Community Forestry Management Plan

Annual accomplishment report form

Date: 2/28/17

(This form must serve as the cover page to your report).

Municipality	RARITAN TOWNSHIP
County	HUNTERDON
Address	ONE MUNICIPAL DRIVE FLEMINGTON, NJ 08822
Contact Name and Title	RAYMOND SIMONDS, EC CHAIR
Phone #	908 380 2536
E-mail	908 806 4071 / rsimo123@comcast.net
Organization Name	ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Mayor/County Freeholder's Signature	
Date of Management Plan Approval	JANUARY 2015
Time Period Covered in Management Plan	TILL DECEMBER 31, 2019
Date of Annual Accomplishment Report Submission	
Accomplishment Report for Calendar Year	2016

Electronic submissions are preferred.

Submit Report Electronically to: carrie.sargeant@dep.nj.gov

Or via traditional post to: NJ Department of Environmental Protection
State Forestry Service - Community Forestry Program
Mail Code 501-04
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625

Raritan Township Community Forestry Program
Annual Accomplishment Report

Calendar Year 2016

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Raritan Township Environmental Commission, Subcommittee Members:
Ray Simonds (Chair)
Michelle (Vice Chair)
Amy Greene (volunteer)
Don Hutchins (township employee)

Public Works Liaison:	Don Hutchins
Mayor:	Karen Gilbert (2016)
Clerk:	William Bray

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ray Simonds (township volunteer) received CORE Training in October 2014.
Don Hutchins (township employee) received CORE Training in October 2015.
Brion Fleming (township employee) attended Clean Communities H&S Training @ Rutgers June, 2016 and received 0.9 CEU's
Environmental Commission members Amy Greene attended 'Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules: Overview" @Montclair State, August 17, 2016 and received 3 CEU credits. Raymond Simonds attended the NJTF RTRP Workshop on March 25, 2016 and received 3 CEU credits.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/AWARENESS/OUTREACH

The Environmental Commission participated in several community events in 2016: Hunterdon County Fair and Stream Clean up with Raritan Head Waters Association. In addition, the Environmental Commission manned a booth at the annual Raritan Township Community Day held September 17, 2016. All events were well attended by the community. Educational information was shared on eliminating mulch volcanos around trees. The remaining tree whips in our possession were distributed to community members who visited the Environmental Commission table.

As proposed in the approved Community Forestry Management Plan, the Environmental Commission held a Big Tree contest for all Raritan Township residents during the summer of 2016. Residents were asked to submit photos of their tree and were judged in five different categories by members of the Environmental Commission. 19 entries were received with 8 winners receiving gifts from local merchants and certificates of participation. Awards were presented at the Community Day.

Members of the Environmental Commission partnered with Hunterdon Land Trust and community volunteers to remove invasive species from an area of the Walnut Brook. The area has been the

subject of ongoing stream restoration programs, including tree planting, by the NJRCDS. In addition, in April 2016, members of the Environmental Commission in conjunction with the Raritan Township DPW performed an all-day road cleanup consisting of the collection of litter along township roads.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET

The requested budget for 2016 was $250.00 for the Shade Tree committee, while various tasks for the committee were performed by volunteers.

In addition, the Department of Public Works performed maintenance on trees on township property. These funds came from the DPW general budget.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Tree trimming at all Township Parks and Municipal Complexes were done throughout the calendar year of 2016 as time permitted. This tree work was completed by current DPW employees. The township turns tree debris into mulch and makes it available to residents as well as using it at Morales Park and elsewhere in the township as needed.

DPW crews also removed any hazardous trees that were identified on all Township roadways.

During the Fall of 2016, Environmental Commission Chairman Raymond Simonds took part in the NJDEP/Forestry Emerald Ash Borer trapping program. No Emerald Ash Borers were identified.

NO NET LOSS REFORESTATION

A grant application for funding of two reforestation plans submitted to the NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry Community Forestry Program was approved in 2013. The township was eligible for the grant under the "No Net Loss" program as a result of NJDOT removal of trees to complete the intersection of Route 202 and Case Boulevard. All trees were installed in two areas pursuant to the grant in 2014.

The two areas consist of the following:

At the Township owned Blackwell Park 148 trees were established. The park is located at the intersection of Everitts Road and Lavada Lane. The trees were planted in two zones. Zone A includes the portion of the park fronting on Everitts Road and areas along an existing pedestrian path. Zone B includes a low area just east of Lavada Lane which receives runoff from the park. The two planting areas total approximately 4.7 acres (Zone A – 4.3 acres, Zone B 0.4 acre). Tree species native to Hunterdon County and appropriate to the drainage characteristics of each zone were selected. The trees have enhanced the beauty of the park and provide shade and interest to

the trail users.

The second tree planting area is Township parkland within the Walnut Brook preserve located at the intersection of Oak Grove Road and Barton Hollow Road. This parkland is located on Block 14 Lot 1.32. An approximately 0.6 acre of land in the park was previously mowed annually by the Raritan Township DPW. The land is located adjacent to the Walnut Brook and is overlain by somewhat poorly drained soil. The planting of 56 trees was performed in this area. The planted trees have resulted in the establishment of a wooded riparian zone along the brook. Trees native to Hunterdon County and tolerant of poorly drained soil were selected for planting. The riparian zone protects the water quality and aquatic biota of Walnut Brook and expands the wildlife corridor along the brook.

Volunteers, Amy Greene and Chris Plunkett, certified Master Arborists, oversaw tree installation.

During 2016, volunteers Raymond Simonds and Amy Greene, as well as Township Engineer Tony Hajjar, periodically inspected the newly planted trees. Dead or dying trees were noted, reported and replaced at no cost to the township.