

Lawrence Township

Community Forestry Management Plan

2025-2029



Plan Prepared for:

Lawrence Township
Shade Tree Committee
2207 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrence, New Jersey 07704
Dave Bosted, Chairman, STC

Plan Prepared by:

Shelterwood Forest Managers, LLC
5 Wildwood Way
Freehold, NJ 07728
NJ Approved Consulting Forester
Licensed Tree Expert, LTE #375
Bill Brash, Forester

<u>CFMP SECTION</u>	INDEX	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Introduction & Background		
a. Mission Statement		3
b. Liability Statement		3
c. Community Overview		
i. Overview		3-4
ii. Community Map(s)		4-9
iii. History, Accomplishments, & Barriers to Success		10
d. Urban Forest Structure, Composition, and Trends		10-16
e. Overall Program Goals		16
f. Plan Connections and Other Considerations		16-19
2. Community Forestry Program Capacity		19
a. Community Forestry Program Administration		19-22
b. Partnerships (NGOs, nonprofit organizations, interdepartmental)		22-23
c. Training		23
d. Budget		23
e. Equipment		24
3. Community Engagement and Well-being		24-25
4. Plan Implementation		26
a. Elements, Objectives, and Action Items		26-27
b. Activity Schedule		27
5. Appendices		28-29

Section 1. Introduction and Background

Trees are of incalculable value to human society and to the global environment. Trees and the ecosystems support, purify, and cool the air that we breathe, mitigate stormwater runoff, buffer us from noise and visual unsightliness; being in their presence soothes our souls and inspires our minds. As our suburban populations continue to expand and our natural spaces are placed under increasing pressure, each tree takes on a new meaning and importance within our communities. The wooded creek, the street trees that dapple our sidewalks with light, the majestic tree climbed by the neighborhood children is now a vital living feature of our community. Sadly, all too often these trees are taken for granted. It is only their decline through poor health, the fact that they pose a potential hazard after storm damage or are growing in a location where the tree is perceived as a nuisance, that the community gives them any consideration.

The Lawrence Township's 2025-2029 Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) is intended to address complex issues related to the protection of our municipality's urban forest canopy with a range of goals. These goals, which will be achieved by our volunteers through the completion of specific, realistic and measurable objectives, are across the range of Community Stewardship Incentive Program practices. Our third five-year plan will continue to be focused on education and tree awareness but with a stronger environmental and arboreal science perspective. In addition, we will focus greater attention on the preservation and replenishment of our existing tree canopy.

a. Mission Statement

The Township of Lawrence desires to maintain and promote a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree resource that will physically and aesthetically benefit the community and its residents in the most cost-effective manner possible.

b. Liability Statement

Lawrence Township recognizes the benefits provided to the community by its tree resource. As trees are living entities, it is inevitable that as they mature, they eventually require care, maintenance, removal and replacement. Lawrence Township must, however, work within a reasonable budget and may not be able to meet every demand. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to reduce tree hazards.

Since it is impossible to predict or prevent all hazardous conditions that may arise, Lawrence Township is developing this plan to become more proactive in its tree maintenance. Proactive tree management should reduce the occurrence of unexpected events.

Following this plan will demonstrate Lawrence Township's commitment to proper tree management within the Township's rights-of-way and public holdings.

c. Community Overview

i. Overview: Lawrence Township includes 21.98 square miles of land and is blessed with an average percentage of residential tree canopy of 51.7 % pursuant to the iTree Canopy results. Lawrence Township government is conducted under the Council-Manager form pursuant to the Faulkner Act. Lawrence Township's 2020 census revealed 33,077 residents.

Lawrence Township has a long history of managing the community forest and integrating it with its many sustainability efforts in a comprehensive effort to increase the quality of life for all Lawrence Township residents.

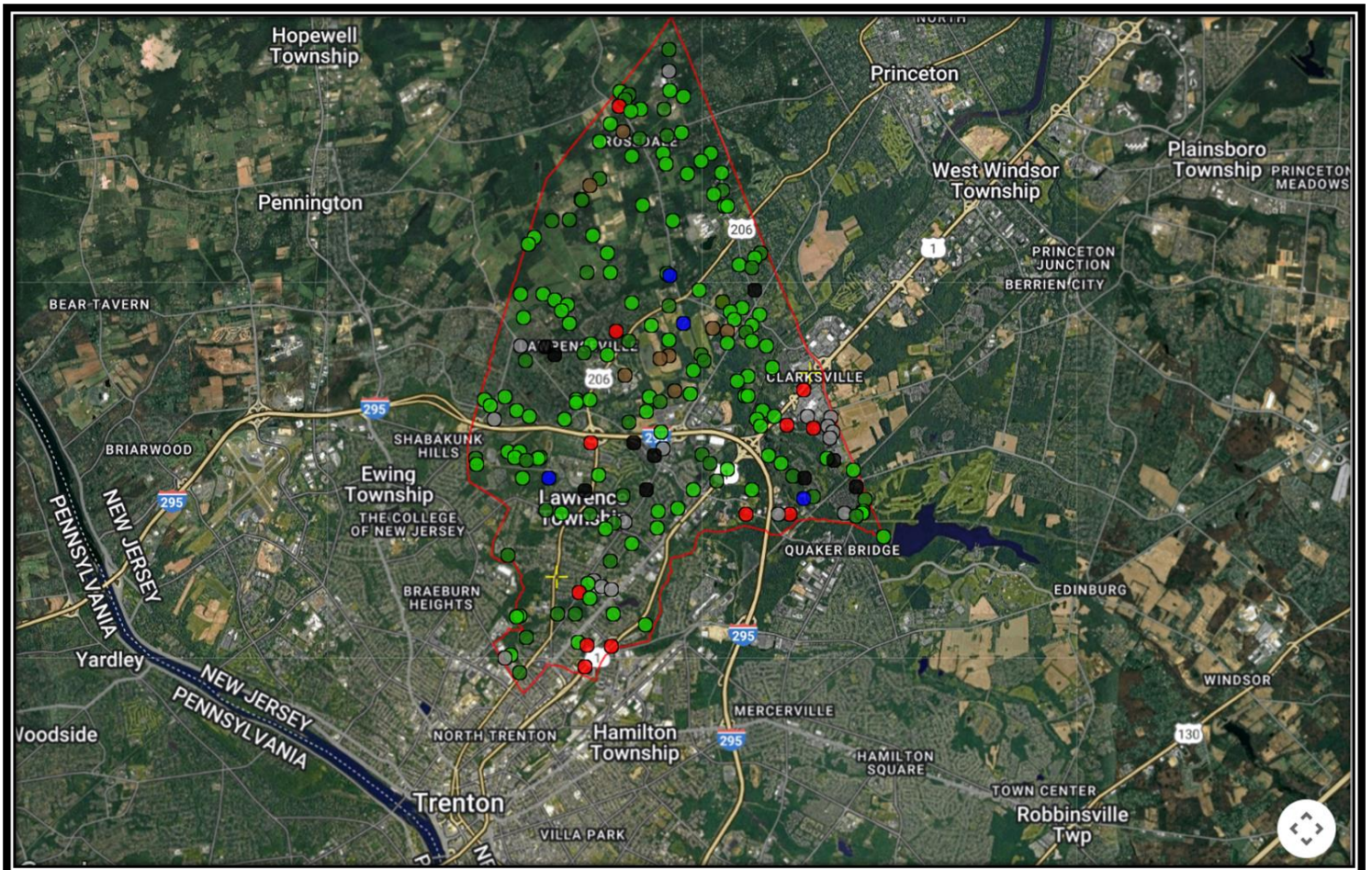
Despite the robust canopy of trees in Lawrence Township, there are many public spaces in town in need of shade. Many of our sports fields, parking lots and playgrounds are too hot during the long summer months. Our business district and Main Street could also benefit from new trees. Studies show that trees make an area more visually appealing and welcoming for shoppers. By providing shade and cooling, trees make it more comfortable for people to walk and spend time in retail areas. Healthy trees and landscaping signal a quality environment, creating a positive first impression.

In our new CFMP we will keep a list of priority planting locations and propose tree planting projects accordingly. Our goal is to gain a net gain in trees planted over trees removed and Lawrence Township is using the 2022 Davey Resource Group inventory to help track this goal more effectively.

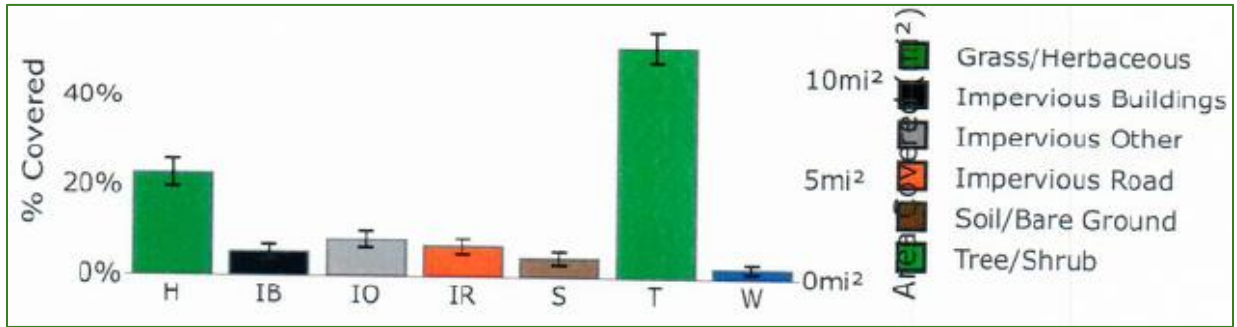
Lawrence Township has an extremely knowledgeable professional staff (Engineers, Planners, and other professionals). The STAC interacts directly with the Assistant Township engineer and works with the DPW to identify at-risk trees and tree planting needs and locations. They have contracted with the Davey Resource Group to do the Township inventory and with Shelterwood Forest Mgrs, LLC to assist STAC with completing the CFMP.

ii. Community Maps 2025 Forest Cover Map (Lawrence Township)

iTree Tree Canopy Cover Analysis is 51.76% (+0.78)

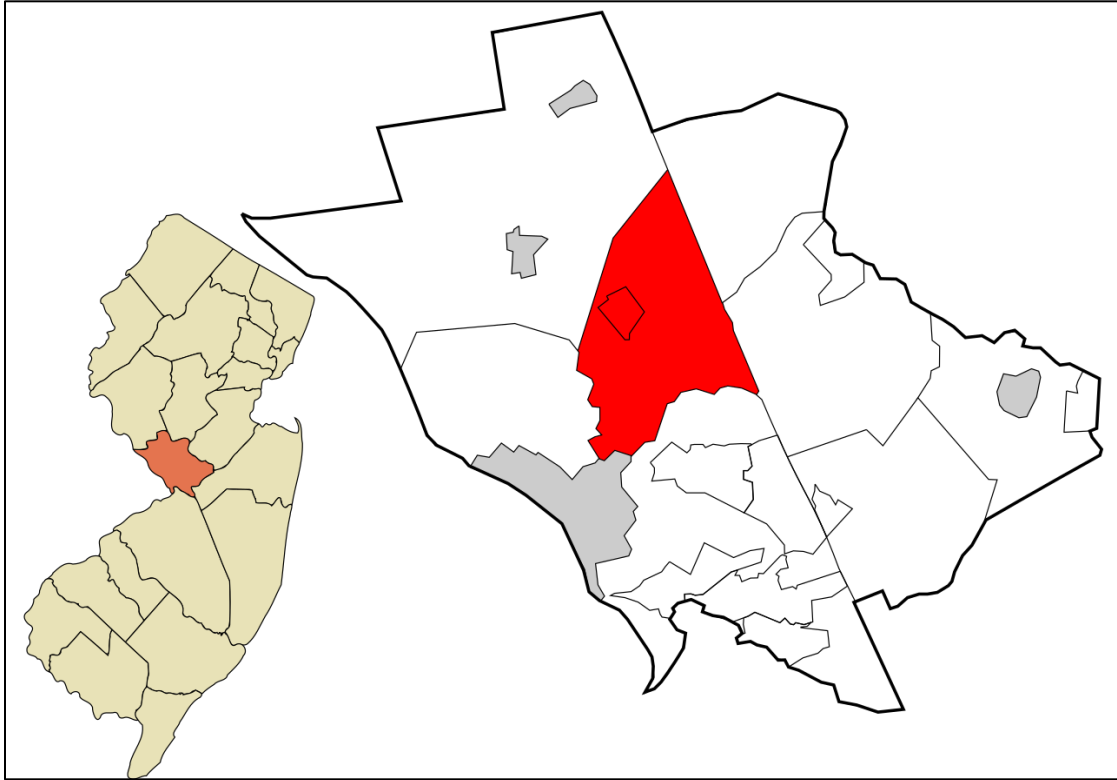


Lawrence Township iTree Canopy Cover Analysis

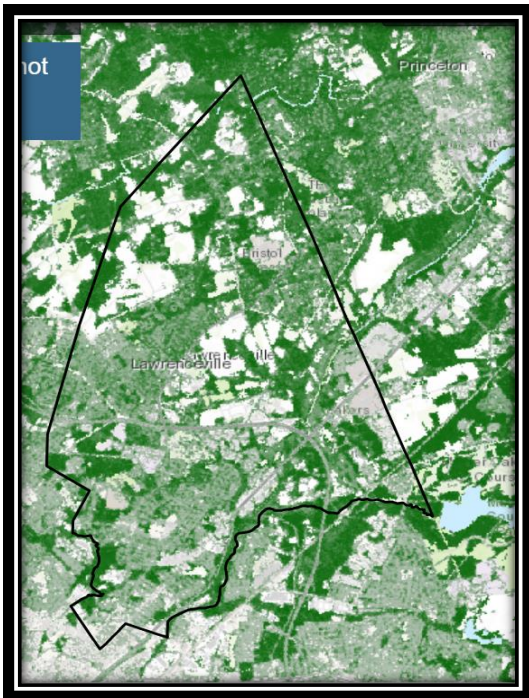


Abbr.	Cover Class	Description	Points	% Cover ± SE	Area (mi ²) ± SE
H	Grass/Herbaceous		45	22.61 ± 2.97	4.99 ± 0.65
IB	Impervious Buildings		10	5.03 ± 1.55	1.11 ± 0.34
IO	Impervious Other		16	8.04 ± 1.93	1.78 ± 0.43
IR	Impervious Road		13	6.53 ± 1.75	1.44 ± 0.39
S	Soil/Bare Ground		8	4.02 ± 1.42	0.89 ± 0.31
T	Tree/Shrub		103	51.76 ± 3.54	11.43 ± 0.78
W	Water		4	2.01 ± 1.01	0.44 ± 0.22
Total			199	100.00	22.09

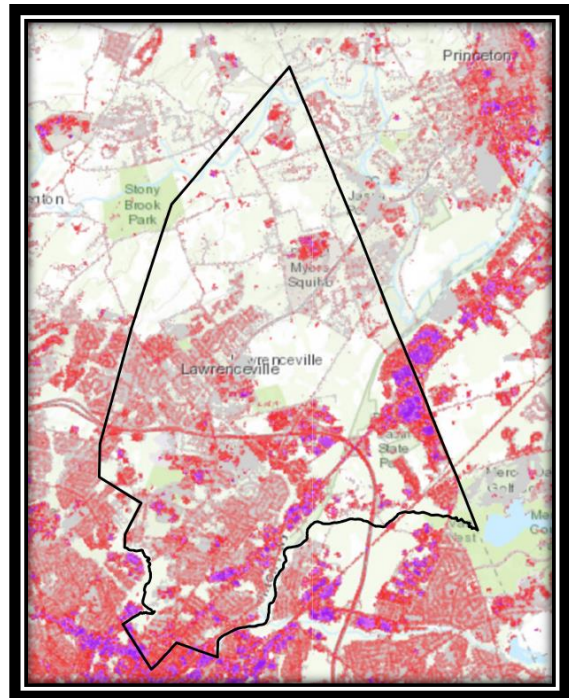
Lawrence Township Boundaries within Mercer County



Lawrence Township Forest Cover/Impervious Cover Maps



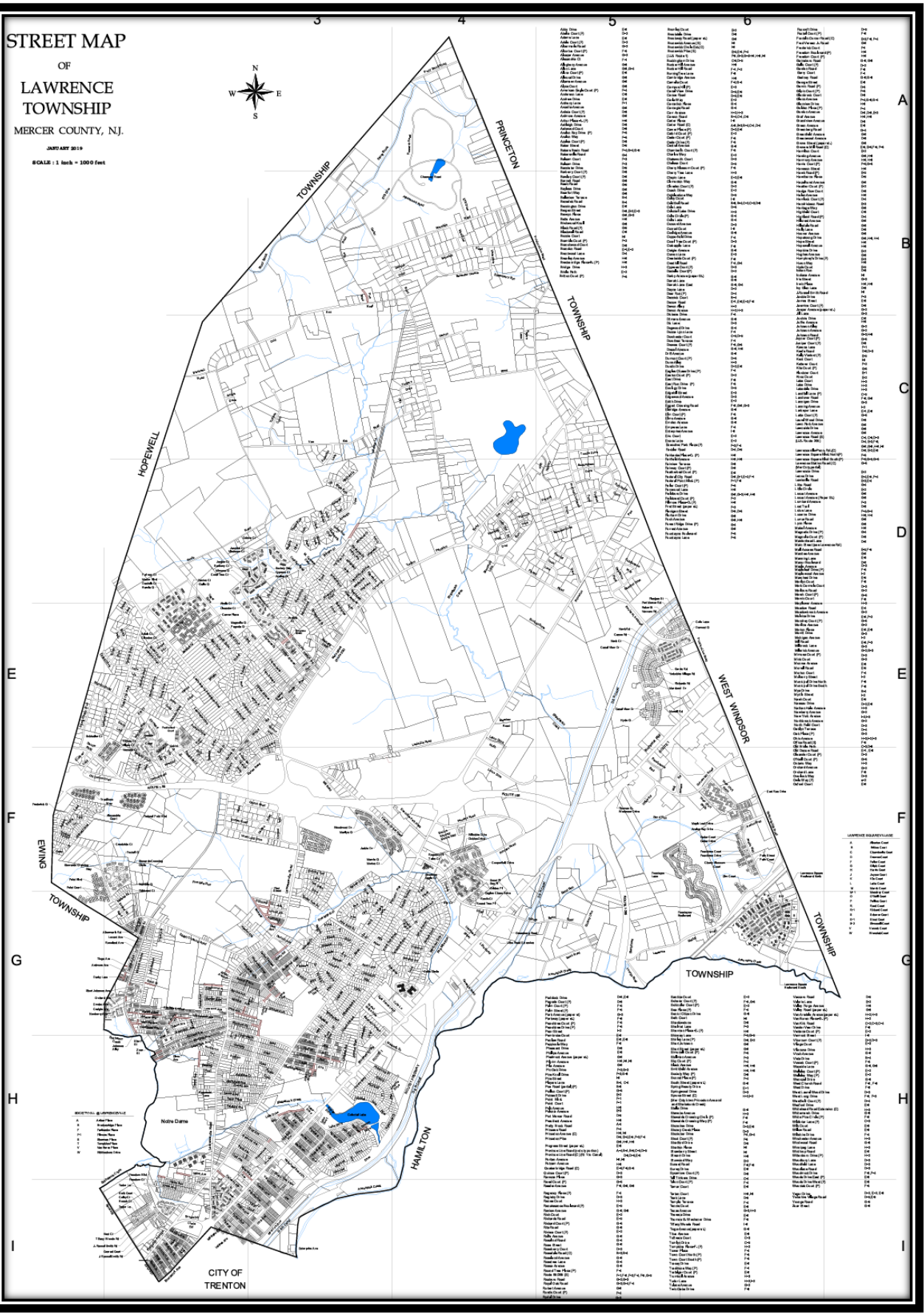
Forest Cover Lawrence Township 2021



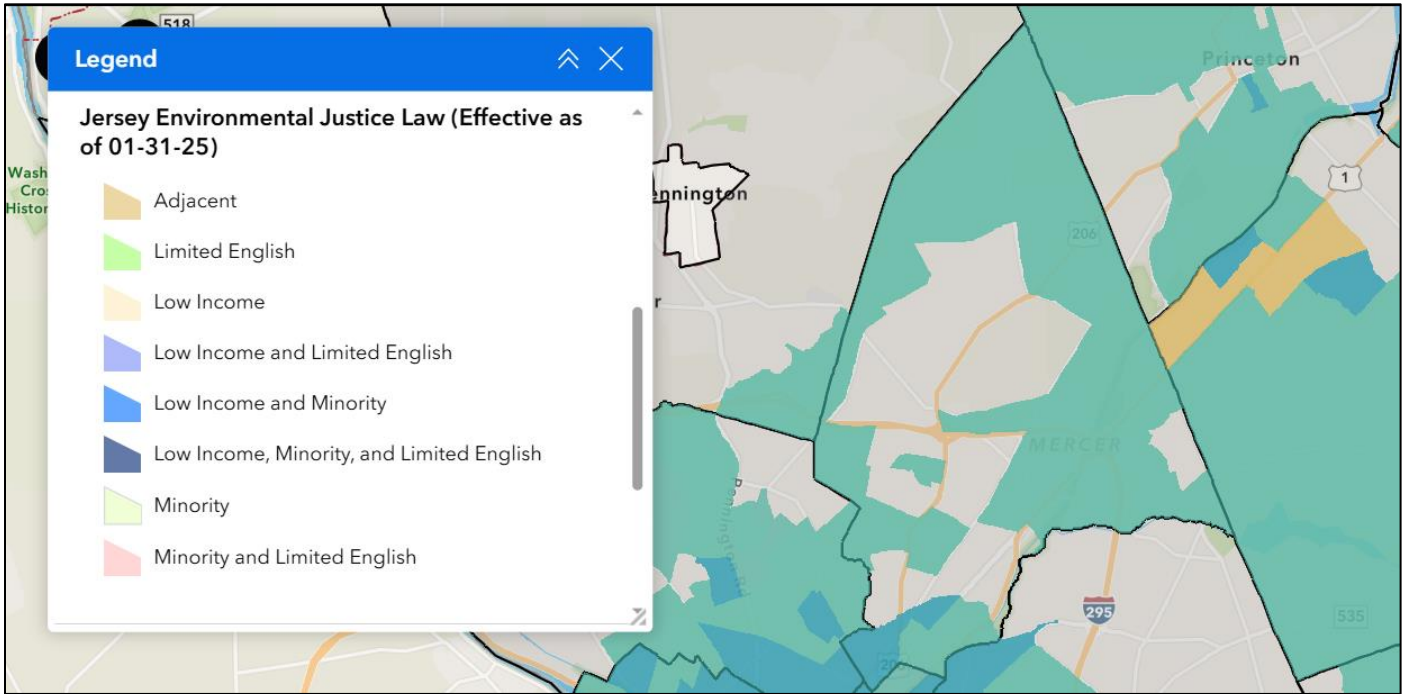
Impervious Cover Lawrence Township 2021

STREET MAP
OF
LAWRENCE
TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY, NJ.

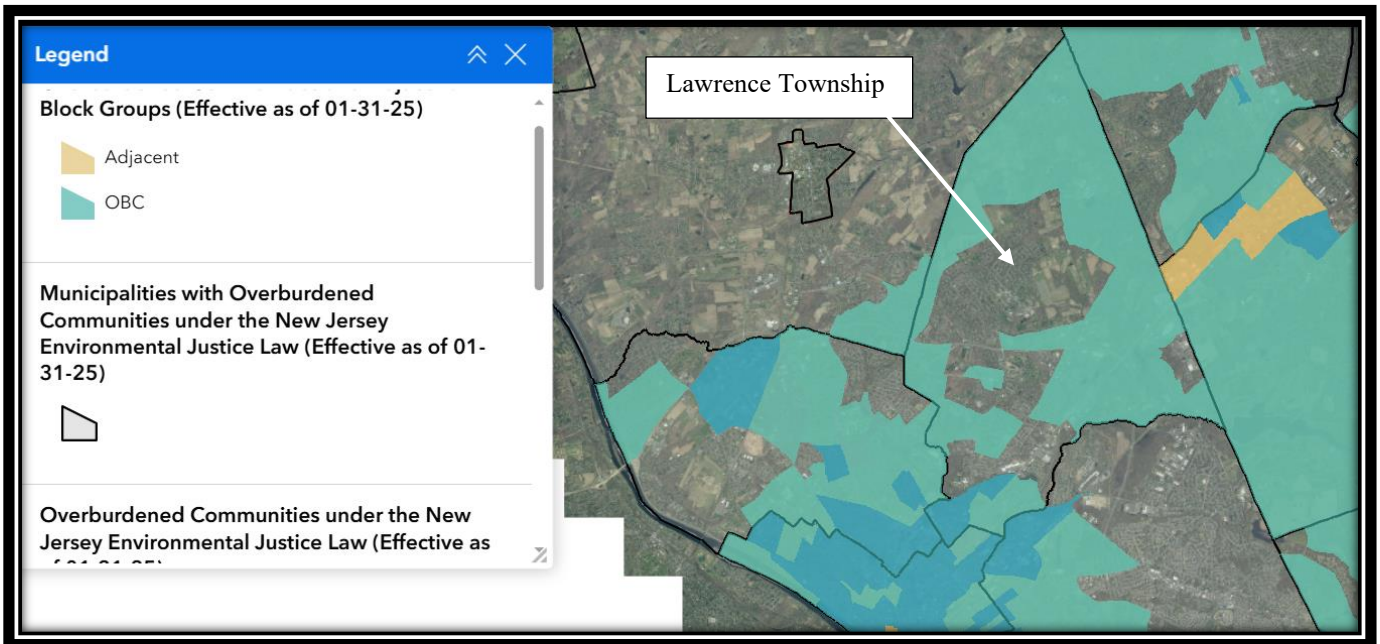
JANUARY 2019
SCALE: 1 inch = 1000 feet



Environmental Justice, Mapping, Assessment, and Protection Tool (EJMAP)



Environmental Justice areas are mapped in NJ based on the presence of 26 environmental and public health “stressors” shown in Table 1. There are no areas that meet the EJ or overburdened criteria in the Lawrence Township.



New Jersey Criteria for Determining Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas

Table1: New Jersey's Twenty-Six (26) Environmental and Public Health Stressors

Concentrated areas of air pollution (5 stressors)
Ground-Level Ozone
Fine Particulate Matter
Cancer Risk from Diesel Particulate Matter
Cancer Risk from Air Toxics Excluding Diesel Particulate Matter
Non-Cancer Risk from Air Toxics
Mobile Sources of Air Pollution (3 stressors)
Traffic– Cars, Light- and Medium-Duty Trucks
Traffic – Heavy-Duty Trucks
Railways
Contaminated Sites (3 Stressors)
Known Contaminated Sites
Soil Contamination Deed Restrictions
Ground Water Classification Exception Areas/Currently Known Extent Restrictions
Transfer Stations or other Solid Waste Facilities, Recycling Facilities, Scrap Metal Facilities (2 stressors)
Solid Waste Facilities
Scrap Metal Facilities
Point Sources of Water Pollution (2 stressors)
Surface Water
Combined Sewer Overflows
May Cause Potential Public Health Impacts (6 stressors)
Drinking Water
Potential Lead Exposure
Lack of Recreational Open Space
Lack of Tree Canopy
Impervious Surface
Flooding (Urban Land Cover)
Density/Proximity Stressors (3 stressors)
Emergency Planning Sites
Permitted Air Sites
NJPDES Sites
Social Determinants of Health (2 stressors)
Unemployment
Education

For more information on NJ Environmental Justice (EJ) area determination, click on the link below for the guidance document.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/ejmap-tg.pdf>

iii. History, Accomplishments, & Barriers to Success

Historically there has been an emphasis on being pro-active in managing the Lawrence Township Tree resource. Lawrence Township was tasked with the removal of more than 60 Ash trees along the streets, and it was done BEFORE these trees became a risk to remove. To do so requires removal prior to symptoms in some cases and requires a public relations effort to educate the residents regarding the need for removal, the science of Ash management and the promise of reforestation.

These efforts (removals and replanting) were completed by DPW over a three-year period with 20 trees removed and replanted annually until completed.

Lawrence Township maintains an inventory of newly planted trees along municipal streets and conducts periodic inspections to determine pruning and removal priorities. Lawrence Township also has a tree removal ordinance with permit and replacement requirements found on the Township website.

[REMOVAL OF SPECIMEN TREE](#)

Lawrence Township has additional tree related resources on their website along with copies of the existing CFMP (2019-2023) and the Davey Resource Group Inventory Summary (2022).

[Lawrence Township New Jersey - Shade Tree Advisory Committee](#)

Lawrence Township sought a better working relationship with PSE&G and NJDOT regarding ANSI pruning standards and tree risk concerns associated with the Ash removals.

Lawrence Township accesses mutual aid with neighboring communities at every opportunity and is a contributing partner with both Princeton and Mercer County in assisting and being granted assistance for tree care along the ROW's.

Current tree projects that Lawrence is interested in pursuing include mapping heat island hotspots and developing tree planting agreements with the owners to reduce the effects of these suburban "hotspots."

Colonial Lake is undergoing rehabilitation with shoreline erosion protection, and the Township would like to include rehabilitation and shoreline protection goals in this CFMP to potentially receive some financial and technical assistance in meeting the reforestation goals of the Colonial Lake project.

Lawrence Township STC has been actively working to identify neighborhoods, schools, and specific commercial areas for tree planting priorities. Lawrence will be pursuing the Trees for Schools grant opportunities with Sustainable Jersey as they arise.

All projects and goals are dependent upon funding. Funding is allocated through the Municipal capital budget and is sought annually, through available grant programs.

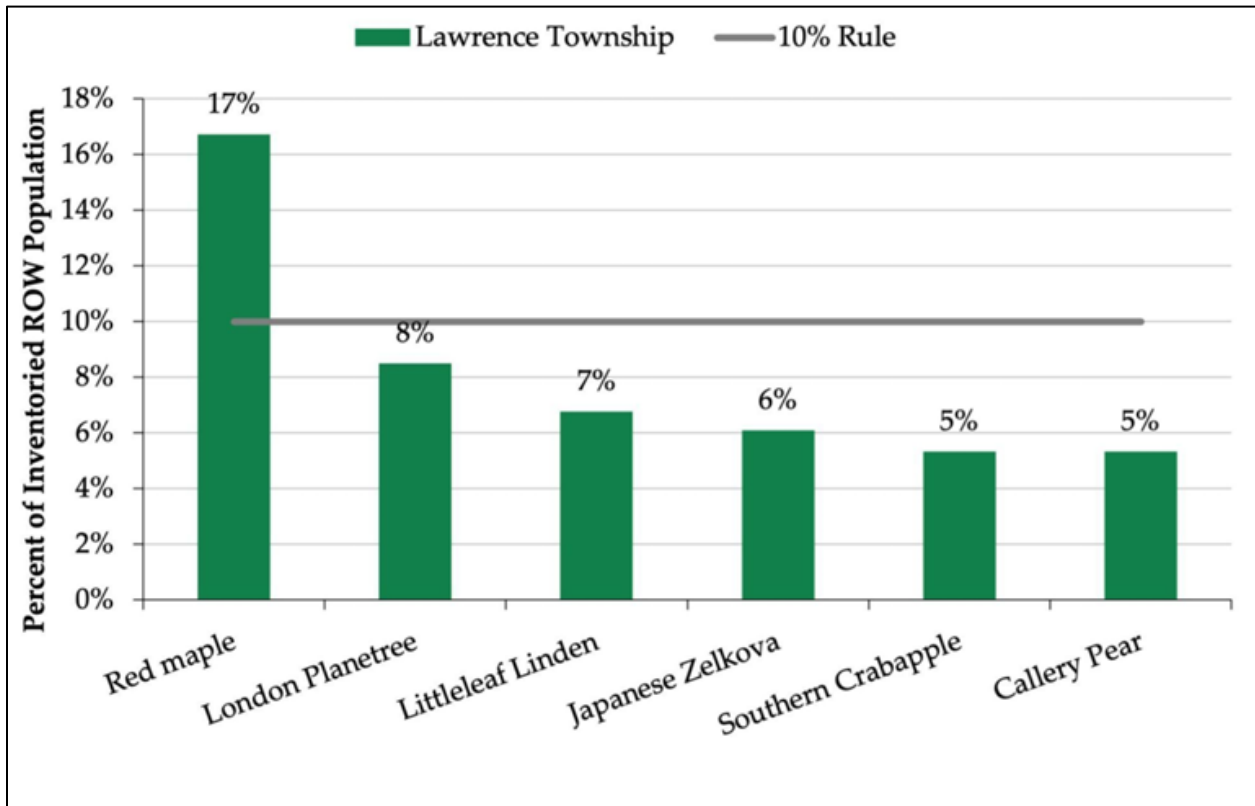
d. Urban Forest Structure, Composition and Trends

The Lawrence Township had an inventory completed by the Davy Resource Group (DRG) that included Lawrence Township's ROW trees. Two thousand six hundred twenty-five, (2,625) sites were inventoried, including 2,495 trees, 19 stumps, and 111 proposed planting sites. A "Final Summary Report" of the Davey Resource Group Inventory is attached. Excerpts from that summary are included below as a way to illustrate the Forest Structure and Composition of the urban forest in Lawrence Township.

Species Diversity Throughout Lawrence Township's ROW, 2,625 sites were inventoried, including 2,495 trees, 19 stumps, and 111 proposed planting sites. Figure 1 shows the composition of the most populous species compared to all inventory species. The composition of a tree population should follow

the 10-20-30 Rule for species diversity: a single species should represent no more than 10% of the urban forest, a single genus no more than 20%, and a single family no more than 30%. Currently, Lawrence Township has one species, red maple (comprising 17% of the inventoried population), that surpasses the 10% rule for species.

Figure 1.



Tree species composition in Lawrence Township, NJ.

Figure 2 represents the top five most common genera identified during the inventory in comparison to the 20% Rule. One genus, Acer (maple), exceeds the recommended 20% threshold. Maple makes up 29% of the street ROW tree population.

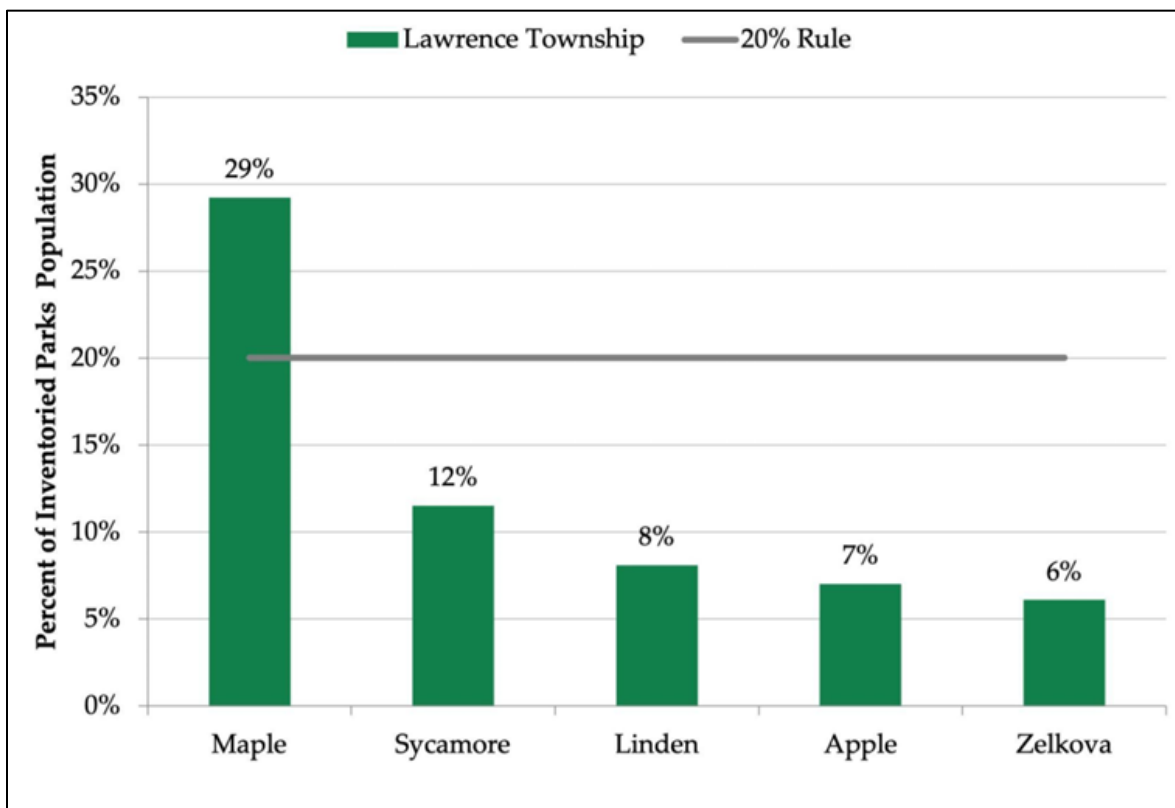
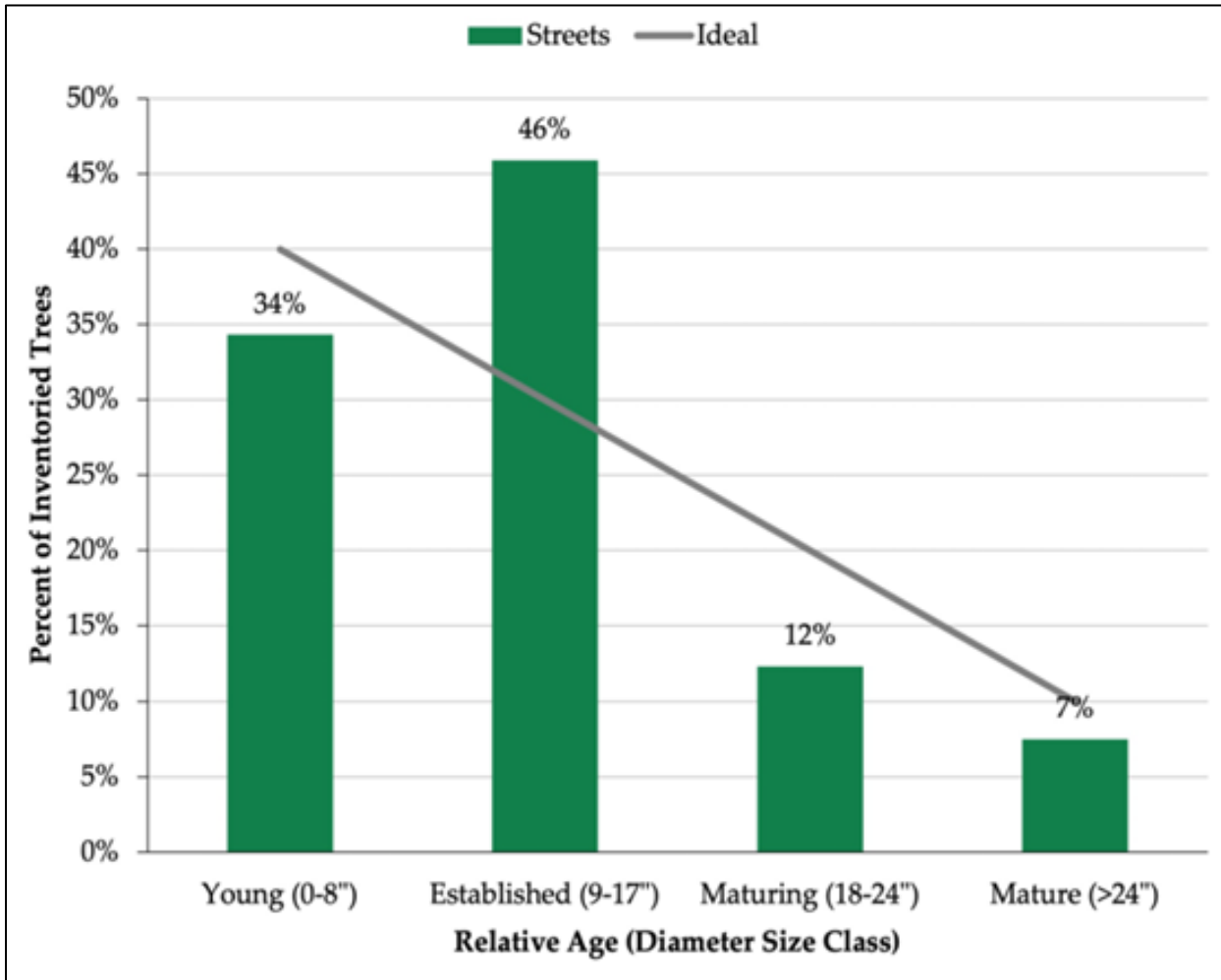


Figure 2. Top five genera in Lawrence Township, NJ in relation to the 20% Rule. An urban forest with low species, genera, or family diversity is more likely to be damaged by pest, disease, weather, and climate disruptions due to the presence of large populations of susceptible trees. It is also likely to be less resilient, or less capable of recovering from such disturbances, since large portions of the urban forest may be eliminated or damaged by these disturbances. Cultivating and maintaining diversity on the species, genus, and family levels can help mitigate the effects of disturbances and ensure a thriving urban forest for generations to come. September 2022

Diameter Size Class Distribution: Analyzing the diameter size class distribution (measured as diameter at breast height [DBH]) provides an estimate of the relative age of a tree population and insight into maintenance practices and needs. The inventoried trees were categorized into the following diameter size classes: young trees (0–8 inches DBH), established (9–17 inches DBH), maturing (18–24 inches DBH), and mature trees (>24 inches DBH). These categories were chosen so that the population could be analyzed following Richards’ ideal distribution (1983). Richards proposed an ideal diameter size class distribution for street trees based on observations of well-adapted trees in Syracuse, New York. Richards’ ideal distribution suggests that the largest fraction of trees (approximately 40% of the population) should be young (24 inches DBH). A tree population with the ideal distribution would have an abundance of newly planted and young trees, with established, maturing, and mature trees present in lower numbers. Figure 3 compares Lawrence Township’s inventoried street ROW tree diameter size class distribution to the ideal proposed by Richards (1983). Lawrence Township’s urban forest has a large proportion of young and established trees, which will replace older trees as they approach senescence. Maintaining an uneven age distribution will allow Lawrence Township to allocate annual maintenance costs uniformly over many years and ensure continuity in overall tree canopy coverage.

Figure 3. Age class distribution compared to Richards' (1983) ideal. September 2022



Condition: Several factors were considered for the condition of each tree, including root characteristics; branch structure; trunk, canopy, and foliage condition; as well as the presence of pests. The condition of each inventoried tree was rated Good, Fair, Poor, or Dead. Most of the inventoried ROW trees were recorded to be in Fair or Good condition, 62% and 30%, respectively (Figure 4). Based on these data, the general health of the overall inventoried tree population is rated Fair. Figure 5 illustrates the condition of the urban forest in relation to the relative age classes. The majority of the young, established, maturing, and mature trees were rated to be in Fair condition; however, there was an increase in Poor to Dead trees and a decrease in Good conditioned trees as the population reached maturity. With an established maintenance schedule and proactive care, this trend can be improved to have a healthier urban forest.

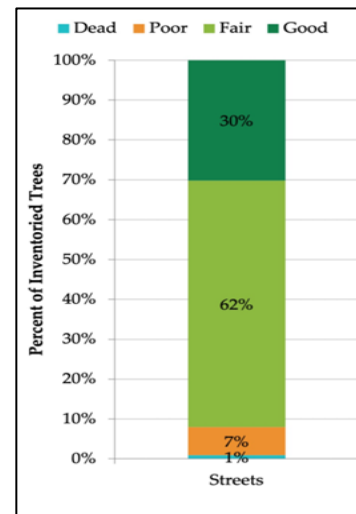
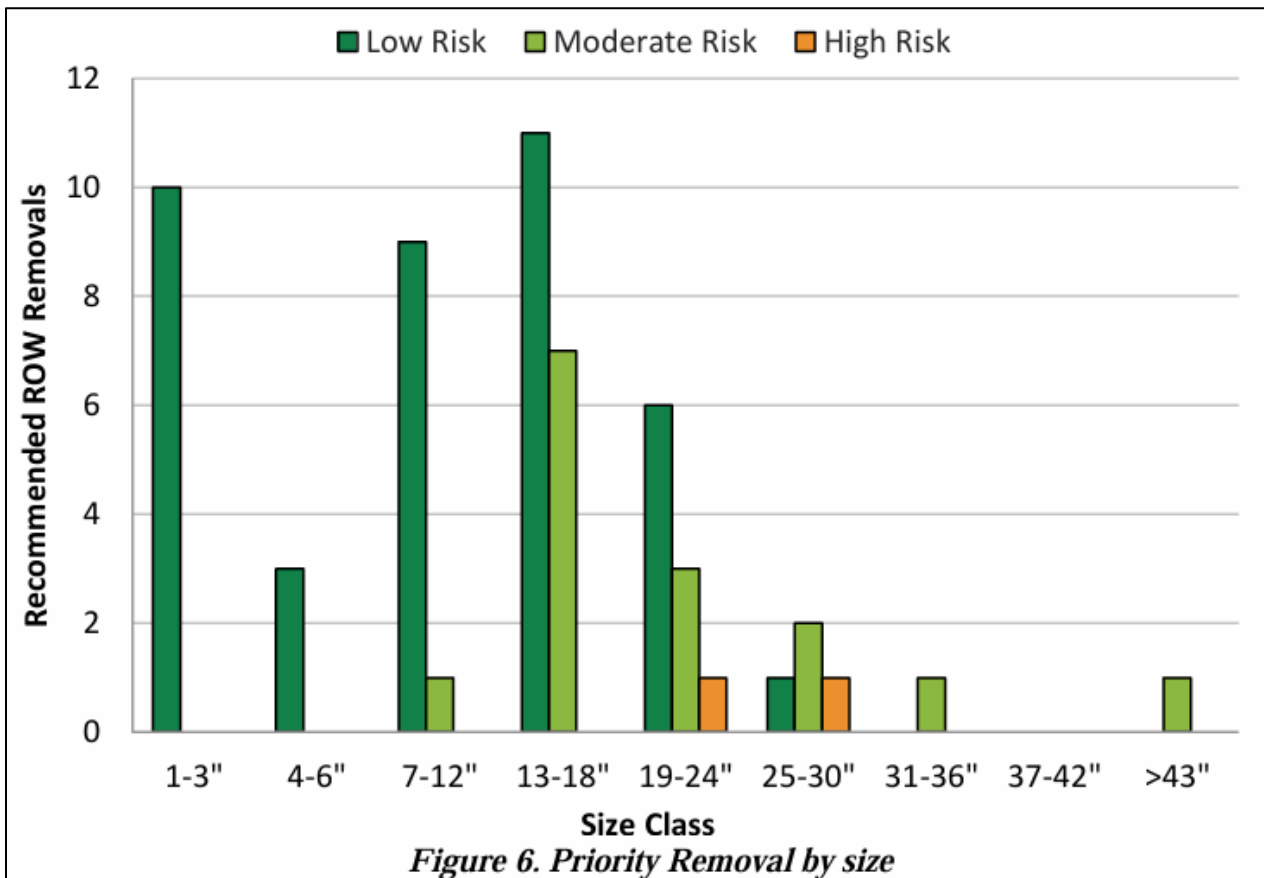


Figure 4: General Condition Ratings

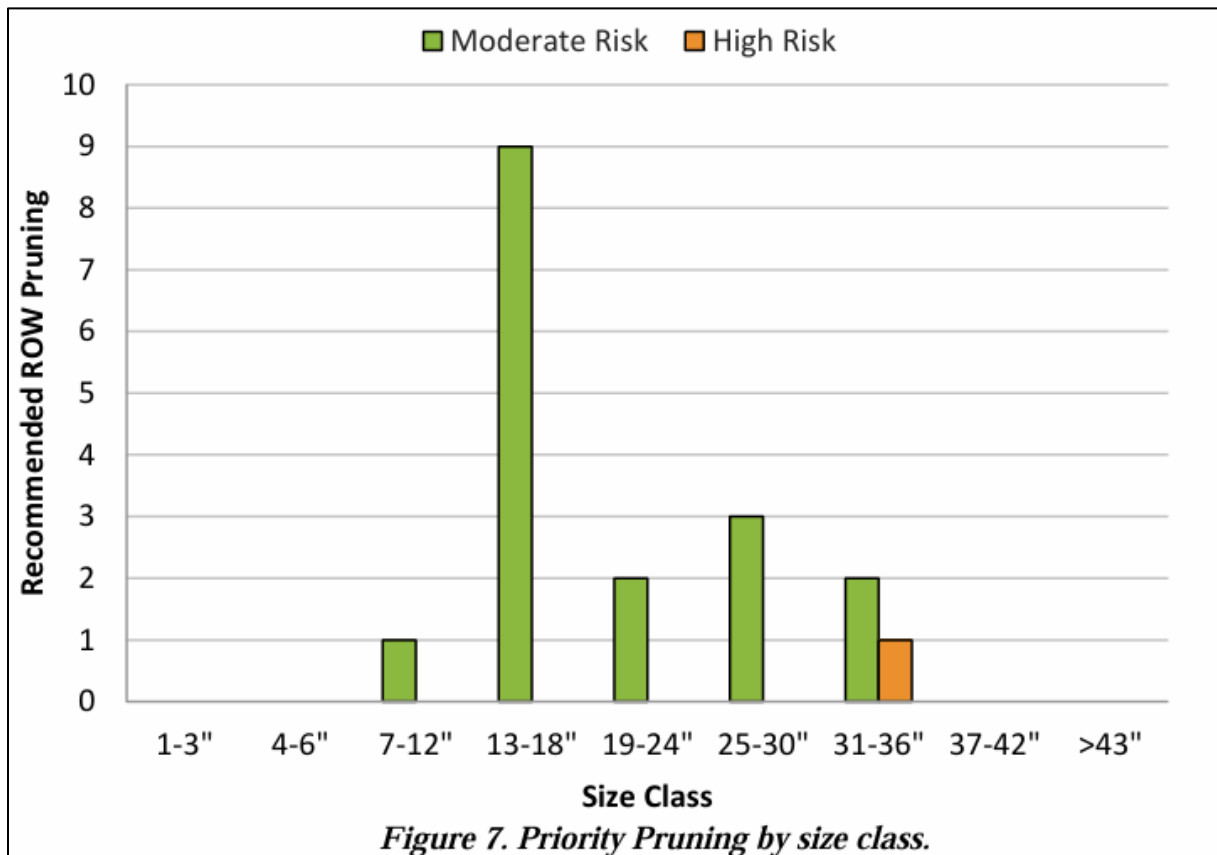
Primary Maintenance and Risk

Overall condition ratings. Every tree, regardless of condition, has an inherent risk of whole or partial tree failure. During the inventory, DRG performed a Level 2 qualitative risk assessment for each tree and assigned a risk rating based on ANSI A300 (Part 9) and the companion publication Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment (ISA 2011). Trees can have multiple potential modes of failure, each with its own risk rating. The potential mode of failure with the highest risk rating was recorded for each tree during the 2022 tree inventory. The specified time frame for the risk assessment was one year. DRG recommends that tree maintenance activities are prioritized and completed based on the risk rating that was assigned to each tree during the inventory. Trees with high-risk ratings should be attended first, followed by trees with a moderate risk rating, and trees with a low-risk rating should be maintained once higher-risk trees have been pruned or removed. The following graphs describe the recommended maintenance activities for each risk rating category by size class.



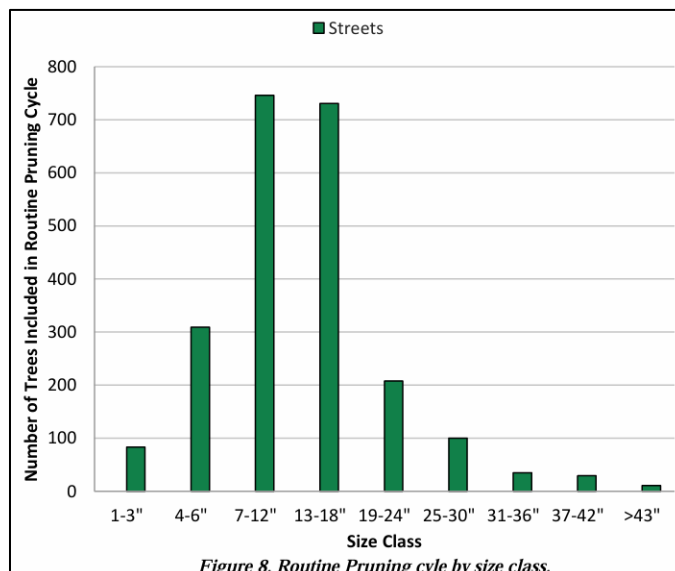
Figures 6 and 7 present recommended tree removals and tree pruning by risk rating and diameter size class for the trees included in the 2022 inventory. There are 57 trees recommended for removal, including 2 high risk trees, 15 moderate risk and 40 low risk trees. There are 18 trees recommended for priority pruning, including 1 high risk tree and 17 moderate risk trees.

Both “High Risk” rated trees Identified in the 2022 inventory have been removed. The remaining moderate risk trees are being monitored annually and removed as budget and conditions warrant. The tree budget found on page 23 shows the efforts made to reduce risk through removals when the tree inventory was completed in 2022 with increasing costs for tree removals in 2023 and 2024 to address those removal recommendations.



Routine Pruning Cycle

The Routine Pruning cycle includes all Low-Risk trees that received a “Prune “or “Discretionary Prune” maintenance recommendation. These trees pose some risk but have a smaller defect size and/or a lower probability of impacting a target. Over time, routine pruning can minimize reactive maintenance, limit instances of elevated risk, and provide the basis for a robust risk management program. Lawrence Township’s inventory identified 2,252 trees that should be routinely pruned.



Highlights and Lookouts

The Davey Resource Group Final Summary Report (September 2022) of the findings from the inventory is located in the Appendix.

- The appraised value of Lawrence Township's inventory population is \$4,310,000.
- The overall condition of the tree population is Fair.
- Most common species: *Acer rubrum* (Red maple), 17%; *Platanus hybrida* (London planetree), 8%; *Tilia cordata* (Littleleaf linden), 7%; *Zelkova serrata* (Japanese zelkova), 6%; *Malus angustifolia* (Southern crabapple), 5%; and *Pyrus calleryana* (Callery pear), 5%.
- The majority (46%) of the urban forest is rated as established, having a diameter of 9–17 inches.
- 77% of the population is recommended for a Discretionary Prune, 9% is recommended for Pruning, 7% is recommended for a Young Tree Training Prune, and 2% is recommended for removal.
- Lawrence Township's trees provide approximately \$8,412 for the following annual environmental benefits:
 - Air Quality: valued at \$2,084 per year.
 - Carbon Sequestration: 17 tons valued at \$2,950 per year.
 - Avoided runoff: 378,124 gallons valued at \$3,379 per year.

e. Overall Program Goals- Desired Future Condition

The Lawrence Township Shade Tree Committee Goals for this 5-year Community Forestry Plan are as follows.

- 🌳 Pursuant to budget and outside funding efforts, establish a tree planting program that maintains or increases canopy cover. Seek out and apply for grants to support tree planting projects in line with the goals of the CFMP along ROW's, Colonial Lake, commercial areas, and schools.
- 🌳 Continue to schedule pruning removals to reduce risk to Lawrence Township residents pursuant to the priorities established through annual ROW tree inspections.
- 🌳 Increase forest health and reduce the impact of invasive species by supporting and collaborating on clean-up days and grant projects in the Lawrence Township Open Space Areas.
- 🌳 Identify heat island, "hot spot" areas throughout the Township in commercial, residential and school locations and implement tree planting mitigation projects for these identified areas.
- 🌳 Be able to plant replacement trees for every tree removed as a priority identified in the Davey Resource Group inventory. Maintain inventory integrity by completing timely updates on plantings and removals.
- 🌳 Maintain and increase the tree related expertise of the Shade Tree Committee and the DPW staff that work with the community trees. Keep tree ordinance current and science based.
- 🌳 Provide education to increase the appreciation of the benefits of trees in increasing air quality, reducing stormwater, modifying air temperatures, sequestering carbon, and pollutant removal program.
- 🌳 In conjunction with road improvement projects funded through the Capital Budget, the Township will evaluate neighborhoods for street tree planting projects. The Township repaved Mayflower Avenue in Colonial Lakelands in 2022 and installed street trees along the northern side of the street to offset recent tree losses from storm damage.
- 🌳 The Township will encourage owners of private properties to include additional landscaping in existing parking areas to aid in sequestering carbon emissions and decrease heat effect.
- 🌳 Partner on landscaping plans for Colonial Lake Park both to establish a windbreak as suggested by STAC and to replant the area currently being redeveloped under the Lakes Management grant.

- 🌳 Establish planting areas to reforest saturated soil areas around Colonial Lake.
- 🌳 Institute a tree planting project in Brunswick circle to enhance the historical character of this area.

f. Plan Connections and Other Considerations



The Colonial Lake Park is undergoing a restoration Project that began in September 2025.

Lawrence Township Environmental Green Advisory Committee (LTEGAC):

- Advise and consult with the council and the manager with respect to the environmental needs of the township.
- Review and make recommendations with respect to township acquisition and administration of open space and other conservation areas and projects.
- Study and develop proposals for the conservation and preservation of natural features, including landscaping of the township and make recommendations with respect thereto to the council and manager.
- Review and make recommendations to the zoning board of adjustment and the planning boards on all site plans and subdivisions submitted to the board.

As recorded in Sec. 2-92 of the Lawrence Township Code, Ord. No. 1034-86, Ord. No. 1253-90

The LTEGAC was responsible for working with a grant from ANJEC to produce the Lawrence Township ERI with the assistance of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) last updated in 2017.

[Environmental Resource Inventory for the Township of Lawrence, Mercer County, New Jersey](#)

ERI Vegetation: Upland Forests: Upland areas are those locations without water at or near the soil surface. Most of Lawrence’s original upland forests have been cleared and converted to farms or residential or commercial development. Today’s upland forests are second or third growth and tend to be located near stream corridors, on steep slopes, or on less desirable soils. Approximately 1,394 acres, or 10 percent of Lawrence’s land area, is upland forest. Upland forest is found throughout the township, although it is more common in the northern half of the township. See Map 16: Natural Vegetation. The vast majority of Lawrence’s upland forest is composed of deciduous forest (1,322 acres). Some of this

upland forest has been preserved by the creation of parks, such as Drexel Woods, Tiffany Woods, and Carson Road Woods. The composition of Lawrence’s upland deciduous forests is largely one of mixed oaks—black, red, pin, and white oaks—joined by other hardwoods, such as ash, birch, maple, beech, hickory, locust, poplar, and sweetgum. The understory is dominated by flowering dogwood, black cherry, ironwood, and sassafras. Vines, such as wild grapes, Virginia creeper, Japanese honeysuckle, poison ivy, greenbrier, and Asiatic bittersweet are common. Winterberry, holly, elderberry, spicebush, arrowwood viburnum, swamp azalea, honeysuckle, sweet pepperbush, and black haw are common shrubs in moister locations.

Master Plan:

The Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee has worked diligently with the Office of Engineering and Planning on including STAC concerns into the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element to the Master Plan (2018) in regard to tree clearing requirements on development. The current Master Plan is under reexamination and STAC has provided comments in this ongoing process.

The 2010 Sustainability Amendment to the Master Plan connects the CFMP to tree preservation through the Land Use Preservation Ordinance.

<https://www.lawrencetwp.com/media/Departments/EngineeringPlanningZoning/Reports%20MP%20Amendments/Open%20Space%20and%20Recreation%20Plan%20Element%20dated%20Aug%202018.pdf>

Lawrence-Hopewell Trail:

The LHT’s [20-mile trail](#) winding through Hopewell and Lawrence Townships offers safe access to various sections of the towns for kids, families, bicyclists, joggers, hikers and commuters. This family-oriented trail belongs to all of us and is designed to promote recreation, healthier lifestyles, better mobility and commuting, and a cleaner environment.

TRAIL PARTNERS:

Since its inception, the LHT has achieved many milestones with the support of public and private partners. These include:

Local government partners

- Hopewell Township
- Lawrence Township
- Mercer County
- Mercer County Park Commission

State Partners

- NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- NJ Department of Transportation

Corporate Partners

- Bristol Myers-Squibb
- ETS
- Prism Capital Partners
- REI Co-op

Non-Profit and Regional Partners

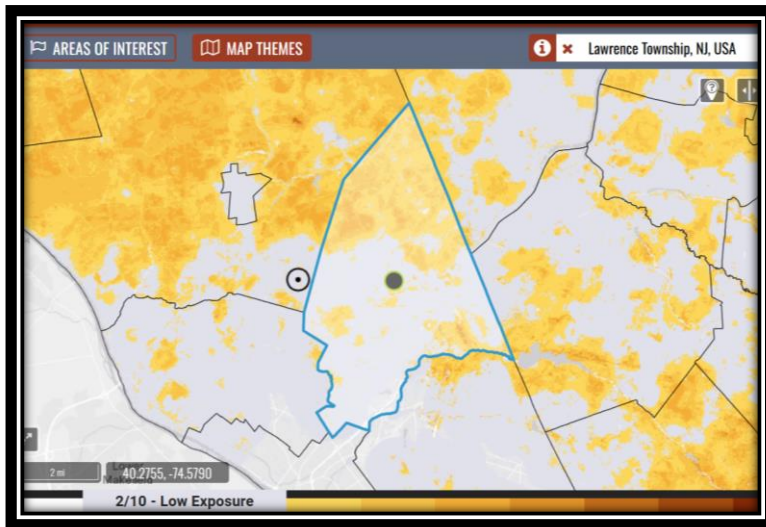
- Capital Health System
- Circuit Trails Coalition
- Friends of Carson Road Woods
- Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust
- The Lawrenceville School
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- Princeton Child Development Institute
- Watershed Institute

Wildfire Protection Plan:

Lawrence Township geographically is north of the City of Trenton and west of Route 1. This places the majority of Lawrence Township in the Piedmont Geologic formation with vegetation consisting of upland and wetland hardwoods or vegetation that is slow to generate and sustain fire on the landscape.

The NJ Forest Fire Service has a statewide Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (WRAP) that allows the user to access pertinent wildfire risk data for your particular region, municipality or property. This GIS based information database can be accessed to provide data on suppression difficulty, fuel types and wildfire risk.

<https://wrap.newjerseywildfirerisk.com/Map/Pro/#map-themes>



A screen shot of the New Jersey Forest Fire Services (NJFFS) Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (WRAP) map of Lawrence Township.

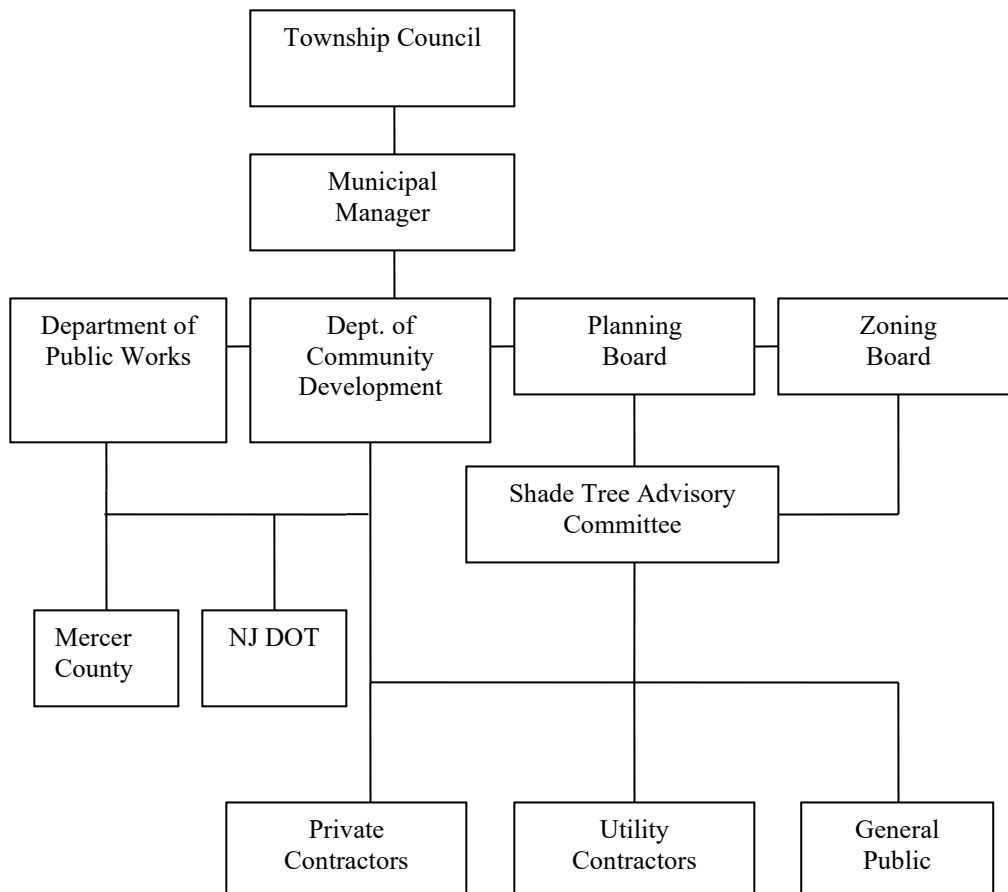
For multiple data sets used to calculate wildfire risk; Burn Probability, Suppression Difficulty and Wildfire Hazard Potential, Lawrence Township Bureau ranks 3 or below on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest risk category.

Section 2. Community Forestry Program Capacity

a. Community Forestry Program Administration

The Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee advises the Township Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board on Shade Tree concerns on public property and along public rights-of-way. The following chart depicts the relationship of those involved in the shade tree management process.

Lawrence Township Shade Tree Administration



A. The Township Council

- 1) The Township Council is responsible for appointing the members of the Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee along with one liaison to the Committee from the Township Council.
- 2) The Township Council is responsible for establishing the makeup and duties of the Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee.
- 3) The Township Council approves annual budgets for the Lawrence Township Shade Tree Committee and the Department of Public Works.

B. Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee

The Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee is a seven member volunteer committee appointed by the Township Council. They are the advisory committee for all community trees on municipal streets, rights-of-way, parks, or other public properties. The duties of the committee typically include the following:

- 1) Provide advice regarding planting, removal and general maintenance of Township trees.
- 2) Develop and recommend the policies and goals that will preserve and develop Lawrence's tree resource.
- 3) Perform public outreach to foster better understanding and care for Lawrence's trees on both public and private properties.
- 4) Propose tree related items for inclusion in the annual township budget.
- 5) Review site plans and make recommendations pertaining to landscape materials and trees.

C. Municipal Manager

- 1) Reviews plans and policies submitted by the Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee and makes recommendations to Council.
- 2) Recommends the annual budget of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee to the Township Council.

D. Director of Public Works

- 1) Reviews any requests for tree planting, removal or maintenance and makes the necessary inspections.
- 2) Supervises all work done by the Department of Public Works.
- 3) Inspects work performed by private contractors for the township
- 4) Develops annual plans and budget requests for tree maintenance.
- 5) Maintains through public employees and private contractors all trees on public property.
- 6) Apply fertilizers and pesticides as needed in parks and sport fields.

E. Department of Community Development Principal Planner

- 1) Advise the Municipal Manager on tree issues.
- 2) Manage the street tree planting program.
- 3) Serve as staff liaison to Shade Tree Advisory Committee.
- 4) Apply for and manage any awarded tree related grants.
- 5) Keep Tree City USA Certification for Lawrence Township current.

- 6) Handle inquiries from the public regarding trees.
 - 7) Make determinations for tree removal.
 - 8) Write grants for tree purposes.
 - 9) Perform any tree related tasks assigned by the Municipal Manager.
 - 10) Manage annual Arbor Day ceremonies.
- F. Department of Community Development Assistant Municipal Engineer
- 1) Approves requests for tree removal that are allowable under the Land Use Ordinance after field verification.
 - 2) Issues permits for tree removal that exceeds what is allowable under the Land Use Ordinance.
 - 3) Issues permits for removal of specimen trees.
 - 4) Issues permits for the removal of hazardous trees.
 - 5) Oversees projects requiring that landscape issues are met to keep within plan approvals.
- G. Planning Board
- 1) Works with the Department of Community Development and Shade Tree Advisory Committee to ensure that street trees and landscaping are installed as a part of all new development.
- H. Zoning Board
- 1) Works with the Department of Community Development and Shade Tree Advisory Committee to ensure that street trees and landscaping are installed as a part of all new development.
- I. Private Tree Contractors
- Generally, most tree care and maintenance activities are done in-house or by county tree crews, but when difficult or large climbing jobs arise, private contractors may be deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
- Private contractors are responsible for the following:
- 1) Provide proof of appropriate insurance, certifications and licenses as necessary to the appropriate department heads.
 - 2) Report prior to and following all work performed to the appropriate department supervisor.
 - 3) Complete all work in a safe and timely manner according to all applicable safety standards set by OSHA or ANSI, as they pertain to tree care operations.
 - 4) Follow all current arboricultural practices and recommendations.
 - 5) Report all hazards or problems directly to appropriate department head immediately.
- J. Utility Contractors
- 1) Must notify the Lawrence Township Director of Public Works prior to the start of any non-emergency work in the township.
 - 2) Must follow all current arboricultural practices and recommendations.
 - 3) May assist Public Works Department Tree Crews in clearing trees to a safe distance from their facilities when necessary.
- K. General Public
- 1) Continue to report all requests for planting, removal or maintenance

to the Municipal Manager, Department of Public Works, the Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee or the Department of Community Development.

- 2) Assist in follow-up care to the newly planted trees on adjacent properties or in County or Township rights-of-way.

L. Mercer County Tree Crews

- 1) Responsible for maintaining trees on county roadways.

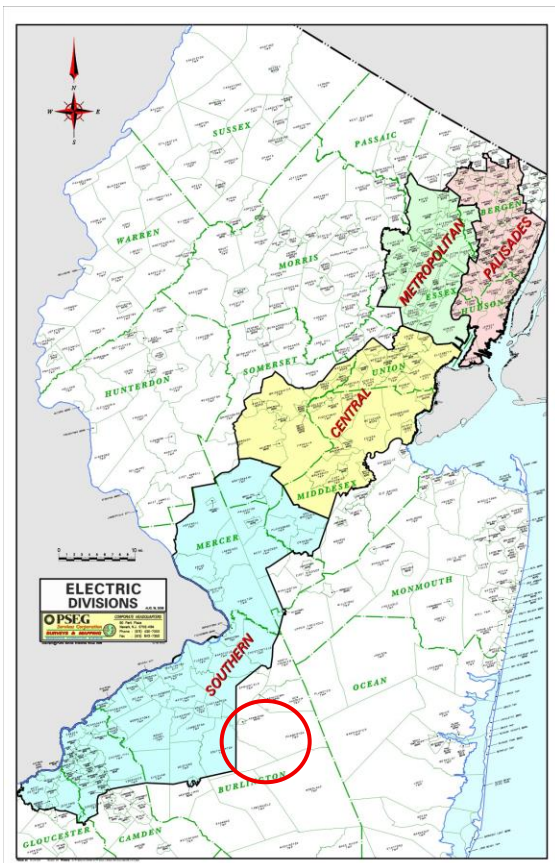
M. NJ DOT Tree Crews


- 1) Responsible for maintaining trees on state roadways.

b. Partnerships (NGOs, nonprofit organizations, interdepartmental)

Mercer County Shade Tree [Shade Tree | Mercer County, NJ](#)

- 300 Scotch Road
Building #1
West Trenton, NJ 08628
- Phone: 609-530-7500 Ext. 106
- Fax: 609-530-8956



 **PSE&G:** Lawrence Township is in the PSE&G “Southern Division” service area.

- Manager Vegetation Management
Richard Arnold
Phone: 1-800-436-7734
- [Tree Pruning Near Distribution Lines - PSE&G](#)
- [Tree Selection and Safe Planting - PSE&G](#)

Environmental Green Advisory Committee:

○ The Environmental Green Advisory Committee (EGAC) consists of ten members appointed by the Lawrence Township council. Each member serves a term of four years, except for those first appointed, who are appointed for a term of two years. Terms end on the last day of the calendar year or until a successor is appointed.

○ Advise and consult with the council and the manager with respect to the environmental needs of the township.

○ Review and make recommendations with respect to township acquisition and administration of open space and other conservation areas and projects.

○ Study and develop proposals for the conservation and preservation of natural features, including landscaping of the township and make

recommendations with respect thereto to the council and manager.

- Review and make recommendations to the zoning board of adjustment and the planning boards on all site plans and subdivisions submitted to the board.
- As recorded in Sec. 2-92 of the Lawrence Township Code, Ord. No. 1034-86, Ord. No. 1253-90
- [Lawrence ERI Full.pdf](#)
- [Lawrence Township New Jersey - Environmental Green Advisory Committee](#)

 **Department of Public Works (DPW) – Gregory Whitehead, Director**

Location:
 240 Bakers Basin Road
 Lawrence Township, NJ 08648
 Phone: 609-587-1894
 Fax: 609-584-0220
 Email: Jbrokofsky@lawrencetwp.com

c. Training

Over the next five years, the Commission will maintain its level of CORE certified personnel and the minimum of eight Continuing Education Units (CEU's) per year by a minimum of two people in order to maintain *approved status*. The preferred content of training subjects will include tree identification, proper tree selection, hazard tree identification and maintenance including disease control, pruning and tree removal.

d. Budget 2022-2024 Shade Tree Budget

2024 TREE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES						
				2022	2023	2024
Trees removed by Public Works				148	325	188
Trees trimmed by Public Works				956	558	731
Labor Hours				1441	4930	4172
Labor Cost				\$33,372.00	\$144,454.00	\$129,332.00
Trees removed by private contractor				51	6	1
Trees trimmed by privat contractor				0	0	0
Total Cost				\$70,200.00	\$7,100.00	\$450.00
				<u>Cubic Yards</u>	<u>Cubic Yards</u>	<u>Cubic Yards</u>
Leaf removal by Township				14716	6658	7366
Labor Cost				\$72,199.00	\$92,120.00	\$106,998.00
				<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Brush removal by Township				5601	1452	1214
Labor Cost				\$97,446.00	\$94,188.00	\$103,899.00
Total Cost				\$273,217.00	\$337,862.00	\$340,679.00

5-Year Budget Projection Based on Current 2024 Numbers

Row Labels	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Tree Pruning & Removal	\$129,782	\$132,378	\$135,026	\$138,402	\$142,554	\$146,831
Brush & Leaf Removal	\$210,897	\$215,115	\$219,417	\$224,902	\$231,649	\$238,598
Tree Planting & Initial Care	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,244	\$2,301	\$2,370	\$2,441
Volunteer Time	\$2,177.50	\$2,221	\$2,265	\$2,322	\$2,392	\$2,464
Grand Total	\$344,856.50	\$351,914	\$358,952	\$367,926	\$378,964	\$390,333

Equipment

The Lawrence Township DPW has tree-trimming equipment for maintenance, removal and trimming from the ground, i.e. pole saw, pruning saws, chain saws, and ropes & lines. DPW uses garbage truck packers, loaders and dump trucks to help with moving and disposal operations related to emergency and maintenance work. DPW currently has a water tank that is installed in the back of pickup truck to help with watering needs in ROW situations/locations.

Section 3. Community Engagement and Well Being

Tree City USA: Lawrence Township is located north of the City of Trenton and south of Princeton in Mercer County, and is known for its scenic environment, good schools and strong sense of community. Lawrence Township has been a Tree City for 28 years with an active and engaged Shade Tree Advisory Council (STAC) enacted by ordinance by the Township Committee. It also has an outstanding volunteer network. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee regularly participates in the Lawrence Township annual Community Day in October. The STAC page of the Lawrence Township website includes multiple links to tree information and Community tree related “happenings.” See links below.

Sustainable Jersey: Lawrence Township is a silver certified Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Community with many tree and community forestry projects, contributing to a comprehensive community engagement program. Lawrence Township combines forest resource management with bike trails, community gardens, Green Streets initiatives, Open Space plans, a Tree Protection Ordinance, a Tree Maintenance and Tree planting program all resulting in the SJ silver certification.

[Certification Report - Sustainable Jersey](#)



Colonial Lake Restoration:

Lawrence Township along with the STAC are actively involved in the Colonial Lake Restoration Project with the contractor beginning work on the project in September 2025. The initial work is expected to be completed within 30 days with Lawrence Township seeking alternative funding sources to enhance the project moving forward. The Colonial Lake Restoration Project has also been enlarged to include the demolition and restoration of the parking area purchased by Lawrence Township adjacent to the Colonial Bowling alley site.

The Municipal Master Plan of Lawrence Township was written in 1995 and went through a reexamination process in 2006, 2013, and 2023. The Open Space Plan element was added in 2020. The Master Plan is linked to the CFMP through established controls on tree clearing (Appendix 3). The 2010 Sustainability Amendment to the Master Plan connects the CFMP to tree preservation through the Land Use Tree Preservation Ordinance.

-
1. [ShadeTreeAdvisoryBrochure.pdf](#)
 2. [Tree Removal:](#)
 3. [Microsoft Word - Treeswhoneedsthem](#)
 4. [REMOVAL OF SPECIMEN TREE](#)

The Lawrence Township, through this CFMP is looking to produce a plan to best manage and maintain the forest resource and ensure that Lawrence Township residents continue to enjoy the many benefits trees provide:



Colonial Lake is a popular resource that Lawrence Township wishes to protect and enhance for the benefit of residents.



There is room for additional tree plantings to enhance the work already completed at Colonial Park.

The investment in Colonial Lake Park improvements has created a widely used resource enjoyed by the residents of Lawrence and adjacent communities



Section 4. Plan Implementation

Lawrence Township – CFMP Elements-Objectives-Action Items

1. Training and Education Elements

a. OBJECTIVES:

- i. Maintain and increase the tree related expertise of the Shade Tree Advisory Council (STAC) and the DPW staff that work with community trees.
- ii. Maintain NJCF Accreditation status.
- iii. Provide educational opportunities to Lawrence Township residents to care for their trees actively and properly.

b. ACTION ITEMS:

- i. Provide both CEU and CORE training opportunities annually to STAC members and DPW staff.
- ii. Provide tree related education articles in the Lawrence link.
- iii. Provide periodic hands-on educational and training opportunities for residents on the benefits of trees, tree care, tree selection, and proper pruning.
- iv. Complete and file the required AAR by the 2/15 deadline.

2. Tree Ordinance Element

a. OBJECTIVE:

- i. Keep the Lawrence Township tree related ordinances current and science based.

b. ACTION ITEM:

- i. Review the tree preservation ordinance annually to ensure it meets current statewide requirements and current science and propose revisions if necessary.

3. Resource Element

a. OBJECTIVE:

- i. Reduce heat island effects in specific areas identified by STAC efforts.
- ii. Reforest areas of saturated soils around Colonial Lake and school sites in need of forestation.
- iii. Partner with the Colonial Lake Restoration Project by pursuing tree planting financial assistance to complement existing efforts.

b. ACTION ITEM:

- i. Determine suitable locations where tree canopy limitations are contributing to local “hot spots.”
- ii. Develop tree planting plans to mitigate insufficient tree canopy in specified areas.
- iii. Pursue grant opportunities through NJCF and SJ to reforest hot spots, Colonial Lake saturated soil sites and school grounds.
- iv. Brunswick Circle - Revolutionary War Route enhancement with Tree Planting for America’s upcoming 250th year celebration.
- v. Create a “horticultural destination” at the entrance to Maidenhead Meadows.

4. Community and Capacity Element

a. OBJECTIVE:

- i. Maintain tree health and canopy populations by replanting at least one tree for every tree lost to removal and/or mortality.

b. ACTION ITEM:

- i. Complete an annual audit of trees removed/lost to mortality and develop a planting plan to address the number of trees lost.
- ii. Encourage residents to include additional tree planting on existing private

- property to mitigate carbon emissions and heat island effects.
- iii. Increase tree planting capacity by evaluating neighborhoods under planning for capital road improvements to include tree planting in the capital budget thus increasing the capacity to plant trees beyond the STAC.
- iv. Sponsor invasive species reduction efforts during Open Space Clean-up Day.

5. Disaster Planning.

a. OBJECTIVE:

- i. Reduce risk to the residents of Lawrence through pruning and include timely revisions to the tree inventory to reflect tree planting, removals and pruning efforts. Timely removals and pruning provide safer municipal egress and ingress for residents and emergency vehicles.

b. ACTION ITEM:

- i. Continue the annual ROW tree rating process and remove/prune trees requiring mitigation work to reduce risk.

a. Activity Schedule

ACTIVITY	YEAR
Ensure STAC and DPW Staff can attend CORE and CEU annual training opportunities to maintain NJCF accredited status.	2025-2029
Submit the Annual Accomplishment Report by the 2/15 deadline.	2025-2029
Sponsor and provide local educational opportunities to residents and staff annually.	2025-2029
Review the tree preservation ordinance annually to ensure it meets current statewide requirements and current science and propose revisions if necessary.	2025-2029
Determine suitable locations where tree canopy limitations are contributing to local "hot spots." Plan for Tree planting in these areas.	2026-2027
Reforest areas of saturated soils around Colonial Lake and school sites in need of forestation.	2026-2029
Pursue grant opportunities through NJUCF and SJ to reforest hot spots mentioned above, Colonial Lake saturated soil sites and school grounds.	2026-2029
Complete an annual audit of trees removed/lost to mortality and develop a planting plan to address the number of trees lost.	2025-2029
Increase tree planting capacity by evaluating neighborhoods under planning for capital road improvements to include tree planting in the capital budget thus increasing tree planting outside the STAC budget.	2026-2029
Encourage residents to include additional tree planting on existing private property to mitigate carbon emissions and heat island effects.	2027-2029
Continue the annual ROW tree rating process and remove/prune trees requiring mitigation work to reduce risk.	2025-2029

APPENDIX

1. Municipal Information Form.
2. Lawrence tree replacement lists pursuant to the Davet Resource Group (DRG) removal recommendations.
3. Davey Resource Group Inventory Summary: [Tree Inventory Summary Report](#)
4. Lawrence Township Shade Tree Ordinance: [Township of Lawrence, NJ Shade Tree Advisory Committee](#)

APPENDIX 1. Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality: **Lawrence Township**

County: **Mercer**

Address: **2207 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648**

Contact Name and Title: **Brenda Kraemer, PE, PP, CME
Assistant Municipal Engineer**

Phone: **609,844.7069**

Fax: **(732) 747-6962** E-mail: bkraemer@lawrencetwp.com

Organization Name: **Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee**

Mayor/County Commissioner's Signature:

Date of Management Plan Submission: _____

Time Period Covered in Management Plan: **2025 – 2029**

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: _____

Appendix 2: Tree Replacements Pursuant to Davey RSG Removal Recommendations

Development Name	Species	Map Reference
Federal Hill Development		
302 Alexandria Court – four (4) trees	CB	Columnnar European Hornbeam CB-302A1 CB-302A2 CB-302A3 CB-A13024 no photo
303 Alexandria Court – two (2) trees	CB	Columnnar European Hornbeam CB-303A1 CB-303A2
306 Alexandria Court – one (1) tree	CB	Columnnar European Hornbeam CB-306A1
Yorkshire Village Development		
1 Baker Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-1Ba
2 Baker Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-2Ba
4 Baker Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-4Ba
5 Baker Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-5Ba
65 Canal View Drive (Morrell Road side) – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-65Ca no photo
123 Canal View Drive – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-123Ca
126 Canal View Drive – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-126Ca
127 Canal View Drive – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-127Ca
1 Flanigan Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-1FI
3 Flanigan Street - one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-3FI no photo
4 Flanigan Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-4FI
6 Flanigan Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-6FI
9 Flanigan Street – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-9FI
3 Morrell Road – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-3Mo
5 Morrell Road (Canal View Drive side) – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-5Mo
7 Morrell Road (Canal View Drive side) – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-7Mo
25 Vaccaro Road (Flanigan Street side) – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-25Va
Lawrencewood 2 Development		
5 Dix Lane – two (2) trees	AGC,CR	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood AGC-5Dix CR-5Dix
7 Dix Lane – One (1) tree	MA	Amur Maackia MA-7Dix
9 Dix Lane – three (3) trees	AGC,CR,MA	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood Amur Maackia AGC-9Dix CR-9Dix no photo MA-9Dix no photo
10 Dix Lane – one (1) tree	AGC	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-10Dix
11 Dix Lane – one (1) tree	AGC	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-11Dix
12 Dix Lane – four (4) trees	2-CR,MA, AGC	Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood Amur Maackia Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-12Dix no photo MA-12Dix
13 Dix Lane – two (2) trees	CR,MA	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood Amur Maackia AGC-12Dix no photo CR-13Dix MA-13Dix
20 Dix Lane – three (3) trees	MA,AGC,CR	Amur Maackia Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood AGC-20Dix CR-20Dix
25 Dix Lane – three (3) trees	AGC,CR,MA	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood Amur Maackia AGC-25Dix no photo CR-25Dix MA-25Dix
26 Dix Lane – one (1) tree	CR	Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood CR-26Dix
29 Dix Lane – one (1) tree	AGC	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-29Dix
30 Dix Lane – one (1) tree	AGC	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-30Dix
31 Dix Lane – two (2) trees	CR,MA	Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood Amur Maackia CR-31Dix MA-31Dix
400 Bergen Street (Dix Lane side) – one (1) tree	AGC	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry AGC-400Be no photo
7 Overlook Way – one (1) tree	CR	Stellar Pink Rutgers Dogwood CR-70v
Mink Court Development		
2 Mink Court – two (2) trees	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-2MI1 SR-2MI2
4 Mink Court – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-4MI
5 Mink Court – two (2) trees	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-5MI1 SR-5MI2
8 Mink Court – one (1) tree	SR	Ivory Silk Tree Lilac SR-8MI