

Borough of Branchville

Community Forestry Plan

2006-2010

Prepared by:

Ronald Farr
Certified Forester and New Jersey Approved Forester
6 Ricker Road
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
973-208-8165
farrforest@yahoo.com

For

Ridge and Valley Forest Management Services
P.O. Box 345
Andover, NJ 07821

Mayor and Council

Gerald Van Gorden, Mayor

William Bathgate

Joseph Codella

Wayne Howell

Richard Van Stone

Katieanne Harrison

Kyle Orr

Shade Tree Commission

Thomas Meyer, Chair

Sue Stark

Katieanne Harrison

Frank Sutton

Henry Kunkel

Table of Contents

1.	Municipal Information	3
2.	Introduction	4
	A. Mission Statement	4
	B. Goals and Objectives	5
	C. Liability Statement	6
3.	Community Overview	7
4.	Community Forestry Program Administration	9
5.	Community Map	10
6.	Training Plan	11
7.	Public Education and Awareness	14
8.	Statement of Tree Budget	15
9.	Statement of Plan Implementation	17
	Plan Implementation Timetable	19
10.	Community Stewardship Incentive Program	22
11.	Appendix	

2. Introduction

The following 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan for the Borough of Branchville, Sussex County, New Jersey, was prepared following the guidelines of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act, P.L. 1996, Chapter 135.

The Borough of Branchville already has demonstrated an active role in the maintenance and improvement of their urban forest resources. Some of these activities have included the establishment of a shade tree Commission, participation in Arbor Day Programs starting in 1988, and being recognized as a Tree City USA for 17 years. This award, given by the Arbor Day Foundation recognizes communities that have shown a commitment to increase and maintain their urban forest resource.

The development and approval of this plan by the State of New Jersey Community Forestry Program will limit the liability of the Borough of Branchville through the maintenance of the forest resource and the possible removal of trees deemed to be hazardous. The Borough of Branchville will apply for funding to carry out community forestry activities as grants from the New Jersey Community Forestry Program become available.

A. MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain and improve the shade tree resources and all the benefits that they provide for the Borough of Branchville, for now and the future.

B. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are some of the goals and objectives which the Borough of Branchville will undertake:

1. To limit the liability to the Borough of Branchville by the care, maintenance, and elimination of hazards as well as removal of entire trees.
 - a. an inventory and assessment of individual shade trees within the borough to determine the health, vigor and risk as hazard trees.
 - b. maintain these trees by mulching, fertilizing, pruning and watering.
 - c. continually monitor for possible insect, disease or storm related problems through out the community.

2. To continue with the public education and awareness of the value of shade trees for all segments of the community.
 - a. to continue Branchville's recognition as a Tree City USA.
 - b. to continue with Arbor Day activities annually.
 - c. to support Project Learning Tree in the local schools.
 - d. to submit tree related articles to local papers through out the year.

3. To continue with tree planting program
 - a. inventory sites for possible planting in the future.
 - b. as important as planting is the follow up maintenance of shade trees through fertilization, watering, and pruning.

4. To continue training programs for employees and members of Branchville Shade Tree Commission to further enhance the program
 - a. training to improve the knowledge and skills of individuals responsible for planting, maintenance or removal of trees through initial core training and continuing education.
 - b. continue with training exercises to meet CEU requirements annually.

C. LIABILITY STATEMENT

The shade trees within the Borough of Branchville are a valuable asset to the community by providing shade as well as an aesthetically pleasing environment. But trees age, are damaged by weather, disease and insects and eventually will need to be replaced. An active program of care, maintenance and replacement can help ensure that the shade tree resource and not only contributes to the environmental and economic vitality of the area, but also reduces the potential hazards to public safety. The Borough of Branchville must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of its community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need while working towards a healthy forest with commensurate reduced risks to public safety.

The Borough of Branchville, by taking logical steps as outlined in this management plan will continue to garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety. The Borough of Branchville will remain proactive in the management and care of our shade trees. Through continued inventory, and hazard assessment, the Shade Tree Commission of Branchville will take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions can be predicted, but good maintenance and care will reduce the probability; however, unexpected events may still occur.

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

3. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Borough of Branchville is located in the north central part of Sussex County. It was settled in the 1700's and was originally part of Frankford Township but separated from Frankford in 1898. It is approximately one half mile square (354.27 acres) and has a population of approximately 850 people. Several streams pass through Branchville and State Route 206 is the main highway through the Borough. There is approximately 5 miles of roads which pass through the Borough which are maintained by the State of New Jersey, the County of Sussex or the Borough of Branchville. Within the Borough there are several tracts of public land which are being utilized by the public in various ways.

The Borough of Branchville has gone through many changes. Originally a village with grist mills and stores for area farmers, it later became a railroad hub for local business and farmers getting their goods to market. It also served vacationers who were on their way to area lake communities in this part of Sussex County. Branchville has now become a community of private residences and businesses with many of the original buildings still in use.

In the late 1980's a shade tree commission was established, and through the efforts of this commission, borough officials, local businesses and volunteers, the Borough of Branchville has participated in Arbor Day activities and been recognized as Tree City USA for thirteen years. Other activities of the commission have been the adoption of a shade tree ordinance in 2000 as well as the core training all but one person on the Shade Tree Commission and several DPW employees through the New Jersey Community Forestry Core Training Program. The last commission member is scheduled to be CORE trained in 2006.

A map of the Borough of Branchville forest cover is attached as an Appendix. This Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis showed that of Branchville's 354 acres approximately 168 acres (47.5%) are in forest cover. This analysis does not include individual street trees. It is the intent of this plan to maintain traditional forest cover and maintain or improve forest cover with street trees.

The Borough of Branchville through its planting program has made species diversity a goal of their planting projects. Tree plantings from 1988 through 2005 resulted in 352 street trees being planted. In these 352 trees, 57 different species have been planted and no one species more than 17 individuals.

No significant forest health issues have been noted by the Shade Tree Commission or the Department of Public Works. The Borough will continue to fill gaps and streetscapes where forest cover is lacking with future plantings, while maintaining past plantings.

This Community Forestry Plan will be adopted as a section of the Borough Master Plan when the Borough Master Plan is updated.

4. COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Branchville Shade Tree Commission is a voluntary organization and is supported by the boroughs' Shade Tree Ordinance. This commission has jurisdiction over the regulation, planting, care and control of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery in the streets, highways and public places of the Borough of Branchville and providing for the enforcement thereof.

On a yearly basis, the Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission presents a work plan and proposed budget to the Mayor and Council. This plan includes but is not limited to:

- Expenditures expected for planting, removal and care of street trees within the Borough right-of ways for the upcoming year.
- Approximate hours required by DPW employees to implement the program.
- Training needs for volunteers and employees.
- Community Education and Outreach Programs.
- A formal request for an Arbor Day declaration by the Mayor.

The current members of the Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission are:

Katieanne Harrison

Sue Stark

Thomas Meyer

Frank Sutton

Henry Kunkel

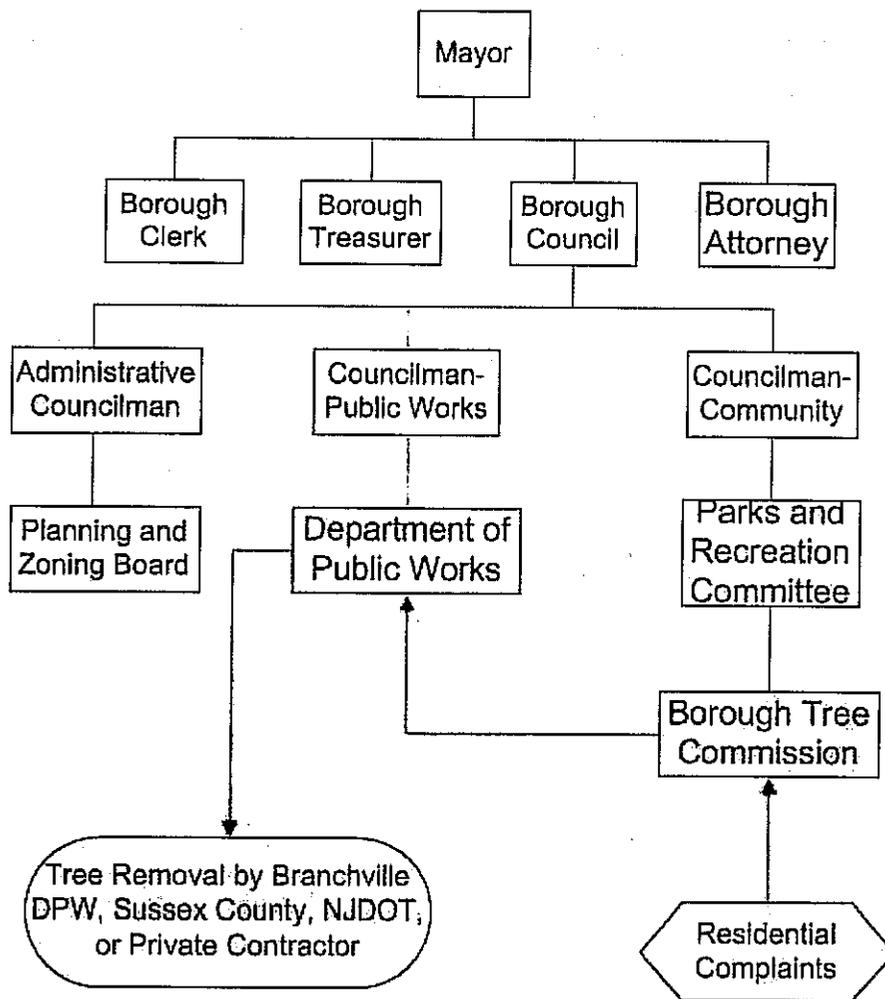
The interaction between the Shade Tree Commission, the Borough Council, the Planning/Zoning Board and the DPW has been one of efficiency and cooperation. One member of the Shade Tree Commission was appointed to the Planning/Zoning Board in order to represent the environmental (and specifically community forest) considerations of new development. The Shade Tree Commission won the 2002 Sussex County Beautification Award.

Any questions or problems residents may have will be addressed by the Shade Tree Commission. Actions to rectify any problems can be carried out by the DPW, Sussex

County Shade Tree Commission, New Jersey DOT or private contractors depending on the individual situation. The DPW Superintendent, who is CORE trained, has been able to spot and resolve issues with great efficiency. If a tree problem requires expenditure, the DPW Superintendent will get approval from the Mayor and review the issues with the Shade Tree Commission Chair prior to proceeding. Below please find a graphic description of the program administration.



Borough of Branchville, NJ



6. TRAINING PLAN

Employee and volunteer training is critical for a successful implementation of a Community Forestry Plan. CORE training is required by the New Jersey Shade and Community Forestry Assistance Act, P.L. 1996, Chapter 135. CORE trained individuals may be further trained in other tree related course or programs based upon community need and funding availability. Grants for future training shall be sought when available through the New Jersey Forest Service or philanthropic entities.

In order to maintain the approved plan status the Borough of Branchville must accrue a minimum of 8 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) annually. These 8 CEU's must be completed by at least 2 people representing the municipality. Seminars, courses and conferences which offer eligible CEU's will be provided to the individuals who represent the municipality, at least one volunteer and at least one Borough employee. If there is a course you feel you should receive credits for the course description, list of speakers and list of attendees (including your name) for proof of attendance shall be submitted to:

Pam (Tappen) Zipsy
Training Coordinator
Community Forestry Program
501 East State Street
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 633-7597

Training in the following areas should be pursued in order to maintain certification these include but are not limited to: tree inventory skills, proper tree planting methods, proper pruning techniques, hazard tree identification, disaster planning, municipal tree budgets, tree pruning, root barriers, wood recycling, leaf composting, public relations, tree biology, tree identification, tree/sidewalk/utility conflicts tree disease and insect vectors and control methods. The highest priority training should focus on tree inventory skills and hazard tree identification.

Branchville has been a Model Community Forestry Program over the last 17 years and further enhanced through continuing education training.

Sources for gaining continuing education include the New Jersey Forest Service, New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, the National Arborist Association, International Society of Arboriculture and Courses offered by the Rutgers Cooperative Education Programs.

7. PUBLIC EDUCATION/AWARENESS/OUTREACH

The Borough of Branchville has already been active in these areas as demonstrated by their involvement in Arbor Day activities and has been recognized as a Tree City USA for seventeen years. Newspaper articles have been placed in local newspapers and requests for public input on various projects. Information concerning the Borough of Branchville's Shade Tree Commission is found on the township web site.

The Borough will continue with this outreach to the public through continued participation in Arbor Day, Tree City USA, educational programs at the schools (Project Learning Tree), newspaper articles and reports.

At least two press releases will be submitted yearly to local and regional papers. Any tree planting or forest management activity will serve as the basis for other press releases to local and regional newspapers. This serves three objectives. First, it builds a relationship with local reporters who at a later date may be more likely to publish future articles. Secondly it creates an identity of the Shade Tree Commission/Environmental Commission/Department of Public Works as a valuable source for credible information concerning natural resources. Lastly it will increase the understanding of the plan, the accomplishments which can be attributed to this plan and public awareness of the community forest resource.

Annually an accomplishment report will be presented/provided to the Mayor and Council to further enhance the relationship between the Shade Tree Commission and the governing body and to reinforce the importance of the Committee and the resource to the entire community

8. STATEMENT OF TREE BUDGET

The following is a summary of the shade tree budget for the Borough of Branchville for the year 2003.

WORK PLAN/BUDGET FOR YEAR 2003

1. Maintenance of current trees: Review pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees, pick up and chip branches as necessary, water new trees every week for the first year, fertilize as necessary.

Manpower required:

DPW crew (pick-up, chipping, watering)- 2 hours/week @ \$15.60/hr = \$1622.40
Shade Tree Commission volunteers (evaluation, pruning, fertilizing)- 1 hour/week =
\$ 811.20

2. Current year program activities: Format and mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of Arbor Day activities planned for April 19, fax press releases to local newspapers, select and order trees.

Manpower required:

Shade Tree Commission volunteers – 8 hours \$ 124.80

3. Plant approximately 13 shade trees within Borough rights-of way, holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW.

Manpower required:

DPW crew (dig holes with backhoe, water, chip) 24 hours @ \$15.60/hr = \$ 374.44
Shade Tree Commission volunteers (planting) 60 man hours = \$ 936.00
Cost of trees = \$1000.00

4. Present Arbor Day Program at the Frankford Township Elementary School.

Manpower required:

Shade Tree Commission volunteers – 10 hours \$ 156.60

2003 Totals:

DPW Crew	\$2620.84
Shade Tree Commission Volunteers	\$2028.60
Cost of trees	\$1000.00
Total	\$5649.44

Expenditures from 2004 and 2005 include \$2,000 budgeted yearly for the purchase of new street trees. Volunteer and DPW employee time has not been documented as the plan was not approved. With the approval of this plan the Shade Tree Commission will once again begin to document DPW and volunteer hours dedicated to the Community Forestry Program.

9. STATEMENT OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The four basic elements of a Community Forestry Management Plan are addressed in this section.

- A. Tree inventory and assessment
- B. Hazard tree identification and management
- C. Tree planting
- D. Tree maintenance and care

While this Community Forestry Management Plan is the first plan written for the Borough of Branchville, the main elements of this plan have already been implemented, though not formally.

A. TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

At present, the Borough of Branchville does not have a formal inventory of individual trees indicating the species, size, condition, insect or disease problems, maintenance needs (fertilization, pruning etc.) and growing site. This will include all street right of ways as well as lands owned by the Borough of Branchville. The members of the Branchville Shade Tree Commission will undertake this first step in the plan implementation during the first two years of this plan.

B. HAZARD TREE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

The tree inventory and assessment will indicate what trees are in need of maintenance or removal to reduce risk to the public. Since Branchville has had an active program in place to eliminate hazard trees, there should be few if any hazard trees present.

C. TREE PLANTING

The Borough of Branchville has already been active in replacing trees which had to be removed for various reasons, or planting trees in areas which needed trees. The Borough also asks residents for suggested locations for tree planting. This planting program will continue for the next five years with at least ten trees planted annually.

D. TREE MAINTENANCE AND CARE

These are activities which will be carried out throughout the Borough of Branchville. The inventory mentioned in the beginning will be a basis to determine the needs of individual tree specimens. Since a tree is constantly growing and changing with time, the determination of whether to prune, fertilize, water or exercise some form of insect or disease control is an ongoing process. Storm damage or physical damage can occur at any time, and these situations will be addressed by the Shade Tree Commission as the need becomes apparent.

Successful implementation of this plan will require a dedicated core of volunteers, community acceptance and buy in from municipal employees and elected officials. Based on the participation during this planning meetings and completion of a partial inventory by volunteers, Borough of Branchville is a model program for small towns everywhere and will continue to be so 5-10 years from now.

This plans lays out the specific actions to be carried out each year for the next five years and the group responsible for carrying out these actions. This Implementation Timetable is a projected schedule. There may be unforeseen circumstances that may result in an alteration to this timetable. For this reason some projects may be completed earlier or later than projected in this plan.

At each Shade Tree Commission meeting it will be clearly laid out who is responsible each task, who will assist in completion of the task and clear deadline for completion of the task. It is also understood that the Branchville Borough has a limited pool of employees available to carry out this plan. Success breeds interest and each successful project should result in a press release.

Implementation Timeline

Date	Activity	Responsible Party
Spring 2006	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works Volunteers
2006	Attain CORE Training for at least 1 volunteer and continuing education to maintain certification	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council
2006	Implement a Largest Tree in Branchville Program	Shade Tree Commission
2006	Maintain current and earlier plantings through pruning, watering and fertilization.	Shade Tree Commission and Dept. of Public Works
2006	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission
2006	Address the Community Forest in the Borough Master Plan	Shade Tree Commission Planning Consultant
2006	Apply for CSIP funding for complete forest inventory if available	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2006	Submit Annual Accomplishment Report	Shade Tree Commission
Fall 2006	Submit an article for the 2007 Borough calendar	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2007		
Spring 2007	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works Volunteers
2007	Designate "Focus Areas" for replanting to increase overall forest cover	Shade Tree Commission
2007	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission
2007	Continue outreach to the community.	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester Volunteers
2007	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers	Consulting Forester Shade Tree Commission
2007	Apply for CSIP funding to develop a Hazard Tree Inventory and Plan	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2007	Investigate alternate sources of funding.	Shade Tree Commission

2007	Provide continuing education to maintain certification.	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council
2007	Clear views of any traffic signals and signs which are inhibited	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works
2007	Submit Annual Accomplishment Report	Shade Tree Commission
2008		
2008	Continue with pruning and maintenance schedule based on need	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works
2008	Formulate a Tree Disaster Plan, if funding is available	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2008	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission
2008	Continue and improve outreach efforts to the community.	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester Volunteers
2008	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers	Consulting Forester Shade Tree Commission
2008	Provide continuing education to maintain certification.	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council
2008	Celebrate Arbor Day and continue with Tree City designation	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works Volunteers
2008	Submit Annual Accomplishment Report	Shade Tree Commission
2009		
2009	Complete pruning and maintenance schedule	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission
2009	Complete a Tree Disaster Plan	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2009	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission
2009	Provide continuing education to maintain certification.	Dept. of Public Works Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council
2009	Continue Arbor Day Celebrations	Shade Tree Commission
2009	Continue to meet Tree City USA criteria create a 20 th year celebration	Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council
2009	Submit Annual Accomplishment Report	Shade Tree Commission
2009	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers	Consulting Forester Shade Tree Commission

2010		
2010	Complete another forest inventory to gauge success and set the groundwork for the next planning period.	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester Volunteers
2010	Strategic planning, goal development and evaluate the successes and failures of the first planning period and begin planning for the next five-year plan.	Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council Consulting Forester
2010	Apply for CSIP funding for the creation of the second five-year plan	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2010	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Shade Tree Commission Dept. of Public Works
2010	Continue and improve outreach efforts to the media and community.	Shade Tree Commission Consulting Forester
2010	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers	Consulting Forester Shade Tree Commission
2006	Submit Annual Accomplishment Report	Shade Tree Commission
2010	Continue to meet Tree City USA criteria	Shade Tree Commission Mayor and Council

11. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)

The completion and approval of this plan will allow the Borough of Branchville to be eligible for CSIP grants when available to complete specific tasks within this plan. As the Borough has limited funds, any CSIP funds that are made available to facilitate the completion of the goals, objectives and action items laid out in this plan will prove to be extremely beneficial and will be applied for.

CSIP 1 Plan Preparation

This plan was competed under a Green Communities Grant from the New Jersey Forest Service. CSIP funds will be applied for the completion of the second five-year plan.

CSIP 2 Training

The training laid out in this plan includes the CORE Training for at least one Borough Employee and one Volunteer to receive continuing education training. The Community Forestry Act has stringent training requirements to maintain certification. Training on specific topics may be completed and assigned based upon needs as determined by the Shade Tree Commission, Department of Public Works or the Mayor and Council.

CSIP 3 Public Education and Awareness

Education and Outreach activities will be a large component of this plan. Should any funds become available for education and outreach activities Branchville should apply for funding.

CSIP 4 Arbor Day Celebration

The Branchville Borough will continue to use creative methods in an attempt to raise available funds for the purchase of street trees to be planted during Arbor Day Activities which have been implemented for over 17 years.

CSIP 5 Assessment and Inventory

A thorough Assessment and Inventory should be conducted throughout the Borough to gain an understanding of the current forest resource and provide a base for future activities and Arbor Day celebrations.

CSIP 6 Tree Hazard Identification Plan

A Tree Hazard Identification Plan will result in gaining an understanding of where hazard trees are located and assist in prioritizing hazard tree removal and improve the safety of residents.

CSIP 7 Tree Planting

Tree planting will begin on private and public land and concentrate in focus areas as determined by the Shade Tree Commission. The ideal time for tree planting is the Fall or Spring. Currently the Borough utilizes its own funding for tree planting practices. Funding for trees will be investigated including CSIP funding and available grants outside the CSIP Program.

CSIP 8 Tree Maintenance

The Borough of Branchville will utilize municipal employees or Sussex County crews to carry out pruning and maintenance on trees. Funds may be needed to help purchase new equipment or if private contractors are needed in special circumstances.

CSIP 9 Tree Recycling

Street trees, which many times are removed and chipped, can prove a valuable source of lumber or useful products. Every effort will be made by the Shade Tree Commission to find a way to recycle these trees where they can be used as lumber.

CSIP 10 Ordinance Establishment

A strong and enforceable tree ordinance will serve as the backbone for the creation of the Shade Tree Commission. The Branchville Borough Tree Ordinance will be reviewed and altered if necessary by the Shade Tree Commission and the Mayor and Council. If funds are available for this activity Branchville will certainly apply.

CSIP 11 Tree Care Disaster Plan

This plan will assist in Natural Resource Disaster Planning. This plan would lay out responsibilities for each component for dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster.

CSIP 12 Insect and Disease Management

Street trees should be revisited as often as is practice to inspect for any disease or insect outbreaks. Quick treatment of such an outbreak will result in a healthier community forest and quicker response to such situations. If funding becomes available for a specific insect or disease that is found in Branchville, the Borough will apply for such funds.

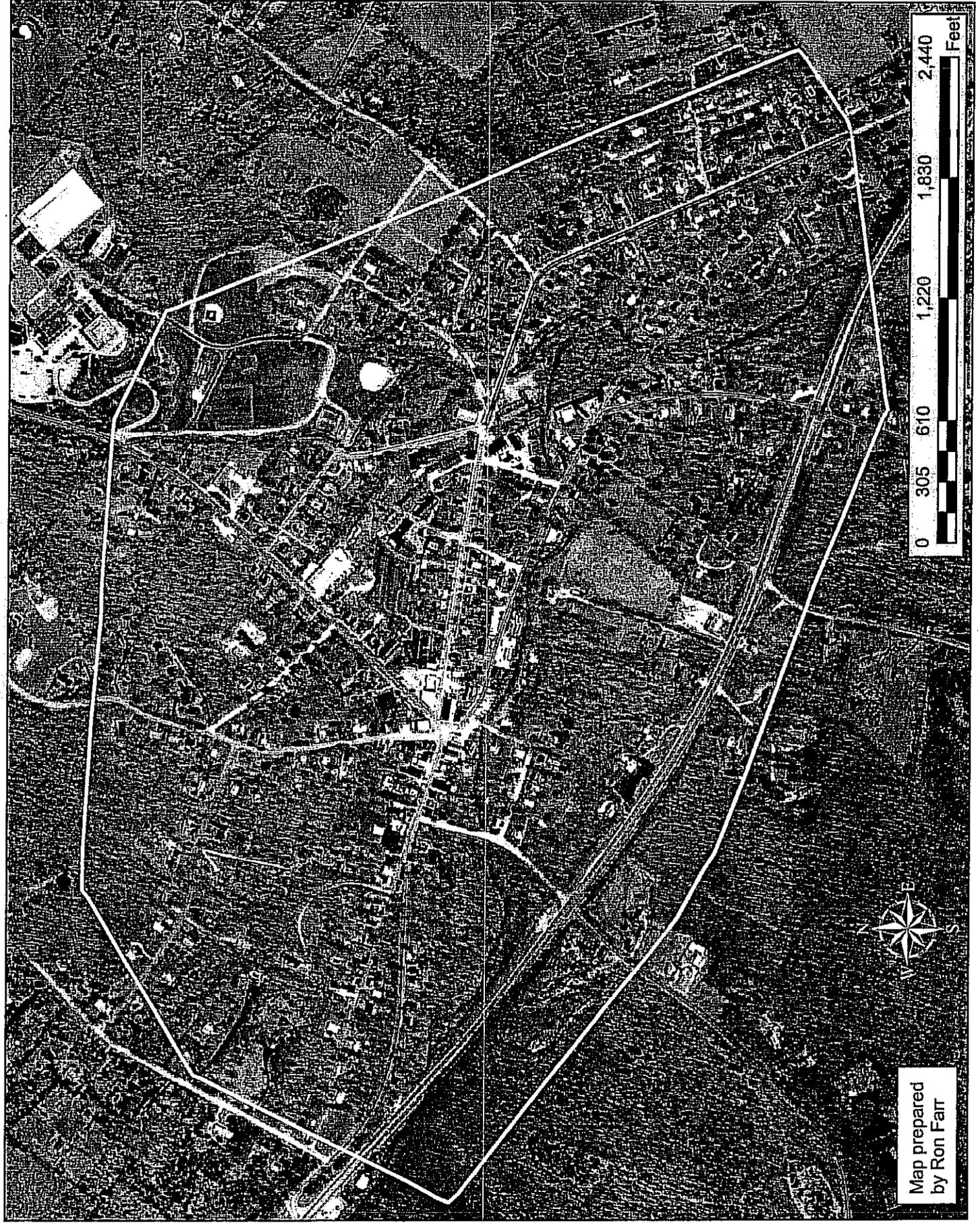
CSIP 13 Other

No funds needed at this time.

11. APPENDIX

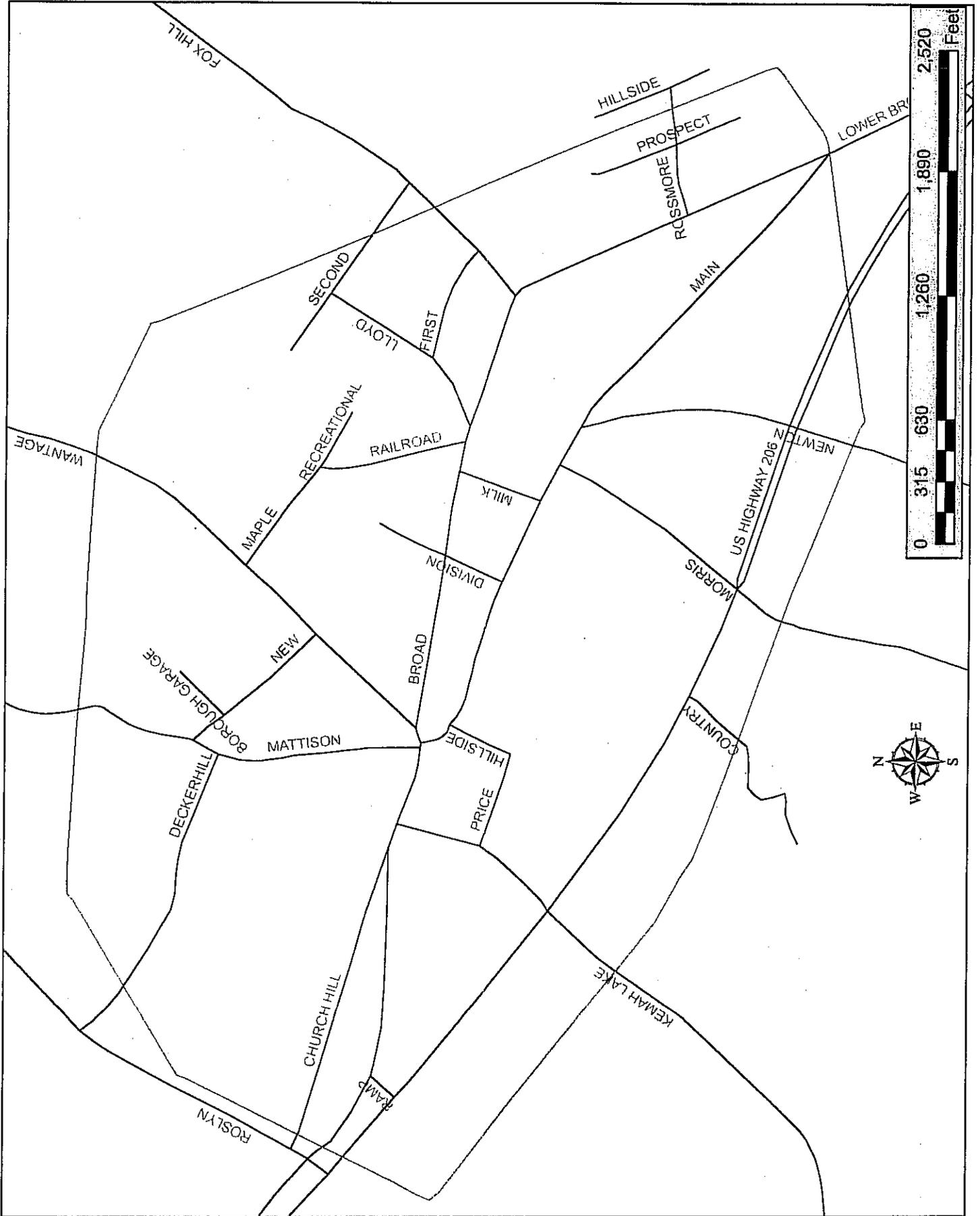
1. Map of Forest Cover
2. Street Map
3. Arbor Day Letters to Residents 2002-2005
4. Planting Schedules 2001-2006
5. Work Plans 2001-2006
6. Selected Annual Shade Tree Commission Reports 1998-2004

Branchville Borough Forest Cover



Map prepared
by Ron Farr

Branchville Borough Street Map



3. Arbor Day Letters to Residents

**Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Commission**

Katieanne Harrison
Sue Stark
Thomas Meyer
Frank Sutton
Henry Kunkel



TREE CITY USA.
13 Years

Arbor Day Committee
Mayor Gerald VanGorden
Joe Codella, Councilman

Dear Branchville Residents and Business People:

On *Saturday, April 20th 2002, beginning at 8am* we will once again celebrate **Arbor Day**. We will be planting approximately fourteen 2" caliper trees along the streets of Branchville and we will be receiving our 13th TREE CITY award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Beginning at 8am we will begin planting by working down Broad Street, up Mill Street heading to the center of town, then finishing up on Wantage Avenue. This year's selection of trees includes the Hawthorne, Gingko, Sycamore, Sweet Gum and Red Bud. Our town formerly had few varieties of shade trees, but we now have more than fifty! More importantly, our inventory of street shade trees is healthy, well pruned and managed.

This is your chance to contribute to your community! I am sure you have noticed the difference all the trees we have planted have made in the town's appearance. As they grow older they will not only provide shade and beauty for you the resident, but for our children in the future. *By the close of this Arbor Day we will have planted more than 300 trees in the thirteen-year program!* Whether you bring your rake, shovel or broom on Arbor Day or send us a monetary contribution, your assistance will help. Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

*The Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Fund
P.O.Box 840
Branchville, New Jersey 07826*

As mentioned, Branchville will receive our thirteenth TREE CITY USA award. The National Arbor Day Foundation honors those communities who have made a substantial commitment to improving the quality of the urban forest.

Remember that the Arbor Day Committee is available to help you with your tree pruning or maintenance questions. Just call one of us and we will either help you directly or guide you to the information you need. *Lower Broad Street came out great because we started planning more than 10 years ago by moving the tree line back from the wires and replacing the trees that were nearing the end of their useful lives. A healthy and vigorous Urban Forest is no accident!* Please come out and help or just watch, and please write us a check today to help keep our program going. Thank you very much!

*Sincerely,
The Branchville Shade Tree Committee*

**Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Commission**

Katieanne Harrison
Sue Stark
Thomas Meyer
Frank Sutton
Henry Kunkel



TREE CITY USA.
14 Years

Arbor Day Committee
Mayor Gerald VanGorden
Joe Codella, Councilman

Dear Branchville Residents and Business People:

On *Saturday, April 19th 2003, beginning at 8am* we will once again celebrate Arbor Day. We will be planting approximately seventeen 2" caliper trees along the streets of Branchville and we will be receiving our 14th TREE CITY award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Beginning at 8am we will begin planting by working down Railroad Avenue, down 2nd and 1st Street, up Mill Street heading to the center of town, then finishing up on Wantage Avenue. This year's selection of trees includes the Patriot Elm, Saw tooth Oak, Ginkgo, Larch, Sweet Gum, Tupelo, and Copper Beech. Our town formerly had few varieties of shade trees, but we now have more than fifty! More importantly, our inventory of street shade trees is healthy, well pruned and managed.

This is your chance to contribute to your community! I am sure you have noticed the difference all the trees we have planted have made in the town's appearance. As they grow older they will not only provide shade and beauty for you the resident, but for our children in the future. *By the close of this Arbor Day we will have planted more than 320 trees in the fifteen-year program!* Whether you bring your rake, shovel or broom on Arbor Day or send us a monetary contribution, your assistance will help to keep your community of Branchville beautiful. Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

*The Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Fund
P.O.Box 840
Branchville, New Jersey 07826*

As mentioned, Branchville will receive our fourteenth TREE CITY USA award. The National Arbor Day Foundation honors those communities who have made a substantial commitment to improving the quality of the urban forest.

Remember that the Arbor Day Committee is available to help you with your tree pruning or maintenance questions. Just call one of us and we will either help you directly or guide you to the information you need. Lower Broad Street came out great because we started planning more than 11 years ago, moving the tree line back from the wires and replacing the trees that were nearing the end of their useful lives. A healthy and vigorous Urban Forest is no accident! Please come out and help (or just watch), and please write us a check today to help keep our program going. Thank you very much!

*Sincerely,
The Branchville Shade Tree Committee*

**Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Commission**

Katieanne Harrison
Sue Stark
Thomas Meyer
Frank Sutton
Henry Kunkel



TREE CITY USA.
15 Years

Arbor Day Committee
Mayor Gerald VanGorden
Joe Codella, Councilman

Dear Branchville Residents and Business People:

On *Saturday, May 1st, 2004, beginning at 8am* we will once again celebrate **Arbor Day**. We will be planting approximately fourteen 2" caliper trees along the streets of Branchville and we will be receiving our 15th **TREE CITY** award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Beginning at 8am we will begin planting by working at Broad & Division Streets, then at Mattison, Decker Hill & New Streets and finishing up at Recreation Park. This year's selection of trees includes the Elm, Gum, Serbian Spruce, Norway Spruce and Hornbeam. Our town formerly had few varieties of shade trees, but we now have more than sixty! More importantly, our inventory of street shade trees is healthy, well pruned and managed.

This is your chance to contribute to your community! I am sure you have noticed the difference all the trees we have planted have made in the town's appearance. As they grow older they will not only provide shade and beauty, add appreciably to the real estate value of your residence, but provide benefits for our children in the future. *By the close of this Arbor Day we will have planted more than 350 trees in the fifteen year program!* Whether you bring your rake, shovel or broom on Arbor Day or send us a monetary contribution, your assistance will help. Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

*The Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Fund
P.O.Box 840
Branchville, New Jersey 07826*

As mentioned, Branchville will receive our 15th **TREE CITY USA** award. The National Arbor Day Foundation honors those communities who have made a substantial commitment to improving the quality of the urban forest. Branchville's tree program serves as a model for our entire region and state!

Remember that the Arbor Day Committee is available to help you with your tree pruning or maintenance questions. Just call one of us and we will either help you directly or guide you to the information you need. *One more helpful hint...broken branches need clean cuts next to trunk in order to heal. Otherwise, similar to an infected wound on humans, insects and disease will enter and eventually kill your tree. Another hint is that while all trees are "cute" when they are small, planting a Christmas Tree next to your house is certain trouble down the road as most spruce or pines reach mature heights of 100 feet or more!* Please come out and help or just watch, and please write us a check today to help keep our program going.

Thank you very much!

*Sincerely,
The Branchville Shade Tree Committee*

**Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Commission**

Katieanne Harrison
Sue Stark
Thomas Meyer
Frank Sutton
Henry Kunkel



16 Years

**Arbor Day
Committee**
Mayor Gerald VanGorden
Joe Codella, Councilman

Dear Branchville Residents and Business People:

On *Saturday, April 30, 2005, beginning at 8am* we will once again celebrate **Arbor Day**. We will be planting approximately ten 2" caliper trees along the streets of Branchville and will be receiving our 16th **TREE CITY** award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. At 8am we will begin planting by working on Maple Avenue and work our way down Broad St, finishing up on Main Street in front of the old American Hotel. This year's selection of trees includes the Elm, Ginkgo, Sweet Gum and the Japanese Tree Lilac. Our town formerly had few varieties of shade trees, but now we have more than seventy! More importantly our inventory of street trees is healthy, well pruned and well managed.

This is your chance to contribute to your community! I am sure you have noticed the difference all the trees we have planted have made in the town's appearance. As they grow older they will provide shade and beauty, add appreciably to the real estate value of your residence and provide benefits for our children in the future. *By the close of this Arbor Day we will have planted more than 360 trees in the sixteen-year program!* Whether you bring your rake, shovel or broom on Arbor Day or send us a monetary contribution, your assistance will help. Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

*The Borough of Branchville
Shade Tree Fund
P.O. Box 840
Branchville, New Jersey 07826*

As mentioned, this year we will receive our 16th **TREE CITY USA** award. The National Arbor Day Foundation honors those communities who have made a substantial commitment to improving the quality of the urban forest. Branchville's tree program serves as a model for our entire region and state!

Remember that the Arbor Day Committee is available to help you with your tree pruning or maintenance questions. Just call one of us and we will either help you directly or guide you to the information you need. Remember, the Larch, Dawn Redwood and Bald Cypress are examples of conifers around Branchville that loose their needles in winter and are not candidates for removal. Be on the lookout for the Asian Longhorn Beetle an unwelcome invader from Asia that can destroy your beautiful Maple Trees. Further information is enclosed. Call us immediately if you suspect that you have been invaded.

Please come out and help, watch, or please write us a check today to help keep our program going.
Thank you very much!

*Sincerely,
The Branchville Shade Tree Committee*

4. Planting Schedules 2001-2006

Work Plan 2001 - Planting
Tentative Arbor Day Planting Schedule for 2001
Borough of Branchville, NJ

Updated April 23,2001

Approved planting schedule based on contact with property owners and actual tree availability all to be dug and planted by Branchville Tree Committee volunteers and town road crew. Volunteer hours: 38 , Town crew Hours: 20

<u>Address or location:</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Decker Hill Road (Jack Cowling) 2000)	Hawthorne (at Yard already from
#1 Wantage Ave.& New Street (Wilson)	Sweet Gum (<i>Liquidambar</i>)
#2 & #3 Main Street (next to Churchill Travel)	(2) Ginyko Biloba (Princeton Sentry)
#4 24 Wantage Ave. (next to SCARC)	Pin Oak (<i>Quercus Palustris</i>)
#5 65 Broad Street	Pin Oak (<i>Quercus Palustris</i>)
#6 Mill Street @ Brock (after bridge)	Tupelo (<i>Nyssa Sylvatica</i>)

* Moved ZELKOVA from Nellie Howell to Akerman on Mill Street

B&B Trees donated by Sussex County Shade Tree Commission:

#1 & #2 @ 57 Broad Street	(2) Tupelo (<i>Nyssa Sylvatica</i>)
#3 61 Broad Street	Red Oak (<i>Quercus Rubra</i>)
#4 & #5 65 Broad Street	(2) London Plane (<i>Plananus Acerfolia</i>)
#6 & #7 67 Broad Street	(2) Red Maple (<i>Acer Rubrum</i>)

12 trees total at an average of \$140 tree for about \$1640

The 7 trees that are balled and burlap are to be planted by Branchville Shade Tree Commission as part of sidewalk renewal project on lower Broad Street. The trees will be planted just off the county right of way, in the new tree line, and away from electrical and telephone wires. The trees replace some of the trees removed by GPU which saved the county funds not only as part of the project but because the trees were mostly at the end of their lives and in deteriorated condition.

#8 Route 519

Red Oak (County to plant)

#9 West End Avenue (Schulte)

Sunburst Thornless Honey Locust
(Gleditsia Tercantuo)

#10 Location in Byram

Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*)

12 B&B TREES TOTAL: for a total sum of about \$1680

*meeting March 12, 2001 with Frank Sutton, Sue Stark and Tom Meyer at site (Katieanne Harrison was excused on a trip to France and waived her vote in Sue's trust)
County Meeting scheduled for April 2nd, 2001 at 11:00 am to discuss bids.*

For Sussex County we need whips: 5' – 7' high

Sawtooth Oak

London Plane

Crab Apple

Sweet Gum

Hackberry

Locust

Winter King Hawthorne

Purple Ash

Whips total for a total sum of \$

Work Plan 2002 - Planting
Tentative Arbor Day Planting Schedule for 2002
Borough of Branchville, NJ

Updated March 12, 2002

Approved planting schedule based on contact with property owners and actual tree availability all to be dug and planted by Branchville Tree Committee volunteers and town road crew. Volunteer hours: 38 ,
 Town crew Hours: 20

<u>Address or location:</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
7 Wantage Avenue	(2) Sweet Gum
Mill Street (at trail head)	(1) Norway Spruce tree
34 Mill Street (Jim & Mary Jane Wietzel)	(1) Red Bud
77 Broad Street (948-4909) Audrey Power requested by Jeanne O"Kroy 973-948-7213	(1) Red Bud
6 Railroad Avenue	(1) Red Bud memorial tree for Tom Meyer's mother
Fox Hill Road @ Broad Street (Clune)	(1) Serbian Crab AppleRed Bud
8 Main Street (Total Image-Beauty Parlor)	(1) Sentry Ginkgo
43 Broad Street	(1) Red Bud

County Supplied Trees: (balled & burlap)

Broad Street (North of Dry Brook Bridge)	(2) Maple (Acer Freemanie)
Broad Street (South of Dry Brook Bridge)	(2) Maple (Acer Freemanie)
52 Broad Street (Gothic Victorian Stucco)	(1) Maple (Acer Freemanie)

PAID FOR BY PROPERTY OWNER AS PART OF DELIVERY

21 Broad Street (Jaeger 948-4566)	(1) Winter King Hawthorne	\$145
Broad Street (Clune)	(1) Sargeant Cherry	\$145

Arbor Day Planting Schedule for 2003

Borough of Branchville, NJ

Updated April 2, 2003

Approved planting schedule based on contact with property owners and actual tree availability all to be dug and planted by Branchville Tree Committee volunteers and town road crew.

Trees to be supplied at no charge by Sussex County for use on County roads in the Borough

<u>Address or location:</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
• Presbyterian Church Wantage Avenue	(1) American Patriot Elm (from Sussex Co. Tree Bank)
• 2 Hillside Avenue	(1) Saw tooth Oak (from Sussex Co. Tree Bank)
• 14 Broad Street (old Graber House)	(2) Saw tooth Oak (from Sussex Co. Tree Bank)
• 7 Wantage Avenue	(2) American Patriot Elm (from Sussex Co. Tree Bank)
• Lakeland Bank	(1) Sentry Ginkgo (Lindens uprooting sidewalk)
	• (2) Red Maple (repl. Wantage & Broad St. Locations)
<hr/>	
TOTAL OF 9 FROM TREE BANK	

TREES TO BE SUPPLIED BY BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE

• Recreation Park	(1) White Fir (to replace Katsura) 6/7'
• Foxhill Property	(2) Dawn Redwood (billed as acer rubrum)
• Railroad Avenue (between Roy's bldg.	(1) White Fir 6/7'
• across from Fire House) next to Brook	(1) Black Gum 2-2-1/2"
• 34 Mill Street	(1) Redbud 2-2-1/2"
• 3 1 st Street (Rosemary Tyler)	(1) London Plane 2-2-1/2"
• 4 1 st Street at property line	(1) Hornbeam 2-2-1/2"
• 1st Street at Fox Hill Road	(1) Riversi Beech (to replace dead Red Maple) 2-2-1/2"

Total of (9) B& B Trees purchased by Branchville

Planting Schedule for 2005 tentative

(Branchville to purchase)

along Branchville Borough Rights of Way

- Maple Avenue @ Lutz (1) 2-2-1/2" caliper Sweet Gum (to replace Maple removed)
- Maple Avenue @ Lutz (1) 2-2-1/2" October Glory Maple Tree (to replace Maple removed) ok for slightly wet condition
- Main Street @ American Hotel (1) 3-3-1/2" Sentry Ginkgo Trees
- 45 Broad Street @ Fox Hill (Lawson) (1) Japanese Tree Lilac
- 12 Mill Street (4) Hemlocks (7-8') already planted
(to be paid for by Asplundh Tree Experts upon resolution with Mary Hyde, property owner)
- 6 Newton Avenue (1) Winter King Hawthorne
- New Bridge @ Hillside Avenue Due to snowplowing need for space to push snow, no planting is schedule, just seeding by Sussex County

Sussex County to Supply or Purchase)

along Sussex County Rights of Way

- Mill Street @ Lakeland and old Bank (1) Elm Tree from tree bank (to be dug out by John Eldred) on 4/21/2005 and planted
- 4 Newton Avenue (1) Oak Tree from tree bank (to be dug out by John Eldred) on 4/21/2005 and planted.

To be purchased by Branchville by paid for by others

- Broad Street @ FMI (1) Hornbeam (in corner inside sidewalk @ driveway)
to be paid for by FMI and supplied by Branchville.
- Broad Street @ FMI (2) small potted Trees to be determined and supplied by
Branchville but paid for by FMI.

(To Be Purchased for Homeowner by Branchville)

- Jaeger on Broad Street (1) Norway Spruce Tree 7-8' size

Planting Schedule for 2006

12 Main Street (McCracken Funeral Home)	(2) Winter King Hawthorne or other flowering tree w/ red flowers
2 Newton Avenue	(1) Winter King Hawthorne or other small flowering tree (replaces tree cut by resident)
Bridge @ Hillside Terrace	(2) columnar Evergreen Trees for behind the guardrails
Newton Ave @ Morris Turnpike (Wilco)	(2) Serbian Spruce
29 Wantage Avenue (Holcomb)	(2) Norway Spruce (due to water in ground)
Recreation Park @ Ball field(Along Dry Brook)	(20) Hemlocks (very small potted)
Recreation Park (Tennis Court)	(1) Serbian Spruce
New House next to Churchill Cemetery	(2) Douglas Fir or Serbian Spruce

5. Work Plans 2001-2006

Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission

PO Box 2190, 8 Railroad Ave. Branchville, NJ 07826

Work Plan Year 2001

1. Reviewed pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees. Determined only minor work was necessary which was performed by the shade tree commission members during January and February. Branches were picked up by the DPW and chipped. ***Completed February 20, 2001***
2. Mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of arbor day activities planned for April 21, and fax press releases to local newspapers. ***Completed April 10, 2001***
3. Plant approximately 13 shade trees within Borough rights-of way (see planting schedule attached) Holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW
Completed April 21, 2001
4. Apply for the Sussex County Planning Awards " Beautification Project" award.
Received the award on September 29, 2001
5. Applied for and received grant sponsored by NJ Community Forestry Program to create and implement a Urban Forestry City Management Plan.

Total Expenditures for 2001

4/12/01	Jansen Nursery – Street Tree (Arbor Day) purchase	\$ 1040.00
2001	<u>Work performed by the Branchville Dept of works</u>	<u>\$ 760.00</u>
	Total	\$1800.00

Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission

PO Box 840 Branchville, NJ 07826

Work Plan / Budget for Year 2003

1. Maintenance of current trees: Review pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees, pick up and chip branches as necessary, water new trees every week for the first year, fertilize as necessary.

Manpower required:

**DPW crew (pick-up, chipping, watering)-- 2 Hours / week @ 15.6/hr
\$1622.40**

Status as of December, 2003:

Completed by DPW members Eldred and Little, and Shade Tree Commission members Meyer, Stark & Sutton

2. Current year program activities: Format and mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of arbor day activities planned for April 19, fax press releases to local newspapers, select and order trees.

Manpower required:

Status as of December, 2003:

Completed Shade Tree Commission members Meyer, Stark & Harrison

3. Plant approximately 18 shade trees within Borough rights-of way (see planting schedule attached) Holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW

Manpower required:

**DPW crew (dig holes with backhoe, water, chip) 24 man-hours @ 15.6/hr
\$374.44**

Shade Tree Commission volunteers (planting) 60 man hours = \$936.00

Cost of 18 trees: 9 supplied by Parkside Nursery, 9 supplied by Sussex County Tree Bank \$1305.00

Status as of December, 2003:

Completed by DPW members Eldred and Little, and Shade Tree Commission members Meyer, Stark, Sutton, Harrison & Kunkel with add'l. volunteers.

4. Present Arbor day program at the Frankford township elementary school

Manpower required:

Shade Tree Commission volunteers - 10 min hours = \$156.60

Status as of December, 2003:

Completed Shade Tree Commission member Sutton.

5. Begin tree inventory.

Shade Tree commission volunteers - 40 man-hours = \$624.00

Status as of December, 2003:

Started by Shade Tree Commission member Stark

Totals:

DPW crew	\$ 2620.84
Shade Tree commission volunteers	\$ 2028.60
Cost of trees	\$ 1305.00
Total	\$ 5954.44

Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission

P.O. Box 840, 8 Railroad Ave. Branchville, NJ 07826

Work Plan Year 2004

1. Reviewed pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees. Determined only minor work was necessary which was performed by the shade tree commission members during January and February. Branches were picked up by the DPW and chipped. **Completed February 20, 2004**
2. Mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of arbor day activities planned for May 1st, and fax press releases to local newspapers. **Completed April 10, 2004**
3. Plant approximately 20 shade trees within Borough rights-of way (see planting schedule attached) Holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW
Completed May 1, 2004
4. Selectively prune those trees that required pruning among the 400 Shade Trees planted over the last 17 years by the Borough of Branchville
Ongoing process, 70 % of work currently required completed as of October 1, 2004
5. Attend CORE Training with members of Branchville Tree Commission and Public Works Supervisor.
Completed October 29, 2004
6. Reviewed pruning work necessary for power line clearance with Bill Totten, Chief Arborist for J.C.P & L and Dominic Derasimo, Arborist for Asplundh Tree Service (subcontractor for Utility).
Pruning work completed on November 22, 2004.

Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission

P.O. Box 840, 8 Railroad Ave. Branchville, NJ 07826

Work Plan Year 2005

1. Reviewed pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees. Determined specific work was necessary which was performed by the shade tree commission members as well as public works department personnel trained during CORE Programs, during 2005. All branches were picked up by the DPW and chipped. **Completed November 2005.**
2. Mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of arbor day activities planned for May 1st, and fax press releases to local newspapers. **Completed April 01, 2005**
3. Plant approximately 20 shade trees within Borough rights-of way (see planting schedule attached) Holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW
Completed April 30, 2005
4. Selectively prune those trees that required pruning among the 400 Shade Trees planted over the last 17 years by the Borough of Branchville Over 100 volunteer hours applied to pruning in Branchville during 2005 calendar year. **Ongoing process, 100% of work currently required completed as of November 1, 2005**
5. Completed removal of 4 Pin Oaks on public property in front of FMI Insurance at their request and in partnership with private company. They provided funding, Shade Tree Commission provided oversight to replant 4 fastigate Hornbeam as replacement after sidewalk repair. September 2005.
6. Attend CORE Training with members of Branchville Tree Commission and Public Works Supervisor during 2004, **did not attend training in 2005**
7. Provided stewardship for pruning work on power line clearance performed by subcontractor for J.C.P.& L (Asplundh Tree Service) including replacing trees removed at 2 Newton Avenue with Hemlock Trees along Culver Brook. **Spring 2005**

Borough of Branchville Shade Tree Commission

P.O. Box 840, 8 Railroad Ave. Branchville, NJ 07826

Work Plan Year 2006

1. Review pruning requirements to prune and or remove hazard trees. Determine specific work was necessary to be performed by the shade tree commission members as well as public works department personnel February 2006
2. Order Labels by March 1, 2006 and Mail Arbor Day letters to all borough residents advising of arbor day activities planned for May 1st, and fax press releases to local newspapers.

Complete April 10, 2006

3. Plant approximately 10 shade trees within Borough rights-of way (see planting schedule attached) Holes dug by the DPW, mulch and clean-up by the DPW **Complete by May 1, 2006**
4. **Selectively** prune those trees that require pruning among the 450 Shade Trees planted over the last 18 years by the Borough of Branchville Over 10 volunteer hours applied to pruning in Branchville during January, 2006 . **Ongoing process, 100% of work currently required complete as of December 31st, 2006.**
5. Completed removal of 2 Bradford Pear Trees on public property adjacent to Lakeland Bank Building January 2006 by Public Works Dept. They will be replaced with fastigate form sentry Gingko trees during Arbor Day 2006.
6. Attend CORE Training with members of Branchville Tree Commission and Public Works Supervisor during 2006 as per review of training requirements by Shade Tree Commission at meeting February 9th 2006.
7. Completed major tree removal and pruning of Oak Trees on Price Street and Kemah Lake Road, and additional removal of large Ash Tree that fell at Recreation Park after storm in January of 2006.

6. Selected Annual Shade Tree Commission Reports 1998-2004

Annual Tree Commission Report for 1998

Borough of Branchville

Selective pruning was performed by Shade Tree Commission members on January 11, 1998. Branches damaged by trucks were removed from several trees along upper Broad Street. Trees in the area of the Post Office and the Bank were elevated to avoid interference with pedestrians. A survey of health of all the trees in town was done. It was noticed that the Tulip tree at Wantage Avenue again had infestations and would need to be sprayed. Locations were selected for Arbor Day 1998 and appropriate tree species were picked.

On March 8, 1998 a meeting of the Branchville Shade Tree Committee was held to discuss the 1998 planting, pruning and maintenance season. Sites and varieties were discussed and selected for the Arbor Day Program scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 1998. The final schedule of planting is attached.

On April 25th, Saturday, Arbor Day was celebrated, 18 trees were planted and Branchville was awarded TREE CITY USA for the 8th year in a row. Joe Haussmann, retired forester presented the award to Branchville Mayor Gerald Van Gordon.

In September a sidewalk replacement project was undertaken by the Borough of Branchville to replace the sidewalks on the South side of Wantage Avenue and both sides of Broad Street. To accomplish this many trees had to be selectively pruned. Several older trees including a large Maple on Broad Street were removed. Despite precautions taken, some trunk damage was incurred at all locations. The Contractor was back charged by the Borough several thousand dollars to replace or repair the tree damage.

A meeting is scheduled in January 1999 to plan the 1999 Branchville Tree Program

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas Meyer for the Branchville Tree Committee

Selective pruning was performed by Shade Tree Commission members began on November 7, 1999 and will continue throughout the winter. Branches damaged by trucks will be removed from several trees along upper Broad Street. Selective elevation was done on the Flowering Crab trees at the tennis courts in Recreation Park and the Sargeant Cherry at Churchill and Main Street. A survey of health of all the trees in town was also done.

A meeting of Branchville Shade Tree Commission was held Wednesday, November 10, 1999 at 11:30 am. All members were present. Items discussed were the planting schedule and Arbor Day Program for the Year 2000, the NJDEP Tree Planting Grant, the Community Forestry Management Plan, and the work done to date this year. Minutes of the meeting and agenda are attached.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas Meyer for the Branchville Tree Committee

Annual Tree Commission Report for 1999
Borough of Branchville

On March 8, 1999 a meeting of the Branchville Shade Tree Committee was held to discuss the 1999 planting, pruning and maintenance season. Sites and varieties were discussed and selected for the Arbor Day Program scheduled for Saturday, May 8th 1999. A final schedule of planting is attached.

On May 8th, Saturday, Arbor Day was celebrated, 12 trees were planted and Branchville was awarded TREE CITY USA for the 10th year in a row. Joe Hausmann, retired forester presented the award to Branchville Mayor Gerald Van Gordon.

On June 10th members of Shade Tree Commission Members, Susan Stark and Thomas Meyer attended and completed the Core Training Program in accordance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. Katieanne Harrison will attend the next program offered. At least 2 members from each community must attend. This is an important requirement for Branchville to complete its Community Forestry Management Plan. An immediate requirement for Branchville to comply with N.J. law is to expand their Shade Tree Commission Members to 5 from the present 3.

In May an improvement project for Mill Street was undertaken by the Borough of Branchville. To avoid damage by construction equipment and utility pole relocation many trees had to be selectively pruned. Several older trees were removed. GPU did necessary pruning to relocate utility poles on Mill Street. Bartlett Tree Service was hired for the portion of the pruning job not related to utility pole relocation. Due to the precautions taken, no damage was incurred as a result of the project.

Bartlett Tree Service was also retained to remove to old Maple Trees on Maple Avenue, one Ash on Lloyd Avenue and one huge Elm Tree on 1st Street in front of the Harris Property. This should be completed by the end of the year. Bartlett has a huge backlog of work resulting from Hurricane Floyd which fortunately had minimal impact on the tree inventory of Branchville.

In September the County of Sussex marked out two large old Sugar Maple Trees in front of the Newcomer house on Broad Street for removal. As soon as the County Tree Crew receives their new truck the trees will be taken down and stumps ground.

On Friday, November 5th 1999, the balance of 3 trees not planted during the Arbor Day Program were planted on Mill Street. One London Plane, one Patmore Ash and one October Glory Maple were planted using the Branchville Road Department crew.

Annual Tree Commission Report for 2002
Borough of Branchville

In March of 2002, a meeting of the Branchville Shade Tree Committee was held to discuss the 2002 planting, pruning and maintenance season. In addition Branchville received a grant from the NJ Div. Of Parks and Forestry to create a Urban Forest Management Plan., Sites and varieties were discussed and selected for the Arbor Day Program scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, 2002. A final schedule of planting is attached.

On April 20th 2002 May 8th , Saturday, Arbor Day was celebrated, 12 trees were planted and Branchville was awarded TREE CITY USA for the 10th year in a row. The NJ Division of Parks and Forestry forwarded the award from the National Arbor Day Foundation to Thomas Meyer, who in turn gave it to the town clerk..

The township employees successfully watered the newly planted tree inventory and we are happy to report that 100% of them made it through their first summer, which was perhaps one of the driest summers on record. In addition to the successful Arbor Day planting program, in early October 2002, the County of Sussex and GPU combined to contribute assisting the Borough of Branchville by removing (2) old Maple Trees at 14 Broad Street, and (2) old Maple Trees at 7 Wantage Avenue. Another tree at 2 Newton Avenue will be partially removed by independent tree maintenance company that is under contract by GPU. It is estimated that those removals alone would have cost either the Borough or the homeowner several thousand dollars.

Judson Bennett, a consulting Forester, continued to work on the Community Forestry Management Plan and by early 2003 it should be ready to submit to the State of NJ for approval and appropriate recognition.

To date, over 300 trees have been planted by the Borough of Branchville during the past 15 years. As old trees were removed, new trees were planted increasing the varieties from about 10 to over 50! This factor alone guards against the possible loss of all the trees due to a blight that affects one species. A plan has already been started for 2003 to replace the trees removed during 2002. Because of the Borough's ambitious shade tree program, which included much forward planning that anticipated street widening, the Broad Street sidewalk project was completed with almost zero disturbance of the Shade Trees that lined Broad Street. Additionally it is worth noting, that during recent storms, Branchville incurred almost no damage due to its diligent efforts on urban tree management, while numerous other locations in the county were hard hit. It is hoped by the Shade Tree Committee, that continued allocation of at least \$3000 per year will be budgeted to continue the excellent Shade Tree Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Meyer, Chairperson.

Cc: Susan Stark
Frank Sutton
Katieanne Harrison

Annual Tree Commission Report for 2004

Borough of Branchville

In March of 2004, a meeting of the Branchville Shade Tree Commission was held to discuss the 2004 planting, pruning and maintenance season. Sites and varieties were discussed and selected for the Arbor Day Program scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2004. A final schedule of the Planting is attached for your records.

On May 1, 2004, Saturday, Arbor Day was celebrated. A total of 19 trees were planted and once again Branchville was awarded TREE CITY USA for the 15th consecutive year. It should be noted that while there are 107 TREE CITIES in New Jersey, there are only 2 that have achieved the 20 Year Mark. Branchville has a chance to do just that in 2010! Trees from the Sussex County Tree Bank were transplanted as well as trees purchased as B&B from EP Jansen Nursery. Volunteers, Tree Commission Members combined with Branchville Borough Public Works Crew members to make this day successful.

On Friday, March 26th, 2004, Thomas Meyer and Katieanne Harrision attended the Garden State Tree Conference at Cook College Campus participating in courses on Tree Liability and another on the devastating effect of Wooley Adelgid on Hemlock Trees in the Sparta Glen and Tillman's Ravine. On October 29, 2004, Thomas Meyer, Frank Sutton, John Eldred and Katieanne Harrision attended another CEU Accredited series of courses on various subjects including Hazardous Tree Identification, Conflicts between Trees and the affects of other incompatible activities, Proper Tree for Proper Site, and the debilitating effects of Asian Long Horned Beetles. Etc. Both events were part of the continuing educational process sponsored by the New Jersey Arborists Association in their effort to raise the standards of tree care in New Jersey's Urban Forests.

As a result of this educational event, Katieanne Harrision is working on assembling an educational packet on the Asian Long Horned Beetle to be distributed to Branchville Residents in early 2005.

During the Fall of 2004, J.C.P & L retained Asplundh Tree Service to prune all shade trees within 10' of the primary power lines along Branchville's Right-of-Ways. Branchville Shade Tree Commission was notified and Bill Totten, the project's foreman worked closely with the Branchville Tree Commission as the project was completed. By December, this job as complete and the work was done in a very satisfactory manner.

On a continuing and as need basis, during 2004, members of the Branchville Tree Commission, spent substantial hours pruning trees that were damaged by errant trucks. Trees were pruned and elevated as necessary. Town public works department employees spent numerous hours watering newly planted trees as well as removing and chipping brush from pruned trees. The cooperative effort definitely shows as one drives down our village streets!

In December of this year, Branchville Tree Commission applied for our 16th consecutive TREE CITY USA Award.