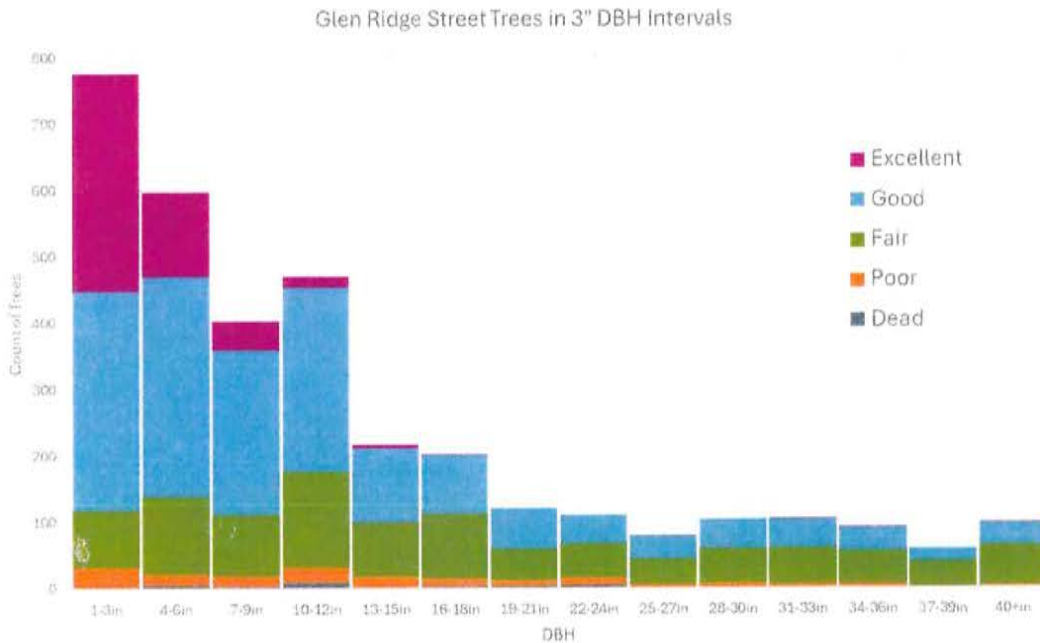


Taxonomic Diversity: Figure 2 shows the top five species, genera, and families with goal markers for the 10-20-30 rule (no more than 10% a single species, no more than 20% a single genus, and no more than 30% a single family), and the more stringent 5-10-15 version of the rule.

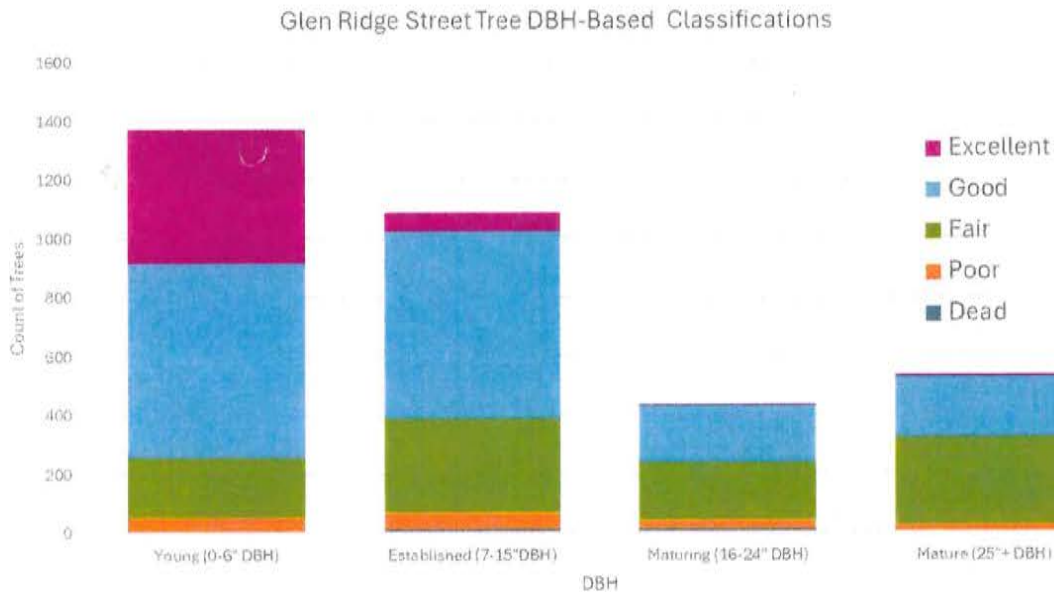


Discussion: When measured against these diversity rules of thumb the Acer genus represents 27% of the population, and is expectedly overstocked with red (10.2%) and sugar (8.1%) maples.

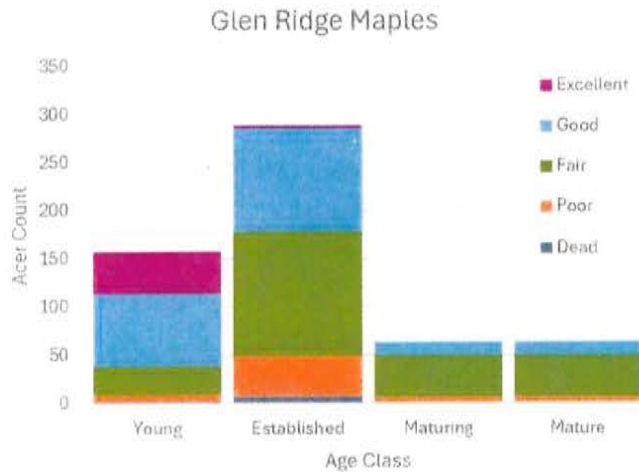
Tree Condition by DBH: Figure 3 illustrates the Glen Ridge DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) distribution in 3-inch intervals as a proportion of the street tree population with each interval column vertically color-coded by condition rating.



Tree Condition by DBH-based size class: Figure 4 groups the previous Figure 3 into Young, Establishing, Maturing, and Mature tree groups based on DBH ranges. Note that in the urban setting small, mature trees skew the left end of the chart, but for tree maintenance purposes these DBH-based Classifications are most useful. Note again the vertically color-coded condition rating amongst each size class interval.



Species Snapshots: Glen Ridge has interesting intraspecies age structures amongst the borough's most common trees, including individuals located within some of the Borough's "Historically Significant Tree Stands. The following information should be considered when making management and species selection decisions.

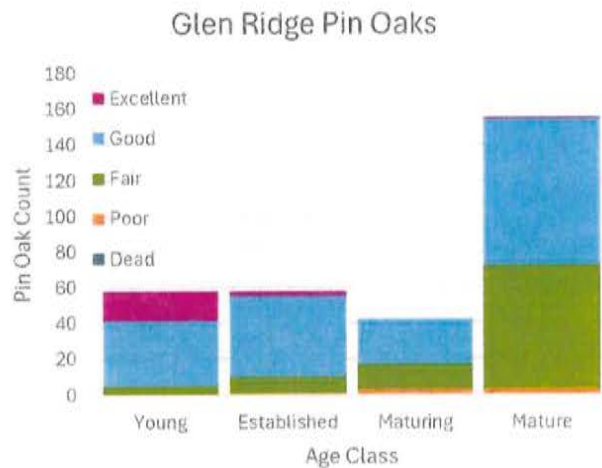


ACER SPP. 27% of street trees. Figure 5 shows Acer spp. Distribution across DBH-based age class with condition ratings.

Discussion: The Borough has been aggressively managing the "maple monoculture problem," so many mature-sized maples have already been removed. Based on the condition ratings of the remaining trees, some younger trees suffered under the stressors that pushed their older counterparts into decline and death. The smaller of the "Fair" trees may yet be resilient enough to recover, but will require continued monitoring.

PIN OAK: Figure 6 shows the pin oak population has a DBH-based age-class distribution opposite that of the borough's overall street tree population (Figure 3)

Discussion: The previous 2015 CFMP mentioned significant numbers of big, stately oaks downed in severe storms. Despite the disruptions Pin oak is still the Borough's 3rd most common tree, with the right-most column of mature pin oaks being approx 4.6% of all Glen Ridge trees and 20% of all Quercus planted in the borough. With Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS), climate-driven environmental stressors, and high frequency, high intensity storms, the remaining "stately" oaks have been showing signs of expedited decline. Continued professional monitoring is necessary.





LONDON PLANETREE: 10.4% of street trees.

Figure 7. Shows the planetree ages in the Borough are very segmented. Image 1 of Carteret St.'s allee planting illustrates why this species is distributed this way.

Discussion: The dense spacing, wire-free, closed canopy provides a stunning visual impact and an enjoyable pedestrian experience. Allee-style plantings are not largely recommended in modern arboriculture as diversity and resilience are the industry's current priorities, but these Glen Ridge streets are a beautiful example of this arboricultural practice. The planetrees have outgrown their locations. These streets are being carefully

stewarded under regular maintenance cycles with removals occurring as necessary. Where appropriate, the installation of new planetrees is softening the abrupt visual gaps in the original uniform lines. This is a purposeful delay of an inevitable character change. Efforts to monitor and safely prolong the lives of remaining healthy, mature planetrees will continue.

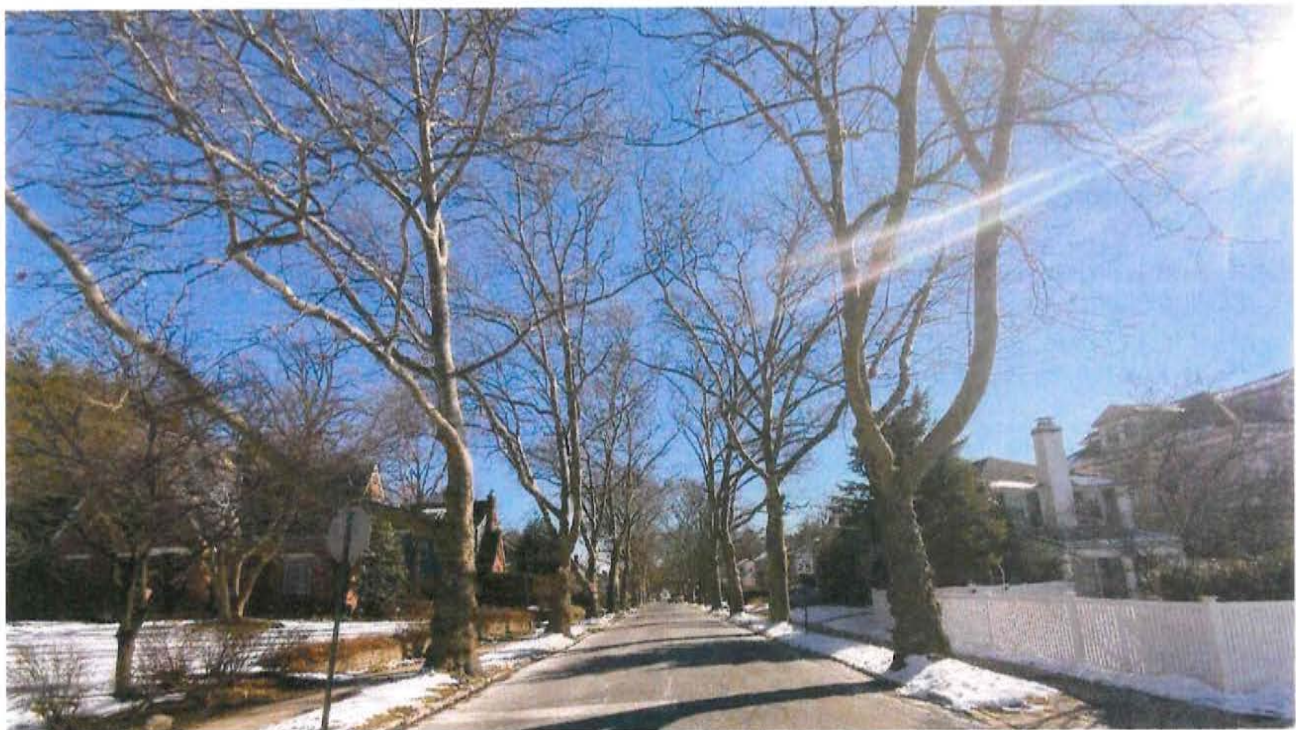
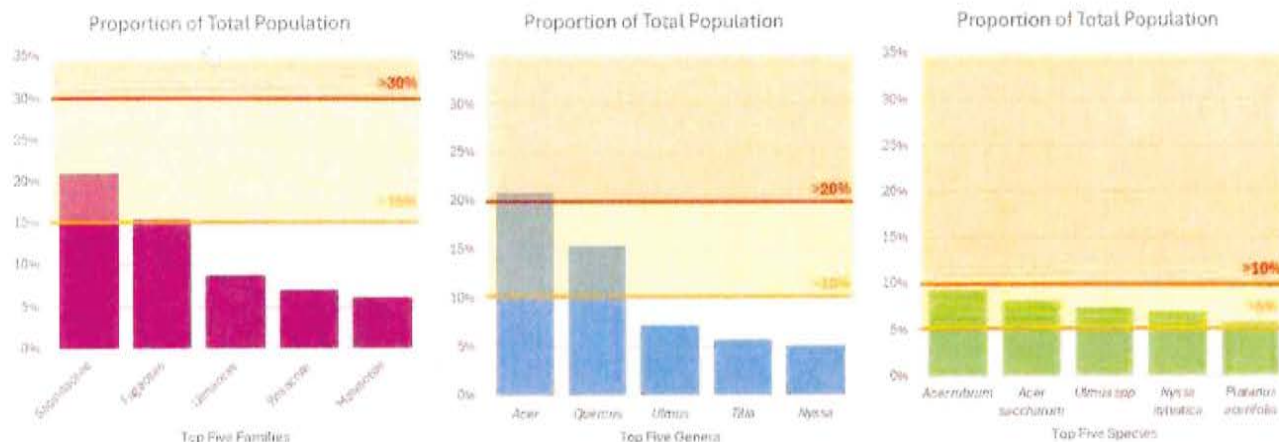


Image 1. Winter photograph of Carteret Street which was identified as a historically significant stand, and is an example of the planetree allee style planting pattern seen present on multiple sections of Borough streets.

Trends: What’s Growing in the Future Forest?

For its size Glen Ridge has undergone proportionally large-scale, rapid succession plantings in the last 10 years. Figure 8 is the same chart as Figure 2 filtered to include only trees <16in DBH (categorized as young and establishing trees). Again, note this skews the chart to favor smaller trees, specifically noting that the family rosaceae has crept into the top 5, but it also provides a glimpse of the future forest being planted in the borough. The biggest changes are Quercus and Platanus because the individuals in those genus are mostly mature. The Pin oaks have dropped off-chart from the 3rd to 8th most common species with Swamp White oak rising to the 7th. And, with the loss of whole streets like Carteret, the Planetrees drop from 1st to 5th common species.



Discussion:

The Commission has been focused on planting larger trees wherever possible. Fully 70 % of the trees planted in the past 5 years have been larger species, predominantly oaks, London planetrees, and American elms. The Commission also recognizes the importance of biodiversity, and the fact that climate change must be a determinant in choosing tree species to plant. Clearly, maples are no longer acclimated to this region. Therefore, southern trees, including black gums, willow oaks, and yellowwoods are being chosen instead. And they are flourishing. In addition, white oaks are being chosen over red oaks, because the latter are not proving resilient to the effects of climate change.

Obviously, the borough will never again enjoy solid allees of pin oaks or London planetrees gracing its streets. Biodiversity is essential. However, it is hoped that the town's park-like character will be maintained by having a mixture of large and graceful trees, just as the 1912 town council intended.

1.5: Overall Program Goals

- ★ Proactively manage Borough trees to prioritize public safety and the long-term sustainability of the Glen Ridge community forest.
- ★ Foster community appreciation for the Borough’s Tree Resource and its many benefits.
- ★ Steward the Glen Ridge community forest to create a high-quality canopy cover and retain the Borough’s historic park-like character.

1.6: Plan Connections and Other Considerations

The shade tree program of Glen Ridge has been written into the past two Master Plan Reexamination Reports in increasing detail and with acknowledgement of the Shade Tree Commission's work.

The original 2003 Master Plan Goals alludes to trees:

- "To preserve and improve the existing open space and recreation areas of the Borough and seek to strategically expand available land."
- "To encourage preservation of the Borough's historic nature within its historic districts."
- "To provide a network of publicly owned park areas and permanently preserved open space. [Including, the] retention of Toney's Brook and the Glen in their natural state."

In the 2010 Reexamination Report, a Sustainability Element is added with board goals of:

- "To improve the environment"
- "To reduce energy use"
- "To promote healthy living habits."
- "To create transportation choices."

In the 2020 Reexamination Report the importance of trees and their role in helping the Borough meet those 2010 Sustainability Element objectives is detailed; specifying that the Borough should: "Continue to promote the preservation and planting of trees and other vegetation that absorb carbon dioxide and air pollutants." Further detailing that "The Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission provides educational material to promote planting new trees and how to care for the existing tree inventory in the Borough [and that] the Borough should continue to support these initiatives of the Shade Tree Commission."

The 2020 Reexamination Report contains a "Shade Tree Management" review section, and those recommendations guide the program's actions, including notes that:

- Replacement of the dying maple street trees should continue.
- The Community Forestry Master Plan (2014-2019) is outdated and an update should be prepared.
- The Borough should continue the five-year maintenance pruning cycle moving forward.

The work of the Shade Tree Commission is also highlighted with notes that the Borough should continue "to educate residents about the environmental importance of trees [and that] they should also be informed about ways in which they can promote tree growth through irrigation and ensuring that young trees are not damaged by power mowers, wire whips, or the pyramiding of mulch."

In 2014, the Borough Shade Tree Commission worked with a Landscape Architect to review and categorize existing street trees and specifically plan future plantings in the Community Forest Master Plan of 2014. This project overall cataloged the Borough street trees through an aesthetic design perspective in an effort to promote, preserve, and enhance some of the Borough's unique character through its trees.

Utilizing canopy-coverage maps, the Master plan identifies gaps in canopy, assesses the design patterns of the streets in question and makes planting recommendations with the aesthetic of those streetscapes in mind. Some of the older, closed canopy allee plantings have been identified as "Historically Significant Tree Stands." The Borough's "Gateway Streets + Intersections" were also identified.

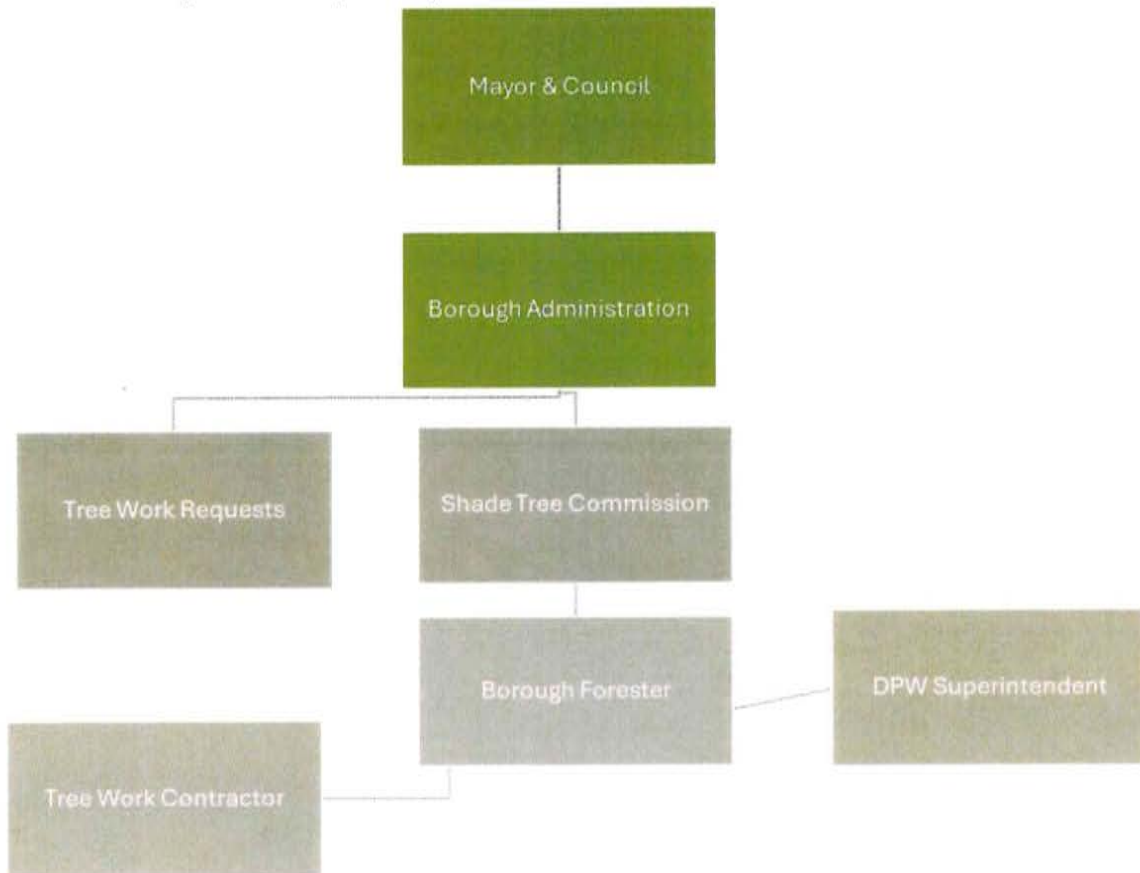
Since the 2014 tree planting Community Forest Master Plan was written, the Borough has planted over 1,500 new trees, and the community forest structure and composition has changed

dramatically. A review of whether the Shade Tree Commission's new plantings have indeed achieved the aesthetic objectives detailed in the planting Master Plan should be conducted. The plantings have given the Borough the jumpstart it needed for re-greening. Time will also be required to allow the new trees to establish and fill the canopy gaps in which they were planted, allowing the community to start reaping the benefits of their new trees.

The main objectives of the planting Master Plan should be continually referenced to maintain an organized and intentional design. But even though the Borough has shifted to a more sustainable planting schedule, reducing the annual number planted from 200 to 100 to maintain an uneven community forest age structure will help avoid periods of intense mature tree maintenance pressure in the future.

Section 2 | Community Forestry Program Capacity

2.1: Community Forestry Program Administration



The Borough has an elected Mayor and Council form of government. The current Mayor is Deborah Mans. The Council members are:

- Steve Zimet
- Rich Law
- Peter A. Hughes

LoriJeane Moody
David Lefkovits
Rebecca Meyer

The Borough Administrator and Staff Liaison to the Shade Tree Commission is Michael P. Zichelli.

The Borough contracts the majority of its large tree work. Work lists are accumulated for contract work, and bidding process, including the annual mature tree (>6 inch DBH) maintenance pruning within the next sequential zone and removals.

Smaller tree and ground-level type work is largely conducted in-house. The Borough Forester has worked extensively with the DPW to provide hands-on BMP arboricultural and safety trainings to build an in-house tree crew.

The DPW tree crew has been provided the proper training and equipment to confidently and safely perform small tree emergency work, plantings, prunings, small tree removals, watering, mulching.

Tree Inventory verifications and updates are conducted by RichView Consulting LTEs and Certified Arborists.

Tree Work Requests come through the Borough website Tree Request Center's "[Request a tree inspection](#)" form, and are compiled via email message to Borough Administration and the Shade Tree Commission, which are then transferred to the Borough Forester. The Borough Forester reviews requests, conducts inspections, and reports findings back to the Shade tree Commission/Administration on a monthly basis. Communicating in-house work lists to the DPW as necessary.

Requests for information are also received via the Borough Forester's email, phone voicemail, and the Shade Tree Commission email, all of which are published clearly on the Borough website.

Residents selected to receive a tree are notified prior tree plantings, provided tree care tips, shown how to use the gator bag, and encouraged to water their new trees. As weather determines the DPW and/or RichView professional monitors the gator bags returning with tank to refill bags that are not being properly filled by residents in times of need.

The members of the Shade Tree Commission are appointed by the Mayor. The current members are:

Elizabeth K. Baker, Chair
Robert Baum
Joan Lisovicz
Tina Seaboch
Julie Zichelli

2.2: Partnerships (NGOs, nonprofit organizations, interdepartmental)

The Borough of Glen Ridge coordinates readily with internal, external, and neighboring local governments in the interest of pooling municipal resources and strengthening community connections. Examples of these standing partnerships and recurring projects include:

- Contracting of Bloomfield street sweeping, Montclair water and fire department services.
- The Glen Ridge Rotary Club hosts the Borough Forester for talks on trees.
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts participate in Arbor Day Events.
- The Annual Eco-Fair hosts a table for the Shade Tree Commission to promote tree related information which sometimes includes tree seedlings.

- **Eagle Scout Projects:** The Borough Shade Tree Commission collaborated in a successful Eagle Scout project and continues to encourage the community's youngest environmental stewards.
 - **Completed Project:** Eagle Scout Sam Zichelli led the charge to procure 21 native tree species, which he planted in one of the Borough's open space areas, the Upper Glen, creating a mini arboretum. Today the mini arboretum is an interactive, outdoor learning space, dedicated to the memory of Charles Roberts. (Shade Tree Commission, 2020) Updated with informative signs in 2023, the arboretum's presence encourages residents to engage in passive recreation in the natural area of the Glen.

2.3: Training

The Borough has the following CORE Trained Community Representatives listed on the active NJUCF accreditation record including:

- **Current Shade Tree Commissioners:**
 - Elizabeth Baker (Chair)
 - Julie Zichelli
 - Joan Lisovicz
 - Robert Baum
 - Tina Seaboch
- **Municipal Employees:**
 - Michael Zichelli (Borough Administrator & STC Liaison)

The Borough consistently meets annual continuing education requirements. Shade Tree Liaison and Borough Administrator Michael Zichelli regularly attends NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conferences for ideas to enhance the Borough's shade tree management. Current and past Shade Tree Commissioners also participate in in-person and digital trainings and classes to further their understanding of community forestry.

See Section 4, Element E1.2 for details on future Continuing Education.

The Borough Forester is a part-time municipal contract employee. Richard Wolowicz has over 40 years of experience in arboriculture, traditional forestry, vegetation management, and the utility industry. Richard Wolowicz is a NJ Licensed tree expert, NJ Pesticide Applicator, ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Expert. Richard operates via RichView Consulting and retains LTEs, ISA TRAQ and Certified Arborists. The Borough Forester regularly attends continuing education courses and training to maintain these professional licenses.

The Department of Public Works has found hands-on training to be the most effective way to bolster the tree crew's skills. In the past, the NJ Committee for the Advancement of Arboriculture has been hosted to provide in-house, hands-on training. The topics of these trainings are planned by the DPW Superintendent and Borough Forester to address specific safety and BMP arboricultural tasks such as:

- Chainsaws & Safety
- Proper tree planting
- Proper tree mulching
- Proper tree pruning (small trees)
- Basic tree identification
- Awareness of Electrical Utility safety and zones.
- Basic pest and disease identification.

See Section 4, Element E1.3 for details on desired future training and education.

2.4: Budget

Statement of 5-year Tree Budget		CFMP Budget
Administration	Municipal Salaries	130,855
	Fringe	
	Indirect Costs	
	Volunteer Contribution <small>(Rate can be found at www.independentsector.org)</small>	11,250
	Other	
UCF Stewardship	Planting	131,1417.8
	Pruning	108,750
	Removal	485,025
	Insect/Disease Management	5,700
	Stump Removal	
	Other	4,252.95
Education and Outreach	Training and Education (Municipal/County Employee)	30,158.25
	Training and Education (Volunteers)	9,000
	Public Outreach	
	Other	
Total		\$2,094,409

2.5: Equipment

- Basic Equipment: Water truck, gator bags, hand tools, power tools
- Specialized Equipment: 2 chippers and 1 stump grinder, Lithium-ion, battery-powered, telescoping pole pruner.

- Software Subscription: TreePlotter.

The Borough is also investigating the possibility of procuring a spider lift.

Section 3 | Community Engagement and Well-being

The Borough of Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission has been working on resident-centered education initiatives for over ten years. This effort produced an extensive bank of publicly available resources on the [Borough website](#).

In 2014 the Shade Tree Commission worked with a Landscape Architect to produce a homeowner guidebook containing recommendations for species, site considerations, and care tips called [The Glen Ridge Street Tree Resource Booklet](#). This booklet was published in conjunction with the [Community Forest Master Plan](#) to kick off an organized and cohesive Borough re-greening effort.

The Borough also maintains a more interactive, clickable catalog of suggested street trees called the [Glen Ridge Shade Tree Index](#). The Index was created so residents could see information on species, cultivars, characteristics, form, mature height and spread, use (in reference to recommended planting space size), limitations. The index even includes the names of the streets on which specimens may be found in the Borough so homeowners can find and visit a specimen in person before selecting their own tree.

The Shade Tree Commission webpage also includes:

- Mission Statement,
- narratives on the importance of Glen Ridge's community forest,
- a link to the Borough's inventory hosted in TreePlotter,
- the Tree Request Center online form,
- contact information,
- Annual Reports,
- and homeowner tailored tree educational materials.

In addition to maintaining the website, the Shade Tree Commission sends digital newsletter [GReen Flash](#) to email subscribers and stewards an active [Facebook Account](#).

As a Tree City USA community recognized for 26 years of participation, Glen Ridge celebrates Arbor Day annually with the signing of an [Arbor Day proclamation](#). Spring tree plantings are also featured as part of the Annual Arbor Day celebration.

Urban Forests provide a variety of benefits, and Glen Ridge's high canopy coverage (45%) is a contributing factor to the borough's low heat vulnerability index, high walkability, and proportionally high real estate values.

Glen Ridge has an extremely high composite [Tree Equity Score](#) of 95/100. Minority Populations, Children & Seniors, and Heat Disparity are the 3 most frequent score indicators in the American Forests Tree Equity Score Priority Index across Glen Ridge census block groups, with Block group 340130160004 ranked highest priority. Block group 340130160004 and Block group 340130160007 are Overburdened Communities identified by NJ Environmental Justice Law criteria. See Map 3, page 7. When canopy coverage is compared across block groups, Block 340130160004 had a good relative canopy increase but is proportionally low in coverage compared to the rest of the Borough. See Table 1, page 6. Block group 340130160007 had a negligible canopy increase from 2017 to 2023. Based on the SAF Tree Equity Scores and the Relative Canopy changes shown in

Table 1, the Borough of Glen Ridge's population is benefitting from public tree management, and block groups 340130160004 and 340130160007 stand to gain the most community health benefits from continued investment in the public tree resource.

Section 4 | Plan Implementation

4.1: Elements, Objectives, and Action Items:

CFMP Element 1: Training and Education

E1.1: CORE Training

Objective 1: Retain the minimum required number of CORE Trained Community Representatives in each category.

Action Item 1: Send new members of the Shade Tree Commission to CORE Training. (Bi-Annually)

E1.2: Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Objective 1: Meet the annual continuing education requirement of 8 CEUs earned amongst at least 2 individuals.

Action Item 1: Send new commission member(s) and a town employee to the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference or other appropriate training opportunities (Fall, Annually).

E1.3: Other

Objective 1: Continue Department of Public Works personnel training on proper use of equipment, BMPs of pruning, planting, and safety.

Action Item 1: Borough Forester coordinates with DPW Superintendent to plan DPW employee training. (Winter, Annually)

Action Item 2: Borough Forester conducts quality inspections and provides comments on DPW work. (As necessary)

Objective 2: Additional Safety training for DPW.

Action Item 1: Inquire about chipper equipment operation and safety training with CAA, Committee for the Advancement of Arboriculture. (Winter, 2025).

Objective 3: Promote sidewalk repair practices that minimize tree root damage.

Action Item 1: Seek staff and volunteer training on the topic of sidewalk and tree root damage. (2025)

Action Item 2: Practice new knowledge by communicating proper practices interdepartmentally and to homeowners. (2027-2029)

CFMP Element 2: Community Forest Ordinance(s)

E2.1: Establishing Ordinance (1543 Sections 12.26-1,2,3,4)

Objective 1: Maintain a fully functional 5 member Commission as per ordinance 1543, Sections 12.26-1,2,3,4.

Action Item 1: Report any vacancies to the Mayor. (As necessary)

Action Item 2: Conduct Commission meetings. (Monthly)

E2.2: Supplemental Ordinance

Objective 1: Exercise the powers of Commission as charged in 1543 Section 12.26-5 to monitor the regulation, planting and care of shade and ornamental trees in public highway and park or parkway.

Action Item 1: Participate in shade tree program project development and reporting. (As necessary)

Action Item 2: Collaborate with the Borough Forester to compile work lists and priority planting areas. (As necessary)

Action Item 3: Collaborate with the Borough Forester and Borough Administration to ensure budgets are appropriate for work to be conducted. (Summer, Annually)

Objective 2: Implement new Ordinance 1811, establishing Chapter 12.29 Permits for the Removal of Trees on Private Property.

Action Item 1: Maintain current Tree Removal Application on Borough website. (As necessary)

Action Item 2: Continue following procedure for the receipt, review, inspection, reporting, and record-keeping of all private tree removal permits. (Weekly)

Action Item 3: Report the costs of enforcement, application fees, escrow fees, and replacement alternative fees. (Winter, Annually)

Action Item 4: Review the effectiveness of the new private tree removal permitting procedure and modify as necessary. (2025, 2026)

Action Item 5: Utilize the tree removal permits to track the number of trees removed and replaced or removed and not replaced in the Borough. (Annually).

CFMP Element 3: Tree Resource Management

E3.1: Comprehensive Inventory of Street and/ or Park Trees

Objective 1: Maintain an up-to-date street tree inventory.

Action Item 1: Document the species and locations of street trees planted in the TreePlotter database. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 2: Assess the condition of newly planted trees during their second (monitoring) inspection and update in the TreePlotter. (Annually)

Action Item 3: Update data point status of the street trees removed in the TreePlotter database. (Annually)

Action Item 4: Maintain an active TreePlotter license subscription to host the web-based GIS tree inventory database. (Annually)

Action Item 5: Explore grant and funding options for an inventory update project. (Winter 2025).

E3.2: Tree Risk Assessment

Objective 1: Prioritize public safety in the Borough.

Action Item 1: Perform a bi-annual survey for potentially hazardous trees. (Winter) & (Early-Fall).

Action Item 2: Resolve any immediate identified hazards by either contracting out this work to a tree expert company or performing the work in house (should the trees be within the capabilities of the resources, equipment and skill level of the DPW). (Winter) & (Early-Fall)

Action Item 3: Should a situation requiring an advanced risk assessment be performed the TRAQ trained LTE of RichView Consulting is called in to provide a visual assessment and documentation. (As necessary)

E3.3: Tree Maintenance

E3.3.1: Pruning

Objective 1: Systematize the mature tree zone pruning schedule so each public tree >6" DBH is maintenance pruned every 5 years.

Action Item 1: Send RFP detailing pruning specifications written in accordance with industry BMPs out to bid at the end of the year. (Annually)

Action Item 2: Conduct a professional windshield survey of the job zone to produce a by-street stick count of trees >6" DBH prior to work period. (Annually)

Action Item 3: The Forester monitors job progress to ensure work is conducted in accordance with job specifications and industry BMPs. (As necessary)

Objective 2: Develop a program for elevating and training public young trees (<6" DBH) at least once every 3 years.

Action Item 1: Use previous years' tree planting lists to estimate the average number of young trees requiring structural and/or elevation pruning. (Annually)

Action Item 2: Streets with established trees (<6", and approx 3 years old) are put on the work list for a RichView Consulting professional to conduct pruning work. (Winter or as needed)

E3.3.2: Watering

Objective 1: Maintain a robust watering program for trees <2 years old to encourage high survivorship.

Action Item 1: Install a gator bag upon new tree installation. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 2: Encourage residents to water their new trees. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 3: Monitor new plantings, filling gator bags as needed with DPW's water truck or RichView Consulting tank. (Weather dependent)

Action Item 4: Remove gator bags in late fall to prolong the life of the equipment and reduce the chance of excess trunk bark moisture over winter and reinstall in spring. (Bi-annually)

E3.3.3: Mulching

Objective 1: Ensure new trees are properly mulched.

Action Item 1: Upon installation donut mulch the planting area to the drip line. (Bi-annually)

Action Item 2: Upon installation educate homeowners on proper mulching, anti-volcano techniques. (Bi-annually)

Action Item 3: When watering young trees note and correct any improper mulching. (Weather dependent)

Objective 2: Educate homeowners on proper tree mulching.

Action Item 1: Maintain the Borough's website online resources. (Continuously)

Action Item 2: Consider posting proper mulching infographics on the Shade Tree Commission Facebook and GReenFlash newsletter. (Bi-Annually)

E3.3.4: Tree Removals

Objective 1: Prompt removal of dead and diseased public trees.

Action Item 1: Conduct the bi-annual tree survey for potentially hazardous trees. (Winter) & (Early-Fall)

Action Item 2: Remove dead and diseased trees within 6 months of their marking. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 3: Budget to contract the large tree removal work lists. (Fall)

Action Item 4: Produce a small tree removal work list for the DPW to handle in-house. (Bi-Annually)

E3.3.5: Other

Objective 1: Utilize the Tree Request Center forms to ensure reliable responsiveness to residents' questions and concerns.

Action Item 1: Feature the forms prominently on the Borough website. (Continuously)

Action Item 2: Review form submissions and forward inspection lists to the Borough Forester (Weekly).

Action Item 3: The Borough Arborist conducts tree inspections and returns necessary reports and/or work recommendations. (Weekly).

Action Item 4: The Borough Arborist compiles tree inspection and removal statistics and provides a narrative to the Administration and Shade Tree Commission. (Bi-Monthly)

E3.4: Tree Planting

Objective 1: Ensure new trees are of good stock and properly installed.

Action Item 1: Inspect deliveries to ensure trees match bid specifications (proper species, caliper, form, good quality, etc.) prior to installation. (Bi-annually)

Action Item 2: The Borough Forester conducts post-installation quality-control inspections with recommended corrections or comments provided to DPW. (Bi-annually)

Objective 2: Maintain an active memorial tree and request-a-tree program.

Action Item 1: Receive tree requests via email or direct contact to Borough Administration. (Continuously)

Action Item 2: Field visit to assess suitability of potential planting sites. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 3: Be available to communicate with the homeowner before and after tree installation, either in person or via email. (Spring, Fall)

Objective 3: Utilize the Tree Planting Master Plan to inform planting projects.

Action Item 1: Select species that will maintain the street “planting patterns” identified by the master plan when applicable. (As necessary)

Action Item 2: Prioritize sites on streets identified as having large gaps in canopy. (As necessary)

Action Item 3: Maintain the visual impact of the “gateways” with their specimen species. (As necessary)

Objective 4: Promote a tree planting program that prioritizes high quality canopy coverage.

Action Item 1: Plan to plant approximately 50 trees per planting season, adjusting as necessary based on removal counts to achieve no-net-loss of street trees. (Bi-annually)

Action Item 2: Exercise Right Tree, Right Place practices to ensure trees have sufficient soil and air space to grow to maximum potential. (Continuously)

Action Item 3: Reserve large, park potential planting locations for the installation of large shade trees. (Continuously)

Action Item 4: Utilize survivorship, condition, climate predictions, and site data from new plantings to make informed species recommendations. (The Street Tree Resource Book).

E3.5: Insect and Disease Management

Objective 1: Mitigate Invasive Insect Impact

Action Item 1: Continue the Ash tree treatment regimen to defend against EAB (Emerald Ash Borer). (Annually)

Action Item 2: Monitor the Borough’s Ailanthus specimens for the return of SLF (Spotted Lanternfly) with the intention of reactivating the trap-tree program if necessary. (Bi-Monthly)

Objective 2: Educate homeowners on BLD (Beech Leaf Disease)

Action Item 1: Consider utilizing the Shade Tree Commission Facebook and GRGreenFlash newsletter to post informative graphics and pictures of BLD identification. (Spring- Summer, 2025)

Action Item 2: Monitor the phone, email, and Tree Request Center for BLD inquiries. (Continuously).

Objective 3: Monitor the Borough’s oak trees for BLS (Bacterial Leaf Scorch)

Action Item 1: Monitor the Borough’s over-mature pin oak population for signs of expedited decline. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 2: Communicate with the County of Essex regarding the condition of aging oak trees in ROW of county road Ridgewood Ave. (Bi-Annually)

Action Item 3: Collaborate with the County of Essex to help facilitate home-owner communication regarding the management and removals of county road oak trees. (As necessary)

Action Item 4: Assist the county by performing minor streetscape improvements, including the planting and maintenance of small trees to help keep this road section green, healthy, and safe. (Bi-Annually).

E3.6: Tree and/or Mulch Utilization

Objective 1: Maintain municipal wood chipping program, free to residents.

Action 1: Schedule annual Christmas tree pick-up/ drop-off days. (Winter)

Action 2: Send DPW crew out to capture post-storm woody debris. (Weather dependent)

Action 3: Utilize the Borough website and news releases to inform residents of free woody debris/Christmas tree pick-up/drop off schedule. (Annually Winter, As required).

Action 4: Allow free woodchip pick-up at DPW yard, per request. (As required)

Objective 2: Explore the possibilities of local urban wood utilization.

Action 1: Contact local craftspeople and furniture makers to poll interest. (2025).

Action 2: Design a "shovel-ready" case study/ pilot project. (2026)

Action 3: Implement case study/ pilot project(s) as opportunities arise. (2026-2029)

Action 4: Review the success/ failure of each case study project to gauge the possibility of upscaling and/or addressing supply chain limiting factors in next 5-year CFMP. (Fall 2029)

E3.8: Tree Bed Improvement:

E3.8.4: Supply appropriate tree protection against deer.

Objective 1: Protect trees against deer.

Action Item 1: Note areas observed to have excessive deer rub or graze. (As necessary)

Action Item 2: Install deer protection (corrugated pipe) on new trees of significant caliper or cage-style for seedlings.

Action Item 3: Monitor young trees fitted with deer protection for excessive moisture or clearing of debris upon their second (monitoring) inspection. (Annually)

CFMP Element 4: Community and Capacity

E4.1: Building Capacity

E4.1.1: Partnerships

Objective 1: Maintain Tree City USA recognition.

Action Item 1: Submit application via [Tree City USA Portal](#) at the end of the year. (Feb 15, Annually)

Objective 2: Support the Borough's [Sustainable Jersey](#) gold star pursuit by being available for collaboration with the Glen Ridge Environmental Committee.

Action Item 1: Maintain accurate annual records of Community Forestry annual activities.

Action Item 2: Supply documentation for Sustainable Jersey Action point applications in renewal years. (Triennial)

E4.1.2: Community Involvement and Participation

Objective 1: Utilize community events and spaces to encourage appreciation and understanding of Glen Ridge's tree resource.

Action Item 1: Consider participating in the Annual [Arts & Eco-Fair](#).

Action Item 2: Communicate with STC/ [Public Library](#) Board Liaison about volunteer opportunities, tree plantings, free trees for residence programs, and support community library programs about trees.

E4.2: Education and Outreach Events

Objective 1: Celebrate Arbor Day.

Action Item 1: Submit to the mayor for the reading and signing of the Annual Glen Ridge Arbor Day proclamation.

Action Item 2: Select the location of the Arbor Day Tree Planting.

Action Item 3: Plan proper planting demonstration.

Action Item 4: Publish special edition Arbor Day GReen Flash & social media posts.

Objective 2: Coordinate Girlscout troop seedling planting.

Action Item 1: Select a location in need of reforestation or stewarded naturalization.

Action Item 2: Order tree seedlings and materials.

Action Item 3: Host the Girl Scouts for seedling planting and clean-up project.

Objective 3: Tree ID walk in the Glen Arboretum.

Action Item 1: Schedule the tree ID walk.

Action Item 2: Advertise via newsletter, social media, and public library calendar boards.

Action Item 3: Host the walk.

E4.3: Outreach Materials**Objective 1: Update The Shade Tree Resource Guide.**

Action Item 1 : Compile survivorship data on 2015- 2020 of plantings done under the Glen Ridge Community Forest Master Plan.

Action Item 2: Update publication to remove unsuitable/ low survivorship species and add climate resilient species.

Action item 3: Do a facebook & newsletter blast to direct resident attention to the updated publication.

Objective 2: Explore the possibility of a Step-By-Step guide to sidewalk repair for homeowners.

Action Item 1: Schedule a planning session to compile Borough ordinances and identify the frequently observed sidewalk repair practices that are harming Borough Trees.

Action Item 2: Solicit quotes from qualified writers for the guide booklet.

Action Item 3: Upon publishing, post a facebook & newsletter blast to direct attention to the new homeowner resource.

Objective 3: Use the GReen Flash newsletter to encourage tree education and appreciation.

Action Item 1: Summarize common resident concerns or questions as content ideas for the authoring commissioner.

Action Item 2: Use the GreenFlash to publish the Shade Tree Commission schedule of volunteer or educational events.

CFMP Element 5: Disaster Planning**E5.1: Storm Readiness, Response, and Recovery****Objective 1: Maintain a list of emergency tree work contractors.**

Action Item 1: The Borough Forester contacts local tree care service companies to determine whether they are willing and able to safely handle emergency and storm-related work calls in the coming year. (Annually)

Action Item 2: The Borough Forester is on-call to assess emergency storm-related large tree calls such as uprootings or splits/cracks. (Weather Dependent)

Action Item 3: The Borough Forester is on-call to facilitate immediate contracting of large tree emergency work to tree care companies. (Weather Dependent)

Borough of Glen Ridge 4th Community Forest Management Plan

Activity Schedule

Glen Ridge 4th Community Forest Management Plan

	Year 1: 2023			Year 2: 2024			Year 3: 2025			Year 4: 2026			Year 5: 2027								
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Objectives	Description	Occurrence																				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
21. Forest Stewardship	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A	21.01.01.A

Objectives	Description	Occurrence																					
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
22. Tree Resource Management	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A	22.01.01.A

Activity Schedule

Glen Ridge 4th Community Forest Management Plan

CRRP Element, Objective, and Action Items	Year 1, 2023												Year 2, 2024												Year 3, 2025												Year 4, 2026												Year 5, 2027																			
	Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
12. Winter																																																																				
12.12.01.01	Order one yardline and materials																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Test the GEM System for webbing, jacking and blowup																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the GEM System																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Advise the fire crew of webbing, cord needs and parts for any defector boards.																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the first GEM web																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the second GEM web																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the third GEM web																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the fourth GEM web																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the fifth GEM web																																																																			
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12.12.01.01	Install the thirteenth GEM web																																																																			
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12.12.01.01	Install the fifteenth GEM web																																																																			
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12.12.01.01	Install the nineteenth GEM web																																																																			
12.12.01.01	Install the twentieth GEM web																																																																			

2024 near and ABOVE this one

Section 5 | Appendices

Ordinance No. 1543.....	31-35
Ordinance No. 1588.....	36-39
Ordinance No. 1811.....	40-46

ORDINANCE 1543**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE, COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADDING CHAPTER 12.26, SHADE TREE COMMISSION TO THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, County of Essex, and State of New Jersey that Chapter 12.26, Shade Tree Commission, is hereby added to the Code of the Borough of Glen Ridge, as follows:

SECTION 12.26-1 Commission; personnel; appointment.

The regulation, planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and woody shrubs upon and in (1) the streets, highways, public spaces owned by the Borough of Glen Ridge and which provide public access, allowing for activities such as pedestrian and vehicular travel, active and passive recreation, and flood control, and (2) parks and parkways of the Borough of Glen Ridge except State highways, unless the Department of Transportation shall assent thereto and except county highways, parks and parkways, if a County Shade Tree Commission is operative and gives assent to, shall be exercised by and under the authority of Glen Ridge Borough Shade Tree Commission, which is hereby created.

The Commission shall consist of five (5) members, and may include not more than two alternate members. The members and alternate members shall be appointed by the Mayor with Council consent, and shall be residents of the Borough of Glen Ridge and shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 12.26-2 First Commission; subsequent Commissions; terms.

The first Commissioners, shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this ordinance, and their terms of office shall commence upon the date of their appointment and be for the respective periods: 5 members - of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years. The terms of each appointee shall be designated in his appointment. All subsequent appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for the full term of five years, to take effect on January 1, next succeeding such appointment. In event that the membership of the Commission is increased, the new members shall be appointed in such manner that the terms shall expire in accordance with the foregoing.

If the ordinance provides for the appointment of two alternate members, the terms of each alternate member shall be five years commencing on January 1 of the year of appointment; provided, however, that in the event two alternate members are appointed the initial term of "Alternate No. 1" shall be five years, and the initial term of "Alternate No. 2" shall be four years. An alternate member may participate in discussions of the proceedings but may not vote except in the absence or disqualification of a regular member. A vote shall not be delayed in order that a regular member may vote instead of an alternate member.

SECTION 12.26-3 Organization; salaries of officer and employees.

The Commission 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 chairman, and the appointment of a secretary, who need not be a member. The salary of the secretary, who may be compensated even if a member of the Commission shall be fixed by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge.

SECTION 12.26-4 Vacancies.

Any vacancy occurring by reason of the death, resignation or removal of any Commissioner shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Mayor or other chief executive of the Borough of Glen Ridge Borough of Glen Ridge.

SECTION 12.26-5 Powers of Commission.

The Shade Tree Commission organized under this ordinance shall have power to:

- A. Exercise full and exclusive control over the regulation, planting and care of shade and ornamental trees and woody shrubs now located, or which may hereafter be planted in any (1) public highway and (2) park or parkway, except such as are excluded pursuant to Section I of this ordinance including the planting, trimming, spraying, care and protection thereof;
- B. Control the use of the publicly owned ground surrounding the same, so far as may be necessary for their proper growth, care and protection;
- C. With the advice of the Borough Forester, move or require the removal of any tree, or part thereof, dangerous to public safety;
- D. Administer treatment to, or remove, any tree situated upon private property which is believed to harbor a disease of insects readily communicable to neighboring healthy trees in the care of the Borough of Glen Ridge and enter upon private property for that purpose, with the consent of the owner thereof, provided the suspected condition is first confirmed by certificate issued by or on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The work of such removal shall be done by or at the expense of the owner or tenant of such lands, and shall be done under the supervision of the Forester.
- E. Encourage arboriculture.

SECTION 12.26-6 Exclusions

The Shade Tree Commission organized under this ordinance shall not have power to:

- A. Make, alter, amend or repeal ordinances.
- B. Assess abutting homeowner for the planting or removal of a public tree.

SECTION 12.26-7 Public improvements affecting trees; consent of Commission, county park Commissions unaffected.

No statute giving any person or State, county or municipal board, body or official, 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 Shade Tree Commission within whose jurisdiction such tree shall be located. In all cases such Commission shall reasonably co-operate with such person, board, body or official for the general public good. Nothing contained in this ordinance shall be held to take away or diminish any of the powers or authority of the Essex County Park Commission over the trees or woody shrubs in any Essex County Park or Parkway within its jurisdiction, or to give any other Commission or board any power or authority with respect to such trees or woody shrubs.

SECTION 12.26-8 Annual appropriation; estimate; amount.

A. During the month of December in each year, the Shade Tree Commission shall submit to the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge the estimated sum necessary for the proper conduct of its work during the ensuing fiscal year, which shall include the sums estimated to be expended for such of the following items as it is anticipated expenditure will be made for; namely,

1. Payment of wages and salaries of employees;
2. Expenses of Commission members in discharging official duties including expenses incident to attendance at professional meetings;
3. Purchase of trees and woody shrubs; and
4. Purchase of necessary equipment and materials and the cost of services for the prudent promotion of the work.

B. The Mayor & Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge may annually appropriate a sum as it may deem sufficient for said purposes consistent with other budgetary constraints.

SECTION 12.26-9 Penalty, jurisdiction of courts; copy of Ordinance as evidence.

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction in the Municipal Court of the Borough of Glen Ridge, or such other court having jurisdiction, be liable for fines and penalties as set forth in Chapter 1-15 of the

Code of the Borough of Glen Ridge, at the discretion of the Court. Each day that a violation occurs shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation, subject to the penalty provisions of this article.

B. In addition to the penalties authorized by subsection A. of this section, the Commission may require a person who removes damages and/or otherwise destroys a tree in violation of a municipal ordinance to pay a replacement assessment to the Borough of Glen Ridge. The replacement assessment shall be the value of the tree as determined by the appraisal of a trained forester or Certified Tree Expert retained by the Commission for that purpose. In lieu of an appraisal, the Commission may adopt a formula and schedule based upon the number of square inches contained in a cross section of the trunk of the tree multiplied by a predetermined value per square inch, not to exceed \$27.00 per square inch. The square inch cross section shall be calculated from the diameter at breast height and, if there is a multiple stem tree, then each trunk shall be measured and an average shall be determined for the tree. For the purposes of this section, "diameter at breast height" shall mean the diameter of the tree taken at a point 4.5 feet above ground level. The Commission shall modify the value of the tree upon its species variety, location and its condition at the time of removal or destruction.

C. Any public utility or cable television company that clears, moves, cuts, or destroys any trees, shrubs, or plants for the purpose of erecting, installing, moving, removing, altering or maintaining any structures or fixtures, necessary for the supply of electric light, heat or power, communication, or cable television services upon any lands in which it has acquired an easement or right-of-way, shall not be subject to any penalty imposed by the Commission pursuant to subsections a. or b. of this section. This subsection shall not exempt any public utility or cable television company from any penalty or replacement assessment imposed for negligent actions.

SECTION 12.26-10 Disposition of penalties.

All moneys collected, either as fines or penalties, for any violation of a rule or regulation of the Shade Tree Commission enacted by ordinance or as a charge against real estate, under any provision of this ordinance shall be forthwith paid over to the custodian of the municipal funds.

SECTION 12.26-11 Public notice.

All regulations proposed by the Shade Tree Commission shall be submitted to the municipal clerk for inspection by the public during regular business hours and are subject to approval by the Mayor & Council prior to said regulations being enforceable.

SECTION 12.26-12 Consistent with State Law.

This Chapter has been adopted by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge pursuant to the authority vested in this municipality under Title 40, Chapter 64, Sections 1-14, as amended of Public Laws of New Jersey 1996 - Chapter 42.

SECTION 12.26-13 Definitions.

A. COMMISSION OR SHADE TREE COMMISSION shall mean the Shade Tree commission of the Borough of Glen Ridge.

B. NEGLIGENT shall mean beyond the scope of the Standard Operating Procedure ("SOP") for trimming trees established and approved by the Glen Ridge Borough Shade Tree Commission"

C. PERSON shall mean every person, firm, association, partnership, and corporation.

D. PLANT CONSTRUCTION as applied to public utility companies shall mean poles, wires, cables, sub-surface conduits, pipes, manholes and appurtenant facilities of such companies installed in a street, a recorded easement or right of way.

E. PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANY shall refer to a public utility as defined in the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey (R.S. 48:2-13)

F. STREET shall mean: Any road, avenue, street or highway, dedicated to the public use for street purpose, regardless of whether or not it has been formally accepted by the Borough of Glen Ridge. A street shall be deemed to include all portions lying between the dedicated or established right-of-way lines and/or planting easement thereof, said lines being identical with the front property lines of lands abutting the street.

G. TREE shall mean: Trees and Woody Shrubs

SECTION 12.26-14 Required Permits (Non-Utility Operations)

No person shall do any of the following acts to any public tree on a street without first obtaining a permit from the Shade Tree Commission:

- (1) Cut, prune, climb with spikes, break, damage or remove or kill;
- (2) Cut, disturb or interfere in any way with any root, including during the placement or maintenance of gas or other pipes;
- (3) Spray with any chemical;
- (4) Fasten any rope, wire, sign or other device. (Nothing herein shall prevent any governmental agency from affixing in a manner approved by the Shade Tree Commission a public notice upon a tree in connection with administering governmental affairs);
- (5) Remove or damage any guard or device placed to protect or water any tree or woody shrub.
- (6) Conduct razing, removal or renovation of any structure if deemed by the Commission, to be damaging to neighboring street trees.
- (7) Place or distribute chemicals, including, but not limited to, salt deleterious to tree health except as required to prevent injury to persons using streets and sidewalks.
- (8) Maintain a stationary fire or device which vaporizes noxious fumes deleterious to tree health.
- (9) Remove soil, either through trenching or otherwise;
- (10) Construct new sidewalks and/or driveways with any material whatsoever within 5 feet of a public tree or do anything to impede the infiltration of water into the soil within the rooting zone of a tree unless required for access to their property.
- (11) Plant any tree or woody shrub within the designated area under the control of the Commission.

SECTION 12.26-15 Required Permits: Utility Operations;

Exceptions

(A) The Shade Tree Commission shall grant to Public Utility Companies a blanket permit for (1) tree pruning for line clearance and (2) for the installation and maintenance of sub-surface and above-ground Plant Construction even if there is interference with or endangerment of street trees. The activities authorized by this permit shall follow a Standard Operating Procedure ("SOP") approved by the Glen Ridge Borough Shade Tree Commission.

(B) Public Utility Companies may, during periods of emergency, without specific prior permit (1) Prune, or remove, (2) install temporary attachments to trees and (3) make emergency sub-surface repairs.

(C) Each Public Utility Company shall exercise reasonable diligence in the maintenance of its Plant Construction so as to avoid damage to trees under the jurisdiction of the Glen Ridge Borough Shade Tree Commission.

SECTION 12.26-16 Issuance of Permits

Requests for permits required by the provisions of this ordinance for the performance of public tree work should be directed to the Shade Tree Commission, Glen Ridge Township, Essex County, New Jersey.

In cases where an arborist or other contractor is to be used by a property owner to perform work on public trees, the permit applicant must provide evidence that said contractor possesses worker compensation and liability insurance in the minimum amounts of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury or death and \$100,000 property damage indemnifying the Borough or any persons injured or damaged resulting from the performance of said work.

All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication according to law for a period of 5 years and *will expire on December 31, 2015, unless it is reauthorized by the Borough Council.*

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by Mayor and Commissioners at a meeting held on October 25, 2010. This Ordinance will be considered for adoption on final reading and public hearing to be held on November 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Glen Ridge Borough Municipal Building, 825 Bloomfield Avenue, Glen Ridge Avenue, New Jersey 07028.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to create a Shade Tree Commission in the Borough of Glen Ridge. A copy of this Ordinance is available at no charge to the general public between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday (Legal Holidays excluded), at the Office of the Borough Clerk, 825 Bloomfield Avenue, Glen Ridge Avenue, New Jersey 07028.



THE BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE
Essex County, New Jersey

ORDINANCE NO. 1588
Shade Tree Ordinance

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by The Mayor And The Borough Council of The Borough Of Glen Ridge, in the County Of Essex and of The State Of New Jersey that Chapter 12.28 of the Code of the Borough of Glen Ridge is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

1. Permission required for certain acts.

- a. No person, firm, corporation or individual connected with such firm or corporation shall do or cause to be done to any tree, shrub or plant within a public right-of-way or public place, either purposely, carelessly or negligently, without the permission of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee, any of the following acts:
 - i. Cut, prune, climb with spikes, break, damage or remove.
 - ii. Cut, disturb or interfere in any way with any root.
 - iii. Spray with any chemical.
 - iv. Fasten any sign or other device by wire or nail.
 - v. Remove or damage any guard or device placed to protect any tree or shrub.
- b. Nothing herein shall prevent any governmental agency from tying a public notice upon a tree in connection with administering governmental affairs.

2. Certain acts prohibited.

- a. No homeowner or anyone in employ of homeowner shall place substances injurious to plant growth in any public right-of-way or public place in such a manner as to injure any tree, shrub or plant growing thereon. The use of Calcium Magnesium Acetate or Potassium Chloride, is recommended for use by Homeowners to melt ice rather than Rock Salt as these products are environmentally-friendly and do not harm vegetation or corrode concrete surfaces.
- b. No homeowner or anyone in employ of homeowner shall build any fire or station any tar kettle, road roller or other engine in such a manner that the heat vapors or fumes therefrom may injure any tree, shrub or plant growing in any public right-of-way or public place.
- c. No homeowner or anyone in employ of homeowner shall prune any tree, shrub or plant within a public right-of-way or public place.
- d. None of the following acts are permitted, either by homeowner or anyone in the employ of homeowner:
 - i. Use, within (2) two feet of any public tree trunk, of a string trimmer or lawn mower or any other implement which could injure the trunk of any tree.
 - ii. Attachment of any sign by means other than tying same around the trunk of a tree.

- iii. Securing or tying any object, other than a sign as noted in item ii above, to a publicly owned tree.
- iv. Placement of mulch volcanoes on publicly-owned trees.
- e. No person or corporation shall, without the permission of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee, place or maintain or cause to be placed or maintained upon the ground in any public right-of-way or public place any stone, cement or other sidewalk or any other substance which shall impede the free access of air and water to the roots of any tree or shrub.
- f. No homeowner or anyone in employ of homeowner shall permanently damage or remove a publicly-owned tree or shrub.

3. Construction of sidewalks and streets in conflict with trees.

- a. Without the consent of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee, no person, firm or corporation is permitted to do any other act which would interfere with or do injury to any publicly-owned tree or its roots, including without limitation each of the following: (1) replacing any sidewalk which is a public right of way or (2) laying any sidewalk along any street or (3) opening, constructing, curbing or paving any street.
- b. Homeowners or their employees shall complete an application and appear before the Shade Tree Commission or its designee for approval of any activity that may be prohibited by "a." above prior to the start of the work.

4. General construction and excavation regulations.

- a. In the construction, altering or repairing of any building or structure, the owner or contractor thereof shall place tree protection guards or fences at the drip line around all trees in public rights-of-way or public places as will effectually prevent injury to such trees. Under no circumstances shall construction equipment or materials be allowed to be placed or stored within the drip line of trees within the public-right-of-way or public places.
- b. No person, firm or corporation shall do any excavating within the drip line of any tree or shrub in any public right of way or public place without the permission of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee. For the purpose of this ordinance "drip line" is defined as the area directly located under the outer circumference of the trees branches.
- c. Shovels and all other implements, machines and tools shall be used or operated in such a manner as not to damage or destroy any tree, shrub or plant in any public right-of-way or public place.
- d. Where in authorized excavations it becomes necessary to expose or cut the roots of public trees of more than one (1) inch in diameter, it shall be the duty of the contractor to protect such roots under advice from the Shade Tree Commission or its designee.

5. Written approval required for removal; determination of cost; deposit.

Any person requesting the removal or transplanting of any publicly owned tree must obtain written approval from the Shade Tree Commission or its designee. The Shade Tree Commission or its designee may grant such approval if it determines that the tree is of no advantage to the general public but to said person requesting the work, and if such person pays the cost of such work, said costs to be determined by the following:

- a. Said cost of removal or transplanting of a shade tree shall be based upon the size and condition of the tree. A deposit sufficient to cover the cost of said work shall be made before the work is started.

- b. In addition, replacement costs shall apply. The replacement assessment is determined by the value of tree or trees with total caliper equal to the Diameter at Breast Height of the tree or trees removed or damaged to the degree necessitating removal. For the purposes of this section, "Diameter at Breast Height" shall mean the diameter of the tree taken at a point 4.5 feet above ground level. The Commission shall modify the value of the tree based upon its species variety, location and its condition at the time of removal or destruction. Replacement trees shall be located within the right-of-way of the subject property as space permits or in other locations recommended by the Shade Tree Commission or its designee.

6. Removal of dangerous privately owned trees; notification of owner.

The Borough Arborist may move or require the removal of any tree, shrub or plant or part thereof dangerous to public safety at the expense of the owner of such tree, shrub or plant, upon first serving written notice to the owner of said tree, shrub or plant that same will be removed unless the owner removes same within one (1) week from the date of said notice or as determined by the Shade Tree Commission or its designee.

7. Planting in public rights-of-way.

No shade or ornamental tree or shrub shall be planted in any public land or in any public right-of-way without permission of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee.

8. Plantings: written request; replacements; type and selection.

- a. The Shade Tree Commission or its designee, by its discretion, will plant a tree in the public right-of-way for the property owner upon written request , provided that there is sufficient distance for the future growth of said tree, budget permitting.
- b. Replacement trees heretofore planted by the instruction of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee which have been removed because of disease, storm damage, accidents or natural causes will, in the discretion of the Borough Arborist, be replaced by the Shade Tree Commission or its designee at no charge to the property owner, provided that there is a minimum width of twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) feet between the trunks of standing trees on the same side of the street depending upon species, budget permitting.
- c. The type and selection of trees to be planted will be determined by the Shade Tree Commission in consultation with the Borough Arborist.

9. Homeowners' responsibilities for publicly owned trees planted on the right of way adjacent to their houses.

- a. The homeowner or agent is required to give sufficient and regular watering to ensure the health of the tree(s) .
- b. The homeowner or agent must apply proper mulching at the base of the tree or trees in accordance with standards of the Shade Tree Commission or its designee

10. Privately owned trees

The homeowner is responsible for the pruning and care of private trees on homeowner's property that overhang the public right-of-way and that may present a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

11. Noninterference with Borough Arborist.

Town Arborist acts under the jurisdiction of the Shade Tree Commission.

No person shall prevent, delay or in any manner interfere with the Borough Arborist or his or her authorized agents or representatives in the performance of their lawful duties to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

12. Statutory powers.

In addition to the foregoing powers, the Shade Tree Commission and its representative, the Borough Arborist, shall have any and all such powers granted to it by N.J.S.A. 40:64-1 through 40:64-14.

13. Application for permission.

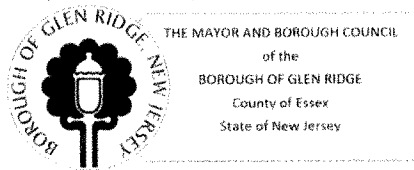
Where the permission, consent or approval of the Borough Arborist is required by the provisions of this chapter, any person, firm or corporation required to obtain such permission, consent or approval shall first make application therefore to the Borough Arborist, Township of Glen Ridge, County of Essex.

14. Violations and penalties.

- a. Any owner or occupant of lands in the Borough or any agent of the foregoing who violates or refuses to comply with the terms of Section 2.f shall be liable for the payment of a fine.
 - i. For the first and second offense, a penalty of twenty-five dollars will be imposed;
 - ii. For the third and each subsequent offense, the penalty may not be less than fifty dollars or more than one hundred dollars.
- b. In addition to the penalties authorized above, any owner or occupant of lands in the Borough or any agent of the foregoing who removes, damages, and/or otherwise destroys a tree or trees on public land or on a public right-of-way may be required to pay a replacement assessment as determined by section 5. to the Borough of Glen Ridge.
- c. Any owner, occupant of lands or agent thereof in the Borough who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the terms of Section 2.a,b,c,d,e shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine:
 - i. For the first and second offense, a penalty of twenty-five dollars will be imposed;
 - ii. For the third and each subsequent offense, the penalty may not be less than fifty dollars or more than one hundred dollars.

15. Failure to comply—Lien on property.

In case of the refusal or neglect of any owner or occupant of land or any agent of the foregoing to comply with this chapter, the council may after notice take or cause corrective or replacement actions, and that the cost of said actions, as ascertained by the Borough Council, with interest thereon, shall be added to and form a part of the taxes next to be levied and assessed upon such land, and shall be a lien upon such lands until the same shall be paid.



ORDINANCE 1811

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 12.28 SHADE TREES & ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 12.29 REQUIRING PERMITS FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

SECTION I. Permission required for certain acts.

- A. No person, firm, corporation or individual connected with such firm or corporation shall do or cause to be done to any tree, shrub or plant within a public right-of-way or public place, either purposely, carelessly or negligently, without the permission of the shade tree commission or its designee, any of the following acts:
1. Cut, prune, climb with spikes, break, damage or remove.
 2. Cut, disturb or interfere in any way with any root.
 3. Spray with any chemical.
 4. Fasten any sign or other device by wire or nail.
 5. Remove or damage any guard or device placed to protect any tree or shrub.
- B. Nothing herein shall prevent any governmental agency from tying a public notice upon a tree in connection with administering governmental affairs.

SECTION II. Certain acts prohibited.

- A. No property owner or anyone in employ of the property owner shall place substances injurious to plant growth in any public right-of-way or public place in such a manner as to injure any tree, shrub or plant growing thereon. The use of calcium magnesium acetate or potassium chloride, is recommended for use by property owners to melt ice rather than rock salt as these products are environmentally-friendly and do not harm vegetation or corrode concrete surfaces.
- B. No property owner or anyone in employ of property owner shall build any fire or station any tar kettle, road roller or other engine in such a manner that the heat vapors or fumes therefrom may injure any tree, shrub or plant growing in any public right-of-way or public place.
- C. No property owner or anyone in employ of the property owner shall prune any tree, shrub or plant within a public right-of-way or public place.
- D. None of the following acts are permitted, either by the property owner or anyone in the employ of property owner:
1. Use, within two feet of any public tree trunk, of a string trimmer or lawn mower or any other implement which could injure the trunk of any tree.
 2. Attachment of any sign by means other than tying same around the trunk of a tree.
 3. Securing or tying any object, other than a sign as noted in item 2. above, to a publicly owned tree.
 4. Placement of mulch volcanoes, a thick layer of mulch is laid around a tree and piled up against the base of the trunk, covering the bark and root flare, on publicly owned trees.
- E. No person or corporation shall, without the permission of the shade tree commission or its designee, place or maintain or cause to be placed or maintained upon the ground in any public right-of-way or public place any stone, cement or other sidewalk or any other substance which shall impede the free access of air and water to the roots of any tree or shrub.
- F. No property owner or anyone in the employ of the property owner shall permanently damage or remove a publicly owned tree or shrub.

SECTION III. Construction of sidewalks, driveway apron and streets in conflict with trees.

- A. Without the consent of the shade tree commission or its designee, no person, firm or corporation is permitted to do any other act which would interfere with or do injury to any publicly owned tree or its roots, including without limitation each of the following: (1) replacing any sidewalk which is a public right-of-way or (2) laying any sidewalk or driveway apron along any street or (3) opening, constructing, curbing or paving any street.
- B. Property owners or their employees shall complete an application and appear before the shade tree commission or its designee for approval of any activity that may be prohibited by **Section II.** above prior to the start of the work.

SECTION IV. General construction and excavation regulations.

- A. In the construction, altering or repairing of any building or structure, the owner or contractor thereof shall place tree protection guards or fences at the drip line around all trees in public rights-of-way or public places as will effectually prevent injury to such trees. Under no circumstances shall construction equipment or materials be allowed to be placed or stored within the drip line of trees within the public right-of-way or public places.
- B. No person, firm or corporation shall do any excavating within the drip line of any tree or shrub in any public right-of-way or public place without the permission of the shade tree commission or its designee. For the purpose of this chapter "drip line" is defined as the area directly located under the outer circumference of the tree's branches.
- C. Shovels and all other implements, machines and tools shall be used or operated in such a manner as not to damage or destroy any tree, shrub or plant in any public right-of-way or public place.
- D. Where in authorized excavations it becomes necessary to expose or cut the roots of public trees of more than one inch in diameter, it shall be the duty of the contractor to protect such roots under advice from the shade tree commission or its designee.

SECTION V. Written approval required for removal; determination of cost; deposit.

Any person requesting the removal or transplanting of any publicly owned tree must obtain written approval from the shade tree commission or its designee. The shade tree commission or its designee may grant such approval if it determines that the tree is of no advantage to the general public but to said person requesting the work, and if such person pays the cost of such work, said costs to be determined by the following:

- A. Said cost of removal or transplanting of a shade tree shall be based upon the size and condition of the tree. A deposit sufficient to cover the cost of said work shall be made before the work is started.
- B. In addition, replacement costs shall apply. The replacement assessment is determined by the value of tree or trees with total caliper equal to the diameter at breast height of the tree or trees removed or damaged to the degree necessitating removal. For the purposes of this section, "diameter at breast height" shall mean the diameter of the tree taken at a point 4.5 feet above ground level. The commission shall modify the value of the tree based upon its species variety, location and its condition at the time of removal or destruction. Replacement trees shall be located within the right-of-way of the subject property as space permits or in other locations recommended by the shade tree commission or its designee.

SECTION VI. Removal of dangerous privately owned trees; notification of owner.

The borough arborist may move or require the removal of any tree, shrub or plant or part thereof dangerous to public safety at the expense of the owner of such tree, shrub or plant, upon first serving written notice to the owner of said tree, shrub or plant that same will be removed unless the owner removes same within one week from the date of said notice or as determined by the shade tree commission or its designee.

SECTION VII. Planting in public rights-of-way.

No shade or ornamental tree or shrub shall be planted in any public land or in any public right-of-way without permission of the shade tree commission or its designee.

SECTION VIII. Plantings: written request; replacements; type and selection.

- A. The shade tree commission or its designee, by its discretion, will plant a tree in the public right-of-way for the property owner upon written request, provided that there is sufficient distance for the future growth of said tree, budget permitting.
- B. Replacement trees heretofore planted by the instruction of the shade tree commission or its designee which have been removed because of disease, storm damage, accidents or natural causes will, in the discretion of the borough arborist, be replaced by the shade tree commission or its designee at no charge to the property owner, provided that there is a minimum width of twenty-five to thirty feet between the trunks of standing trees on the same side of the street depending upon species, budget permitting.
- C. The type and selection of trees to be planted will be determined by the shade tree commission in consultation with the borough arborist.

SECTION IX.

Property owners' responsibilities for publicly owned trees planted on the right-of-way adjacent to their houses.

- A. The property owner or agent is required to give sufficient and regular watering to ensure the health of the tree(s).
- B. The property owner or agent must apply proper mulching at the base of the tree or trees in accordance with standards of the shade tree commission or its designee.

SECTION X. Privately owned trees.

The property owner is responsible for the pruning and care of private trees on property owner's property that overhang the public right-of-way and that may present a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

SECTION XI. Noninterference with borough arborist.

Borough arborist acts under the jurisdiction of the shade tree commission.

No person shall prevent, delay or in any manner interfere with the borough arborist or his or her authorized agents or representatives in the performance of their lawful duties to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

SECTION XII. Statutory powers.

In addition to the foregoing powers, the shade tree commission and its representative, the borough arborist, shall have any and all such powers granted to it by N.J.S.A. 40:64-1 through 40:64-14.

SECTION XIII. Application for permission.

Where the permission, consent or approval of the borough arborist is required by the provisions of this chapter, any person, firm or corporation required to obtain such permission, consent or approval shall first make application therefore to the Borough Arborist, Borough of Glen Ridge, County of Essex.

SECTION XIV. Violations and penalties.

- A. Any owner or occupant of lands in the borough or any agent of the foregoing who violates or refuses to comply with the terms of Section 11. (F) shall be liable for the payment of a fine.
 1. For the first and second offense, a penalty of fifty dollars will be imposed;
 2. For the third and each subsequent offense, any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine upon conviction thereof, be punished as provided in Section 1.08.010, general penalty, of this code plus the replacement and/or repair cost of the tree.
- C. Any owner, occupant of lands or agent thereof in the borough who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the terms of **Section II. (A),(B),(C),(D),(E)** shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine:
 1. For the first and second offense, a penalty of one hundred dollars will be imposed;
 2. For the third and each subsequent offense, any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine upon conviction thereof, be punished as provided in Section 1.08.010, general penalty, of this code plus the replacement and/or repair cost of the tree.
- B. In addition to the penalties authorized above in **Section XIV.A and B.**, any owner or occupant of lands in the borough or any agent of the foregoing who removes, damages, and/or otherwise destroys a tree or trees on public land or on a public right-of-way may be required to pay a replacement assessment as determined by **Section II** to the borough.

SECTION XV. Failure to comply—Lien on property.

In case of the refusal or neglect of any owner or occupant of land or any agent of the foregoing to comply with this chapter, the council may after notice take or cause corrective or replacement actions, and that the cost of said actions, as ascertained by the borough council, with interest thereon, shall be added to and form a part of the taxes next to be levied and assessed upon such land, and shall be a lien upon such lands until the same shall be paid.

CHAPTER 12.29 PERMITS FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**Introduction**

Trees play a critical, often overlooked, role in the water cycle and in the mitigation of stormwater runoff issues such as soil erosion, pollutant reduction, infiltration, quantity reduction, and thermal effects. This ordinance is intended to ensure that permittees are considering these undervalued assets and their important role in stormwater management efforts when anticipating potential removals.

SECTION I. Purpose:

An ordinance to establish requirements for private and public tree removal and replacement in the Borough of Glen Ridge to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

SECTION II. Definitions:

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance 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.

A. "Applicant" means any "person", as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.

B. "Critical Root Radius (CRR)" – means 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. For example: a tree with a 6" DBH would have a CRR = 6"x1.5' = 9'.

C. "Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)" means the diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

D. "Hazard Tree" means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below as determined by a New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert. 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 pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
4. Is causing obvious 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 new Jersey Certified Arborist or New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).

E. "Invasive Tree" means species of trees, either aquatic or terrestrial, that are:

1. Non-native to the New Jersey ecosystem, and
2. Whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Through aggressive or novel reproduction, environmental endurance, and/or lack of natural predators, these species can outcompete native plants for resources. They do this by changing habitat structure, altering soil chemistry, dominating available space, absorbing sunlight or by shading or more efficiently utilizing nutrients.

F. "Person" means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.

G. "Planting strip" means 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.

H. "Resident" means an individual who resides on the residential property, owns the property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

I. "Street Tree" means a tree planted in the sidewalk planting strip, and/or 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.

J. "Tree" means 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.

K. "Tree Caliper" means the diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six (6) inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the soil line.

L. "Tree removal" means 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 excavation, 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 treatments intended to manage invasive species.

SECTION III. Regulated Activities:

A permit is required for the removal of any street tree or tree greater than six inches DBH on private property.

A. Street Tree Removal:

1. No person, firm or corporation is permitted to do any other act which would interfere with or do injury to any publicly owned tree or its roots

B. Private Tree Removal Application:

1. Any person seeking to remove one or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, with a DBH of 6" or more per acre, unless otherwise detailed under Section IV, shall be required to obtain a tree removal permit.

2. If a tree is determined to be hazardous or invasive, by an LTE, the tree may be immediately removed and a permit application shall be submitted not more than ten days after the removal. No fee shall be charged nor will replacement tree(s) be required.

C. Tree Replacement Requirements

1. Any person who removes one or more tree(s), unless exempt under Section III, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.

2. Any person who removes one or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, with a DBH of 6" or more, unless otherwise detailed under Section III, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.

The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with an annual list prepared by the Glen Ridge Shade Tree Commission.

Replacement tree(s) shall:

1. Be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than tree removed or meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below;

2. Be planted within six (6) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the municipality;

3. Be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within twelve (12) months; and

4. Shall not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table:

Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)	Application Fee
1	DBH of 6" to 12.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$100.00
2	DBH of 13" to 22.99"	Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$100.00
3	DBH of 23" or greater	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$100.00

C. Escrow Fee:

For each tree required to be replanted, the applicant shall submit an escrow fee of \$100 per tree. At the end of the two-year monitoring period, if the tree is still in good standing, the escrow fee shall be returned. In lieu of an escrow fee, the property owner may present a two-year guarantee from the installer of the tree(s).

D. Replacement Alternatives:

If the Borough Forester determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall pay a fee of \$450 per tree required to be replanted. This fee shall be placed into a fund dedicated to tree planting and continued maintenance of the trees.

SECTION IV. Exemptions:

All persons shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the cases detailed below:

A. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;

B. 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.

C. 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;

D. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;

E. Hazard trees or Invasive species trees may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement.

SECTION V. Enforcement:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Director of Public Works or the Borough Arborist during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

SECTION VI. Violations and Penalties:

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine upon conviction thereof, be punished as provided in Section 1.08.010, general penalty, of this code plus the replacement cost of the tree.

SECTION VII. Failure to comply—Lien on property.

In case of the refusal or neglect of any owner or occupant of land or any agent of the foregoing to comply with this chapter, the council may after notice take or cause corrective or replacement actions, and that the cost of said actions, as ascertained by the borough council, with interest thereon, shall be added to and form a part of the taxes next to be levied and assessed upon such land, and shall be a lien upon such lands until the same shall be paid.

SECTION VIII. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase, and finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause or reason shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION IV. Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, in the County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Ordinance Introduction: Monday, August 19, 2024

Ordinance Adopted:

ATTEST:

Deborah Mans
Mayor

Tara Ventola
Municipal Clerk

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