

Community Forestry Management Plan  
2010-2015

Hopewell Township, Mercer County  
New Jersey



**Prepared by:**  
William F. Brash Jr.  
Mercer County Soil Conservation District  
New Jersey Approved Consulting Forester  
New Jersey Certified Tree Expert (CTE# 375)

May 2010

Rec'd 12/15/09

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# Community Forestry Management Plan

## MUNICIPAL/COUNTY INFORMATION FORM

Municipality Township of Hopewell

County Mercer

Address 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road

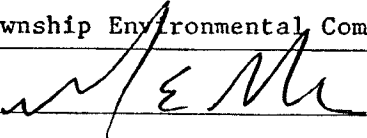
Titusville, New Jersey 08560

Contact Name and Title Paul Pogorzelski, Township Administrator / Engineer

Phone # 609-737-0605, Ext. 664

Fax # and E-mail 609-737-6839 paulpogo@hopewelltp.org

Organization Name Hopewell Township Environmental Commission

Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature 

Date of Management Plan Submission May 24, 2010

Time Period Covered in Management Plan 2010 - 2015

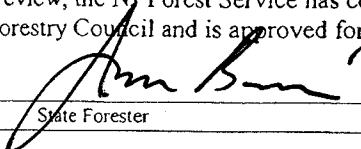
### Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Practices Identified in Management Plan

- CSIP #1 Plan Preparation
- CSIP #2 Training
- CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness
- CSIP #4 Arbor Day Activities
- CSIP #5 Assessment/Inventory
- CSIP #6 Tree Hazard Identification Plan
- CSIP #7 Tree Planting
- CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance
- CSIP #9 Tree Recycling
- CSIP #10 Ordinance Establishment
- CSIP #11 Tree Care Disaster Plan
- CSIP #12 Insect and Disease Management
- CSIP #13 Other

### Official Use Only Certification

The above named municipality/county has made formal application to the New Jersey Forest Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forest Service has concluded that this plan meets the standards set forth by the State and the NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed

  
State Forester

6-14-10  
Approved date

## **INTRODUCTION**

Healthy trees are an asset to the Community. It is inevitable that as they mature, they will require care, maintenance and eventual replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to *“planting the right tree in the right place”* can ensure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the town, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety.

The implementation of this plan will stimulate the public's appreciation for trees and the knowledgeable but voluntary protection of trees on private lands for the benefit of the entire community.

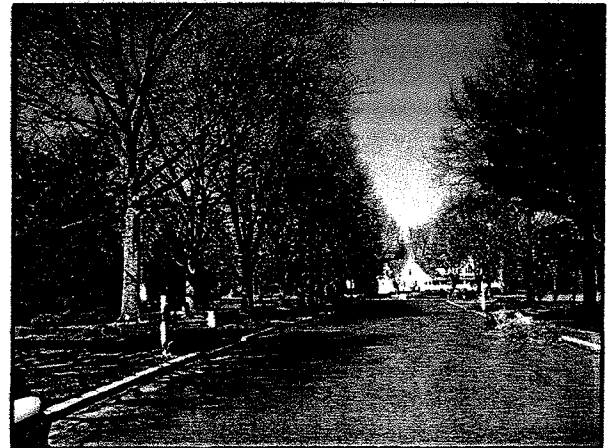
This Community Forestry Management Plan demonstrates that Hopewell Township is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents thereby, reducing its exposure to liabilities and increasing public safety.

## **EXISTING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT**

Hopewell Township's forestry management is presently a function of its Public Works Department. Township rights-of-way and open spaces are routinely inspected by staff and required tree maintenance is scheduled on a priority basis with safety being the primary objective. Contractor services are utilized as required based upon the specific conditions. Trees that are cut down or pruned and chipped are recycled through firewood or chips.

Resident complaints/concerns are reviewed by the Director of Public Works or their designee. Inspections are made at the direction of the Director and a work plan developed if deemed necessary. If the inspection reveals the tree is located outside of the area of public responsibility, the complainant is provided information on how to secure the situation.

Replacement plantings or new plantings in public open space and recreation areas are planned as recommended by staff, consultants or the public and considered as part of the operating budget for Public Works or Recreation Departments or as part of capital projects.



**Tree lined streets in Hopewell Township close to the Borough of Pennington**

Species for all new plantings along Township Roads are selected based upon a preferred species planting list. Existing soil and growing conditions are inspected prior to species selection.

A public works staff of 5 is available to perform basic tree maintenance and new tree installation.

The Township has no formal systematic program for the inventory of street trees but has an interest to explore this option in the next 5-year plan.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To identify, increase, enhance, protect and promote the tree and forest resources of Hopewell Township within the context of previous planning documents and municipal land-use ordinances.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Preserving and protecting our trees and forests is necessary to preserve and protect the ecosystem. Our woodlands are not only habitat; they also serve to recharge critical groundwater supplies and naturally help to regulate stormwater runoff. Hopewell Township did not always have the mature forests that presently thrive; rather the community was comprised of many acres of rich farmland that was succeeded by woodlands.

The many acres of farmland in the photo of Baldpate Mountain area in 1932 is contrasted by the significant forests in the 2008 photo of the same area that can be seen on the cover of this report.

The goals and objectives by which tree resources within the Township of Hopewell will be managed are detailed in the following sections. Short-term objectives and tasks are provided for the initial five-year management period 2010-2015. Each year accomplishments

of the previous year will be evaluated and tasks for the following year will be adjusted, as necessary, to maintain progress toward the overall goals and objectives. At the end of each five-year management period, new short-term objectives and work tasks will be formulated for subsequent five-year periods.

