



Township of Brick  
Shade Tree Commission  
10 Year Tree Cover Goal  
2015

Introduction:

The Shade Tree Commission has been charged with creating a "Tree Cover Goal." A Tree Cover Goal is utilized by communities to establish a baseline of how much tree cover exists in a community and provide strategies and tactics to increase that tree cover percentage. Street trees and shade trees can enhance the character of a community. Municipalities that have a large number of shade trees, street trees, transportation corridor plantings, well maintained public properties, parks and recreational areas have a more favorable image and community identity.

Tree Cover:

The Township of Brick estimates that the current tree cover of the municipality is approximately 20%. This estimate was developed from i-Tree Canopy tool at [www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org). It is consistent with a 15.1%-30.6% tree canopy cover estimated by the USDA Urban and Community Forests of the Mid-Atlantic Region report developed in 2009.<sup>1</sup> According to this report, the Township of Brick falls well below the New Jersey average of 43.6% tree canopy. It was rated as a high priority area for increased canopy and tree plantings.

The Goal:

The goal of the Township of Brick Shade Tree Commission is to increase the tree canopy cover to 50% over the next ten years. A robust and extensive program will have to be initiated to accomplish this goal.

Background:

The Township of Brick has been a Tree City USA community for the past nine years and has successfully planted over 400 trees through three NJ No Net Loss grants. The Township is currently working on planting an additional 3,954 trees with a No Net Loss grant in the amount of \$1,186,020.00. Trees are planned to be planted along highway corridors, at municipal facilities, at recreation complexes and neighborhood pocket parks and along municipal residential streets. This project will increase the tree canopy, significantly; however, more aggressive strategies will have to be employed to achieve the 10 year goal of reaching 50% tree cover.

1. United States Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forests of the Mid-Atlantic Region, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania by David J. Nowak and Eric J. Greenfield. Pg.14.

Strategies:

Maximizing the canopy of shade trees on streets, roadways, public lands and in commercial areas provides the following benefits:

- Lowers ambient air temperature to achieve healthier air quality
- Intercepts and absorbs air pollutants to achieve public health
- Lowers the surface air temperatures of hard surfaces and reduces the adverse effects of urban heat islands
- Increases the life span of asphalt streets and roadways providing a savings in roadway repairs and paving
- Reduces storm water runoff
- Contributes to traffic calming
- Increases the walkability and bicycle use in the community
- Results in CO2 reduction
- Promotes energy savings for cooling
- Enhances business opportunities in attractively landscaped areas
- Enhances customer comfort
- Maximizes active and passive recreational activities
- Additional shade provides opportunity for skin cancer prevention

To achieve these benefits, it is recommended the Township of Brick adopt the following policies:

- Selection of street trees and shade trees along roadways and in parking lots should include those species with large spreading canopies.
- Wherever feasible require, design, install and maintain 50% canopy cover for public and commercial parking lots.
- Prioritize large tree canopy plantings where ever public parks and recreational areas are being re-designed.
- Create opportunities for volunteer planting, monitoring and stewardship of trees at public facilities.
- Provide saplings and seedlings to the public for planting on residential properties at township-wide events including Annual Green Fair, Summer Fest events and the Farmers Market.
- Continue to apply for tree planting grants.

Adopted by the Township of Brick Shade Tree Commission on  
September 9, 2015.

  
Secretary