Community Forestry Management Plan 2025

Sixth Five-Year Plan

(January, 2025 to December, 2029)

for the

Borough of Riverton

Burlington County, New Jersey

Prepared by:

Riverton Shade Tree Board

Barry Emens, Chairman

with assistance from

Elaine A. Mills, PLA, ISA Certified Arborist,

Senior Landscape Architect

Borough of Riverton

12/18/2025

Photo Credit: Barry Emens

Appendix 1. Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality	Riverton Borough
County	Burlington
Address	505A Howard Street Riverton, NJ 08077
Contact Name & Title	Barry Emens, Chairman Shade Tree Board
Phone#	856-829-0120
Fax# & Email	856-829-1413, Michelle Hack, Borough Clerk, mhack@riverton-nj.com
Organization Name	Riverton Shade Tree Board
Mayor	Jim Quinn
Signature	
Date of Management Plan Submission	December 2025
The Period Covered in Management Plan	Five Years, January 2025 - December 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 _Todd Wyckoff_   1/14/2026
   State Forester   Approved Date

Borough of Riverton Mayor & Council

Jim Quinn, Mayor
Edgar Wilburn, Council Member President
Leslie Harrison, Council Member
Nicole Rafter, Council Member
Katie Lucas, Council Member
Scott Reed, Council Member
Kirk Fullerton, Council Member

Borough of Riverton Planning Board Members

Class I, Jim Quinn, Mayor
Edgar Wilburn, Council Member President
Class II Ed Ruggiano
Class III Edgar Wilburn
Class IV Joseph Threston, Chairman
Class IV Kerry Brandt, Vice Chairman
Class IV Rebecca Reis
Class IV Ray Paszkiewicz
Class IV Robert Martin
Class IV Joseph Della Penna

(Alternate 1) Joe Ehrenreich
(Alternate 2) Joseph Levins
(Alternate 3) Doug Aird
(Alternate 4) Walter Byers
(Alternate 5) Adam Flade

Borough of Riverton Shade Tree Board

Leslie Harrison, Council Liaison
Edgar Wilburn, Councilman
Kirk Fullerton, Councilman
Barry Emens, Chairman
Ed Sanderson
John Frazier
Nelson Dimpter
Dan Colbert

Borough of Riverton Staff & Consultants

Thomas Coleman, Esq., Borough Attorney
Christopher K. Koutsouris, Esq., Planning Board Attorney
Patricia Clayton, Planning Board Secretary
Alaimo Associates, Borough Engineer
Jeff Hanson, PE, CME, Environmental Resolutions, Inc., Board Engineer
Scott D. Taylor, AICP, PP, LLA, LEED-AP, Borough Planner/ Landscape Architect
Michelle M. Taylor, AICP, PP Zoning Board Planner
Michelle Hack, Borough Clerk, mhack@riverton-nj.com

Prepared By: Taylor Design Group, Inc.

ADOPTED COPY TO BE SIGNED

Michelle M. Taylor

Michelle M. Taylor, PP, AICP

Elaine A. Mills

Elaine A. Mills, PLA, ISA Certified Arborist, LEED AP

The original of this document has been signed and sealed in accordance with New Jersey Law.

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The Borough of Riverton Community Forestry Plan

1. Introduction & Background

The importance of Riverton's shade tree resource has long been recognized as a vital part of the collection of unique features that define Riverton's distinct character. Borough Planners acknowledged this in the current Master Plan, adopted in 1998.

"The Shade Tree Commission has a particularly important responsibility in Riverton since the tree lined streets are such an important part of the Borough's character. The Commission should maintain its long term, comprehensive maintenance plan for the Borough's trees" P. 37

This sentiment was re-asserted in both the 2007 and 2018 Re-Examination Reports, which outlined two (2) important community forestry goals:

"Preserve and enhance the Borough's vast inventory of mature trees through funding adequate maintenance and replanting while maintaining high standards of our Tree City, USA designation.

Create and implement a streetscape plan for prominent, public areas to preserve the Borough's special places." P. 4/2007; P. 3/2018

The Borough's 2008 Open Space and Recreation Element continued to stress the importance of the Borough's shade trees, referring to Riverton's "picturesque tree-lined streets" as the "…threads that bind the town and a prominent element of Riverton life…" P. 18 of 35.

History

Twenty-five years ago, the Riverton Shade Tree Board's Forest Management Plan was among the first half dozen Community Forestry Management Plans developed in New Jersey. Today, Riverton is one of only two municipalities in the state — along with Morristown — to have successfully completed a fifth 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), demonstrating long-term commitment to urban forest stewardship and program continuity.

Over the past quarter century, the Borough has achieved significant and measurable accomplishments in community forestry. Riverton's CFMP is comprehensive, proactive, and fully integrated into municipal operations, providing a sustainable framework for the management, maintenance, and enhancement of the public tree resource. The program is well established and functioning effectively, requiring refinement rather than restructuring to meet current and future challenges.

Several components of Riverton's existing CFMP — including policies, management practices, and programmatic elements — have been shared with neighboring municipalities such as Moorestown, Delran, Cinnaminson, and Palmyra. This collaboration reflects Riverton's role as a leader and resource in advancing community forestry practices within the region.

In recognition of its sustained commitment to urban forestry, Riverton was selected to host the 2018 New Jersey State Arbor Day Program, commemorating the Borough's 30th year as a designated *Tree City USA*. This designation underscores Riverton's continued compliance with Arbor Day Foundation standards, including the establishment of a tree board, adoption of a tree ordinance, allocation of an annual community forestry budget, and observance of Arbor Day. The event highlighted the Shade Tree Board's success in promoting tree diversity, resilience, and a sustainable urban forest canopy.

This Sixth Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan builds upon Riverton's strong foundation by updating data, refining management strategies, and incorporating new goals and best practices consistent with NJ DEP guidelines. The plan addresses all required CFMP elements and will guide the continued protection, maintenance, and enhancement of Riverton's community forest to ensure long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits.

1a. Mission Statement

The purpose of this Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) is to enhance and reemphasize the operational framework that was begun under the first, second, third, fourth and fifth CFMP'S, and to insure the continued viability and sustainability of the community's urban forest and shade tree resources; thereby protecting the quality of life for Borough residents, maintaining the economic and environmental health of the community, and preserving the intrinsic local character that is synonymous with Riverton.

1b. Liability Statement

Although street trees are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require care, maintenance and eventually replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to planting "the right tree in the right place", help to ensure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the community, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety. Our community must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of our community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and prioritize work towards a healthy forest while simultaneously reducing risks to public safety.

History has proven that, by taking logical steps like those outlined in this plan, we can garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety.

We also want to continue to be increasingly more proactive in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and hazard assessment, we have positioned our Shade Tree Board to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all tree failures can be pre-empted. It's much like trying to predict which tooth might break next. However, good maintenance and diligent care can reduce the probability of hazardous occurrences.

Moreover, by working more closely with the Planning Board, the Shade Tree Board will encourage prospective developers and redevelopers to implement plans that maximize healthy shade tree plans.

With this Forestry Management Plan, Riverton will continue to devote reasonable levels of resources in a strategic manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents and thereby reduce the Municipality's exposure to liabilities and increasing public safety.

1c. Community Overview

The Borough of Riverton is located in Burlington County, New Jersey, approximately ten miles north of Philadelphia, along the east bank of the Delaware River. The Borough lies within the south-central portion of the State, in the Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain Landscape Region. Founded in 1851, Riverton is recognized as one of the earliest planned residential communities in the United States. A significant portion of the Borough is listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, reflecting its historic development pattern and long-standing community character.

Riverton is bordered by Cinnaminson Township to the north, east, and south, and by the Borough of Palmyra to the southwest. It is part of a series of municipalities situated along the Delaware River waterfront, where urban development and environmental resources closely intersect.

Although small in geographic size — encompassing just under one square mile, including both terrestrial and submerged lands — the Borough's tree-lined streets and public tree canopy provide substantial environmental, social, and aesthetic benefits. Riverton's community forest plays a critical role in delivering essential ecosystem services within this highly developed urban watershed, particularly in mitigating stormwater runoff, improving water quality, and reducing pollutant loads to the Delaware River from both local and upstream drainage areas.

The Borough maintains extensive local tree resources, as described in subsequent sections of this plan, supported by a long-standing tradition of public engagement and municipal stewardship in community forestry. Riverton has been recognized as a *Tree City USA* by the Arbor Day Foundation for 37 consecutive years, reflecting sustained compliance with program standards and a continued commitment to the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of its community forest.

i. Overview - Physical Geography

Riverton Borough encompasses approximately 0.7 square miles (about 448 acres) of land area, along with an additional 0.3 acres of submerged lands. The Borough is bounded by the Delaware River to the west, Pompeston Creek to the north, and a tributary of Pompeston Creek to the east. While much of Riverton Borough is classified as Urban Land, the New Jersey Landscape Project identifies the Borough as being located within the Conservation Focal Area (CFA) of the Upper Inner Coastal Plain Delaware River.

Three of the Borough's four boundaries coincide with a contiguous riparian corridor associated with the Delaware River and its tributaries. This Conservation Focal Area includes designated Important Bird Areas that support breeding populations of threatened and endangered bird species of national, state, and regional priority, as well as significant stopover habitat for spring and fall migratory waterfowl and landbirds.

Riverton Memorial Park, a 12-acre municipal park situated along Pompeston Creek, contains a mix of recreational facilities and natural resources, including freshwater tidal marshes and deciduous forest with greater than 50 percent crown closure. These habitats provide critical foraging and resting areas for the State-Threatened Black-crowned Night-Heron, as well as Species of Special Concern such as the Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron.

ii. Community Maps - Location, Demographics & Land Use
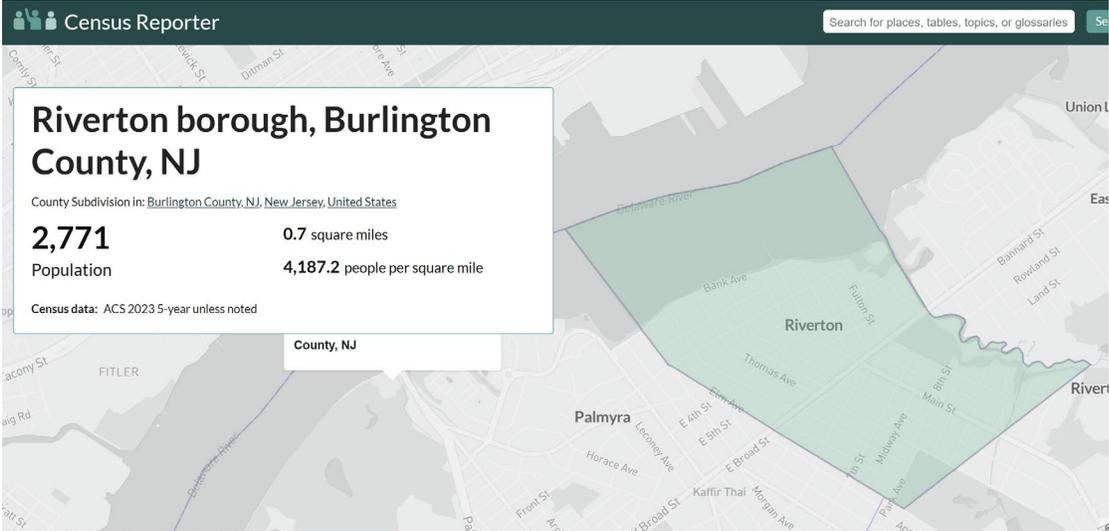
Source information courtesy of CensusReporter.org; December 2025

According to the 2022 Plan Endorsement Recommendation Report for the Borough of Riverton by the New Jersey Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy New Jersey:

"Riverton Borough is a moderately sized, middle to upper middle class, relatively homogenous community. Population growth in Riverton Borough is recovering after a period of decline. The Borough's population is slightly older than the county's and, appears to be aging. Riverton Borough residents are, on average, wealthier than those in either the county or the state, the housing prices do not reflect this yet, as the median home price as well below that of the state."

Land Use/Land Cover as depicted in the NJ DEP 2020 dataset. Source courtesy of nj-map.com. *** See the following page for relevant map legend.

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of GIS, as identified on the *Municipalities with Overburdened Communities under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law (2022)* website, the Borough of Riverton is not classified as an "Overburdened Community." *** See the following page for relevant maps.

Canopy Cover

According to the Tree Equity Score National Explorer, Riverton Borough has Tree Equity Scores of 96 in the southwest section of the Borough and 99 in the northeast section, indicating a high level of tree canopy coverage and equitable distribution of environmental benefits across the community.

For the southwest portion of the Borough, the current canopy cover is 44% with a goal of 50%.

For the northeast portion of the Borough, the current canopy cover is 48% with a goal of 50%.

LEGEND: Land Use classifications in Riverton, NJ

|		
	1110	Residential (High Density or Multiple Dwelling)
	1120	Residential (Single Unit, Medium Density)
	1130	Residential (Single Unit, Low Density)
	1140	Residential (Rural, Single Unit)
	1200	Commercial and Services
	1300	Industrial
	1400	Transportation/Communication/Utilities
	1700	Other Urban or Built-up Land
	1800	Recreational Land
	4110	Deciduous Forest (10-50% Crown Closure)
	4120	Deciduous Forest (>50% Crown Closure)
	5410	Tidal Rivers, Inland Bays and other Tidal Waters
	6120	Freshwater Tidal Marshes

Land Use Classifications Codes courtesy of: nj-map.com/landchange/lulevel3

1.c.ii continued: According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of GIS, as identified on the *Municipalities with Overburdened Communities under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law (2022)* website, **the Borough of Riverton is not classified as an "Overburdened Community", as illustrated in the following two images:**
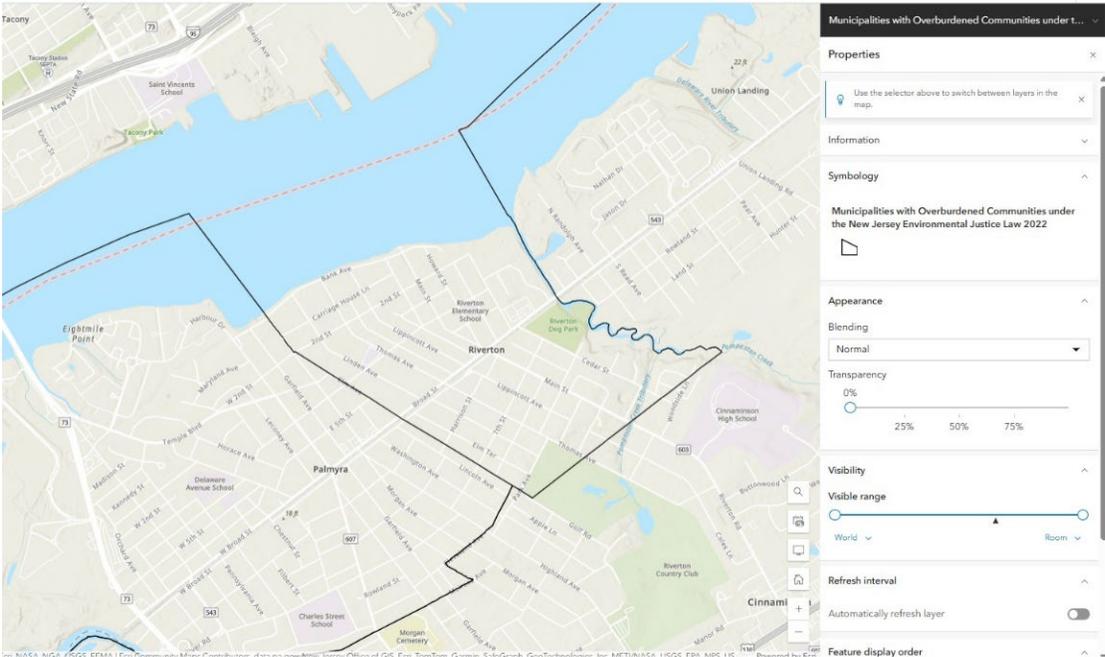
Note: Blue overlay indicates the surrounding communities of Palmyra Borough and Cinnaminson Township, which are classified as "Overburdened Communities."

These scores demonstrate Riverton Borough's proactive urban forestry practices focused on canopy preservation, long-term tree health, and resilience to climate-related stressors.
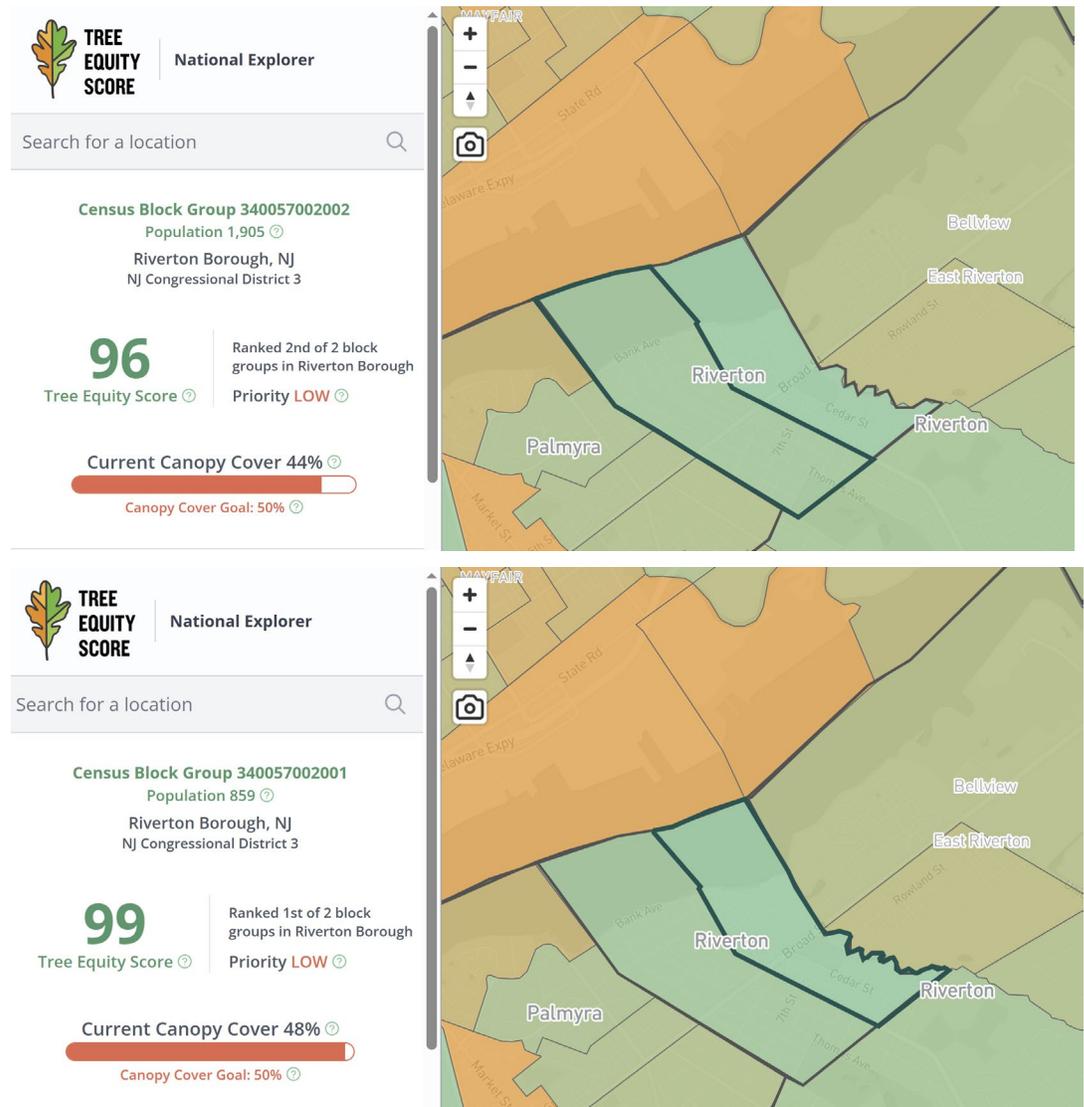
Source information courtesy of Treeequityscore.org, December 2025

Population and Relevance

Current United States Census data indicate that Riverton Borough has a population of 2,771 residents, while the municipal tree inventory has documented 2,498 street and park trees (as described in Section 1.d). With nearly one publicly managed tree per resident, Riverton's tree canopy represents an exceptional community asset. This extensive public tree resource also carries a significant responsibility to ensure proper maintenance, enhance aesthetics, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents while supporting broader environmental benefits.

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iii. **History, Accomplishments & Barriers to Success**

Through a New Jersey Forestry Green Communities Grant, Riverton Borough completed a comprehensive update of its Davey TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory in fall 2022. All components of the Borough's urban forestry program are now guided by this inventory, which includes detailed data for all street and park trees, georeferenced photographs, and regularly updated maintenance histories. Work records are uploaded on a weekly basis, ensuring that the inventory remains current and actionable.

With technical support from the Davey Tree Expert Company and use of the TreeKeeper® 8 software, the Riverton Shade Tree Board (STB) has developed a prioritized list of high- and moderate-risk trees requiring removal or pruning. This risk-based framework has guided the STB's annual work plans for the past three years and has improved public safety, resource allocation, and long-term canopy management. In addition, the updated inventory has identified all available planting sites throughout the Borough, allowing the STB to develop strategic, data-driven tree planting plans.

Over the past five years, the STB has removed 233 trees, pruned 1,677 trees, and planted 150 new trees.

One ongoing challenge for the STB is Riverton's limited municipal budget as a small borough. To address this constraint, the STB has expanded fundraising efforts and invested in training and education for the Borough's Public Works Department, which consists of four full-time employees. As a result, Public Works staff now actively support tree planting, routine pruning, minor tree removals, and mulching activities. This collaborative approach has saved the Borough thousands of dollars while significantly strengthening implementation of the Shade Tree Board's Management Plan.

iv. **Engagement & Partnerships**

Over the past five Forestry Management Plans and 37 years as a Tree City USA community, the Riverton Shade Tree Board (STB) has cultivated strong, collaborative partnerships that support effective urban forest management. These partnerships include **Public Service Electric and Gas Company** for electric line clearance, the **Burlington County Highway Department** (Shade Tree Division) for pruning services, and the neighboring municipalities of **Palmyra, Cinnaminson, Moorestown,** and **Delran** for cost-sharing initiatives, coordinated planting efforts, and educational activities. The STB also maintains a signed written agreement with **Burlington County** to install replacement trees along two county roadways that intersect Riverton.

Barry Emens, Forestry Consultant and Chairman of the Riverton Shade Tree Board, oversees all municipal forestry activities. His responsibilities include preparing contracts for tree removals, pruning, and planting; responding to resident inquiries and concerns; conducting walking tree tours; and coordinating with Borough officials and partner organizations.

Through decades of sustained outreach and stewardship, residents have developed a strong appreciation for Riverton's street and park trees, recognizing their role in neighborhood character, increased property values, climate resilience, and the importance of shade in a warming climate.

Riverton's mature tree canopy also supports community and regional events. For the past four years, the Borough has hosted a professional cycling organization that attracts riders from across the country for a competitive one-mile race through town. A primary reason for selecting Riverton is the fully shaded race route created by the Borough's continuous street tree canopy.

The STB conducts annual tree tours and produces educational publications focused on the care, benefits, and enjoyment of community trees. Outreach materials provided in the Appendix include welcome packet resources such as *A Homeowner's Guide to Beautiful, Safe, and Healthy Trees in Riverton* and the *Riverton Tree Walk Location Guide*, as well as forms that invite resident participation in tree care, maintenance of newly planted trees, and contributions to the municipal tree fund.

The Borough of Riverton has contracted with Davey Resource Group (DRG) to conduct a comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing trees, stumps, and potential planting sites within street rights-of-way and Riverton Memorial Park. The November 2022 Tree Inventory Summary Report is included in the Appendix, and inventory services and technical support from DRG are ongoing.

In addition, the Borough has engaged Elaine A. Mills, Senior Landscape Architect with Taylor Design Group, Inc., and ISA Certified Arborist (#FL-9422A), NJ Licensed Landscape Architect (#21AS00100000), to assist with the assembly and interpretation of this report.

1d.   Urban Forest Structure, Composition, & Trends

Riverton Borough Shade Tree Board (STB) personnel have conducted systematic tree inventories for more than ten years using Davey Resource Group (DRG) inventory software, including inventories completed in 2014 (TreeKeeper® Jr.) and 2018 (TreeKeeper® 7).

In 2022, as part of the Borough's fifth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan, Davey Resource Group (DRG) was contracted to complete a comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing trees, stumps, and potential future planting sites within street rights-of-way and Riverton Memorial Park.

Data from the 2014, 2018, and 2022 inventories, along with work completed to date, were consolidated into the November 2022 Tree Inventory Summary Report prepared by DRG (see Appendix 5). Inventory services and technical support from DRG are ongoing.

Based on findings from the 2022 inventory, the Riverton STB, in collaboration with the Davey Support Group, developed prioritized High- and Moderate-Risk tree lists based on tree condition and hazard potential. These lists are used to strategically allocate limited municipal resources toward trees requiring removal or pruning to reduce risk and improve public safety.

Trees assigned a High-Risk rating were addressed as a priority to mitigate immediate hazards, while the Moderate-Risk list has been actively utilized and updated over the past four years as part of the STB's ongoing, data-driven management approach.

Public Access

The Riverton Borough TreeKeeper® website (https://rivertonnj.treekeepersoftware.com/) is publicly accessible without a password and is linked directly from the municipal website. This platform allows residents and other interested parties to view basic information about "their" street or park tree, as well as other trees throughout the community, supporting transparency and public engagement in urban forestry management.

In addition, the i-Tree Eco application calculates ecosystem service benefits for individual trees and for the Borough's overall tree canopy. These benefits are expressed in U.S. dollars and quantify the value of services provided by the urban forest, including carbon dioxide sequestration, stormwater runoff mitigation, and air pollution removal.
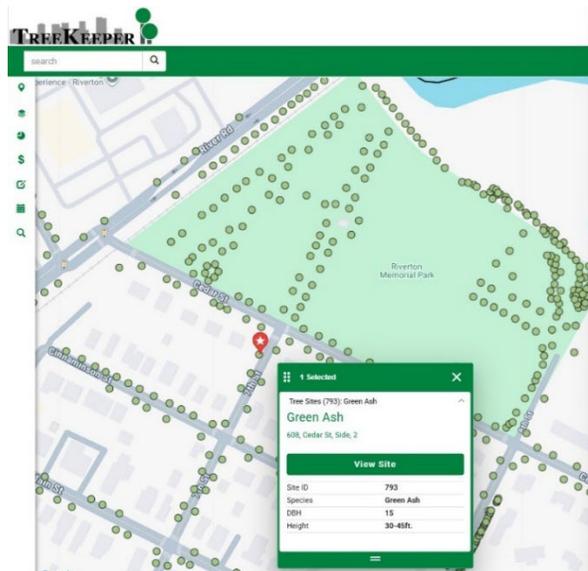
The following images were captured from the Riverton Borough TreeKeeper® 8 website in November 2025.
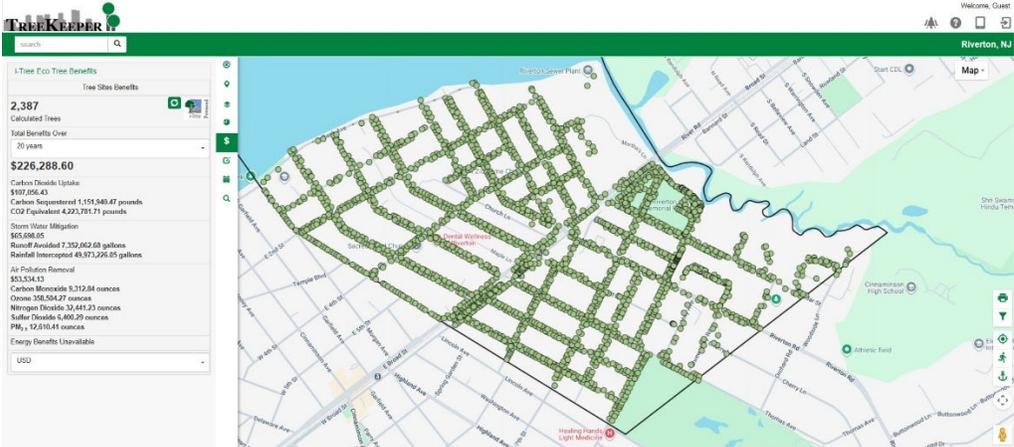
Residents can see all existing Borough trees included in the tree inventory.
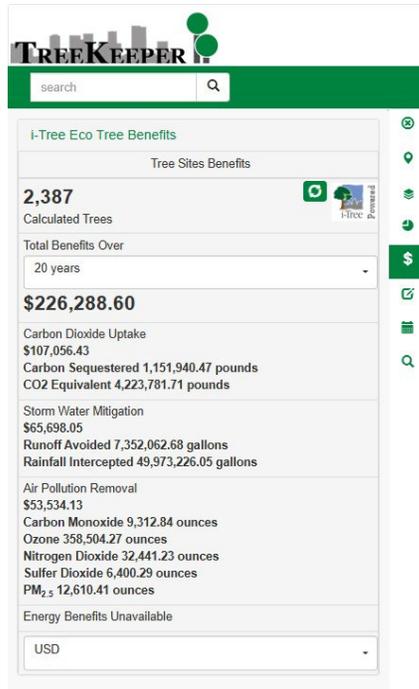
A table shows the total number of trees and the value of ecosystem services provided by the overall community tree resources over a given period.
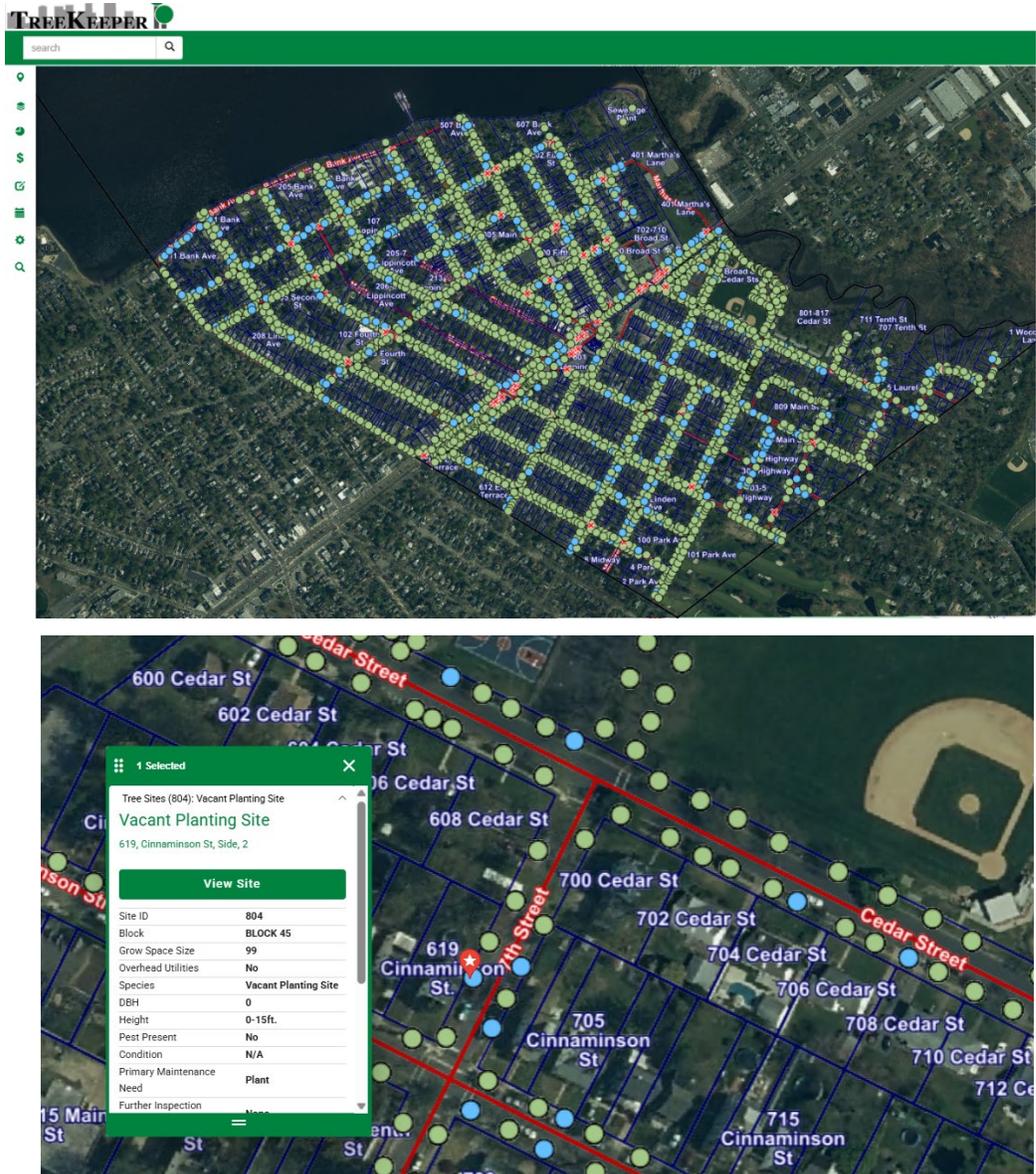

Residents and interested parties can select "their" tree for a deeper understanding of the species, size and value of a particular specimen.

Protected Data

In addition to the public-facing features of the Riverton TreeKeeper® 8 website, Davey Resource Group (DRG) tools enable the Shade Tree Board and designated municipal personnel to efficiently track the location, condition, maintenance history, and work priorities for all public trees within the Borough.

The system provides easy access to site-specific information, including identification of vacant sites suitable for future tree planting, as well as locations determined to be unsuitable for planting, supporting strategic, data-driven urban forest management.

Vacant Planting Site at 619 Cinnaminson St

Of particular importance is the TreeKeeper® 8 Dashboard, which provides the Shade Tree Board and designated municipal personnel with immediate access to comprehensive information on the status of Riverton's urban forest. Dashboard data summarize overall canopy condition, current and completed work activities, and types of maintenance performed, enabling efficient oversight, informed decision-making, and effective allocation of resources.
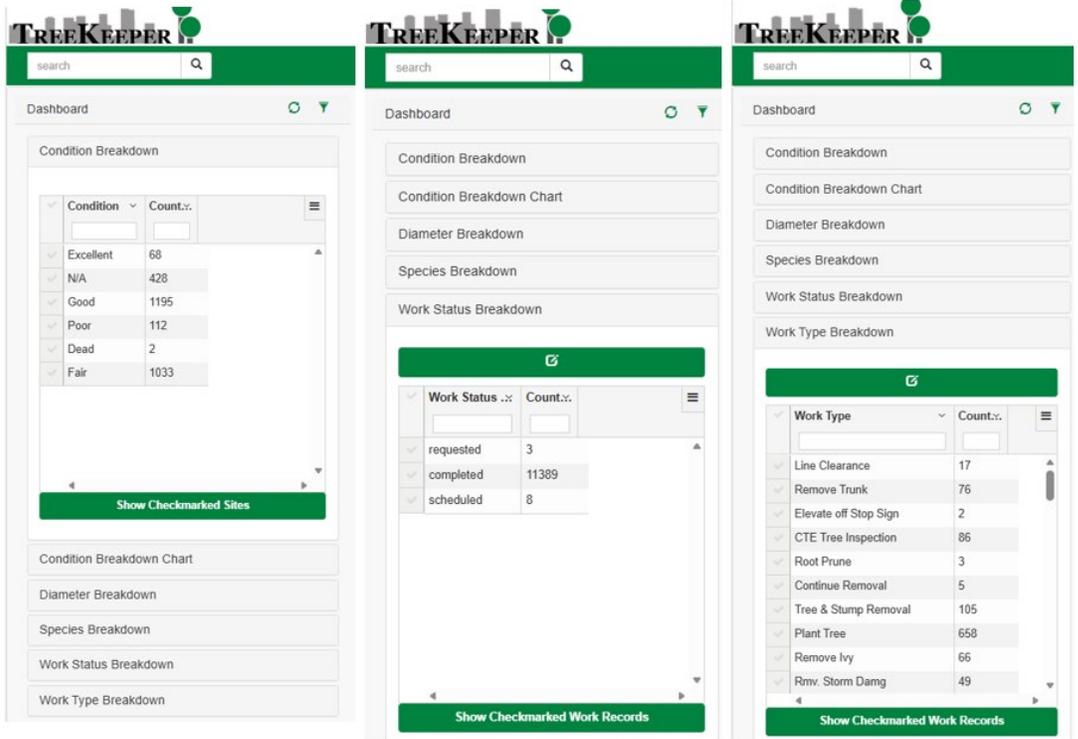
Condition Breakdown as of December 2025.
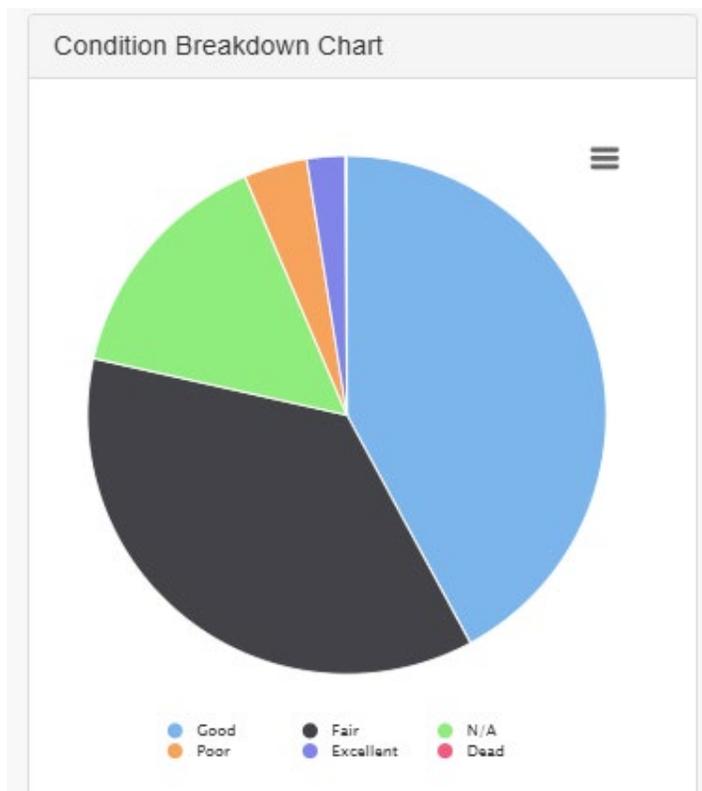
Davey Resource Group Tree Inventory Summary Report, November 2022

The 2022 Tree Inventory evaluated a total of 2,816 sites within Riverton's street rights-of-way and parkland areas, including 2,427 trees, 16 stumps, and 373 potential planting sites. The following section summarizes key findings and data presented in the 2022 Tree Inventory Summary Report. The complete report is provided in Appendix 5.

Key Findings:

- *The appraised value of the Borough of Riverton's inventoried tree population is $6,750,000.*

- *The overall condition of the tree population is Fair.*

- *Most common species: Platanus x acerifolia (London planetree), 13%, Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe-myrtle), 8%, Acer saccharum (Sugar maple), 8%, Quercus borealis (Red oak), 5%, and Acer rubrum (Red maple), 5%.*

- *The majority (32%) of the urban forest is rated as Young, having a diameter of 0-8 inches.*

- *38% of the population is recommended for a Routine Prune, 33% is recommended for a Young Tree Training Prune, 23% is recommended for Pruning, and 3% is recommended for removal.*

- *Riverton's trees provide approximately $18,190 annually in the following environmental benefits: o Air Quality: valued at $7,500 per year.*

  o *Carbon Sequestration: 33 tons valued at $5,620 per year.*

  o *Avoided runoff: 567,248 gallons valued at $5,070 per year.*

Species Diversity

The composition of a tree population should follow the 10-20-30 Rule for species diversity, where 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%.

As of 2022, the Borough of Riverton had one species, London planetree, comprising 13% of the inventoried population and two species coming close to the 10% threshold, crepe myrtle and sugar maple, comprising 8% of the inventoried tree population.
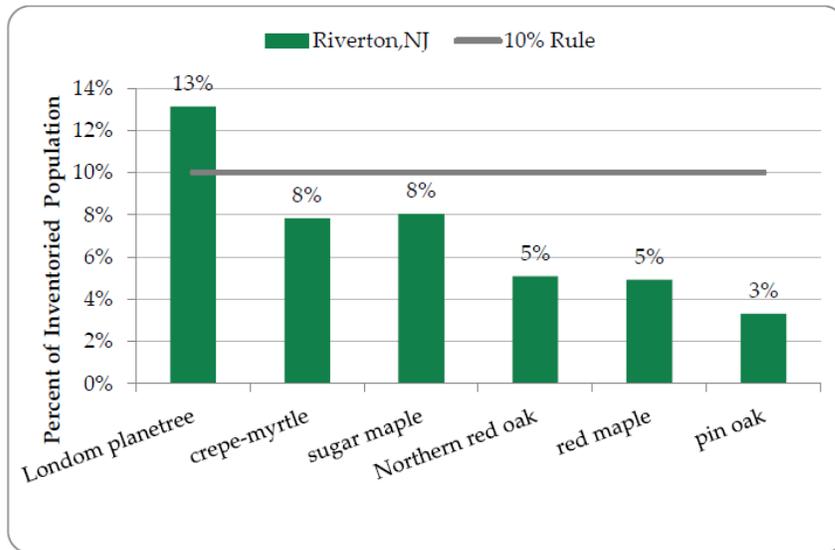
Figure 1. Tree species composition in the Borough of Riverton
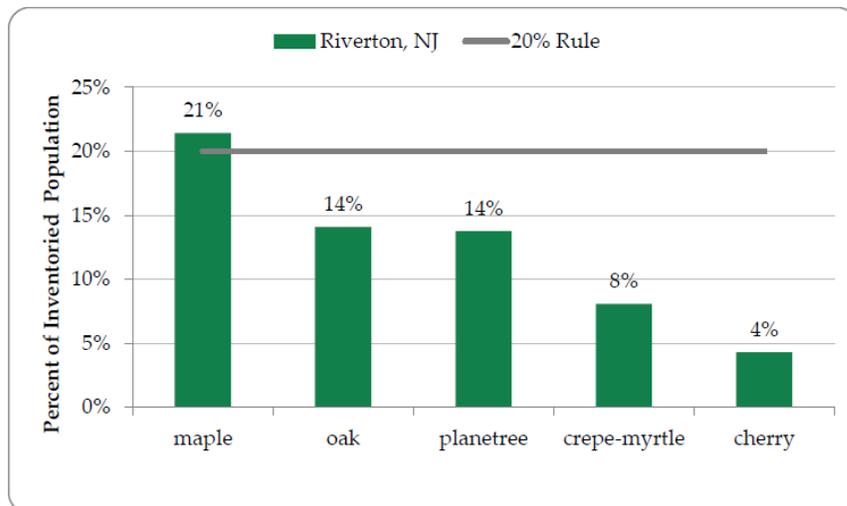
Figure 2. Top five genera in the Borough of Riverton in relation to the 20% Rule.

Relative Age (Diameter Size Class)

The inventoried trees were categorized by diameter size classes to allow analysis following Richards' ideal distribution (1983), where an ideal distribution would have an abundance of newly planted and young trees, with established, maturing, and mature trees present in lower numbers.

The Borough of Riverton is approaching the ideal distribution. Maintaining an uneven age distribution will allow the Borough to allocate annual maintenance costs uniformly over many years and ensure continuity in overall tree canopy coverage.
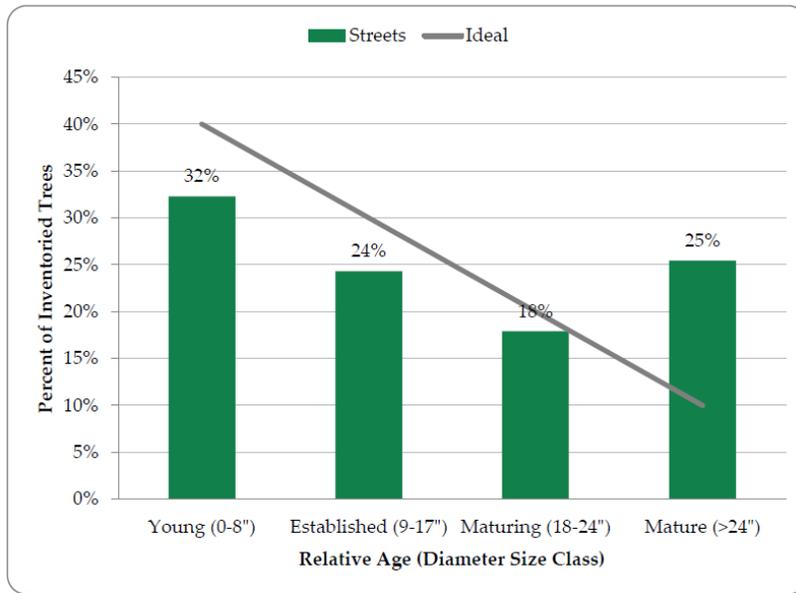
Figure 3. Relative age distribution of inventoried trees.

Condition

The condition of each inventoried tree was rated Good, Fair, Poor, or Dead. Based on multiple factors, including root characteristics, branch structure, trunk, canopy, foliage condition, and the presence of pests. Most of the inventoried ROW trees were rated in Fair or Good condition, 48% and 42%, respectively (Figure 4). Based on these data, the general health of the overall inventoried tree population is rated Fair.
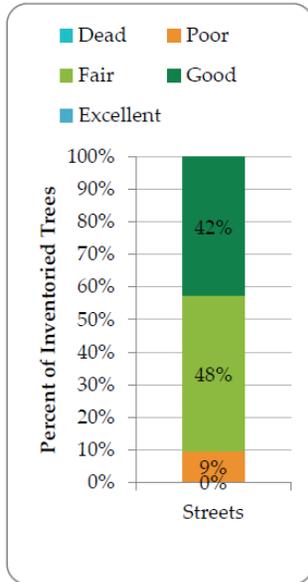
Figure 4. Condition of inventoried trees.

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 in Fair condition. Most trees in Poor and Dead condition were in the Young and Established size class. With an established maintenance schedule and proactive care, this trend can be improved to develop a healthier urban forest.
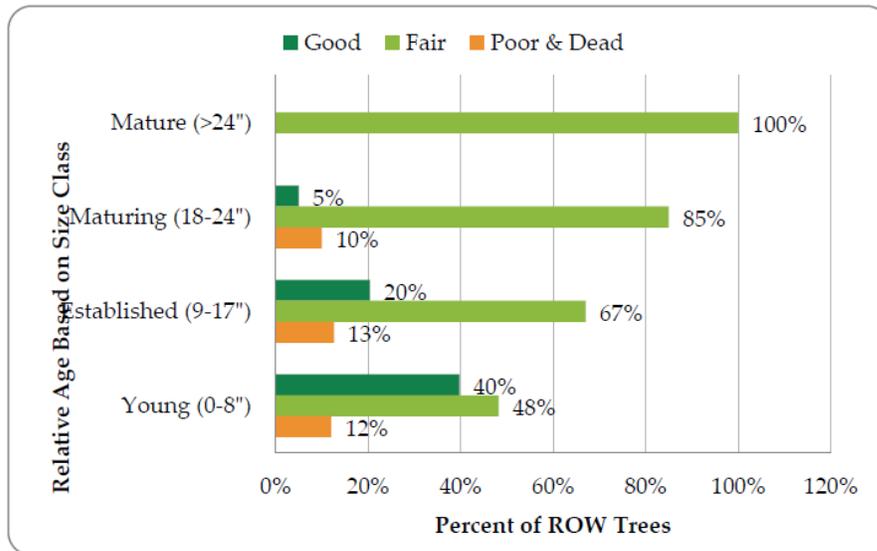
Condition of inventoried trees by relative age class.

Primary Maintenance and Risk

"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."

Davey Resource Group (DRG) recommended prioritizing tree maintenance activities based on the risk rating assigned to each tree during the inventory process. Trees identified as High Risk are addressed first, followed by Moderate Risk trees, while Low Risk trees are scheduled for maintenance after higher-risk trees have been pruned or removed.

The following graphs illustrate the recommended maintenance activities by risk rating category and tree size class.
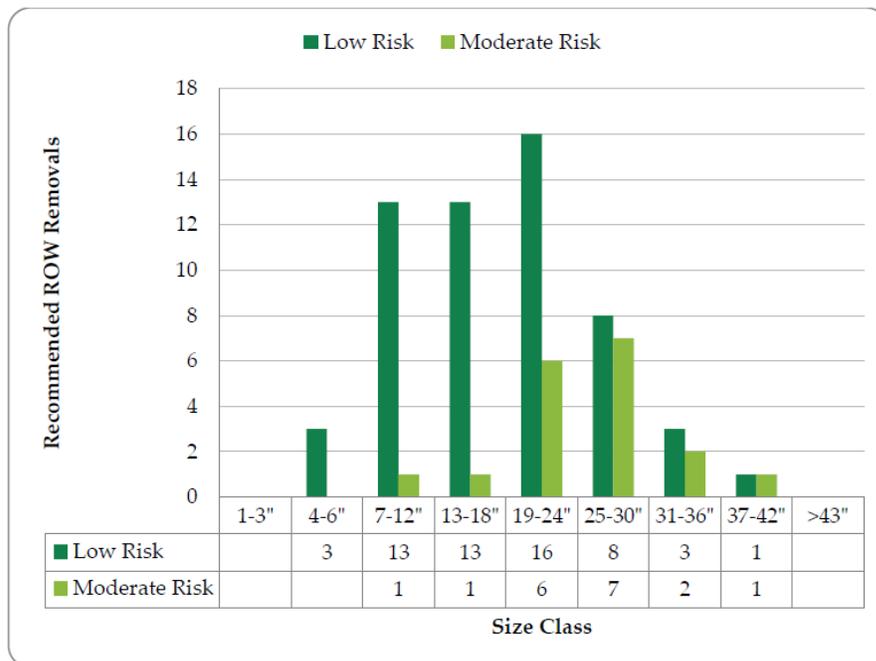
	1-3"	4-6"	7-12"	13-18"	19-24"	25-30"	31-36"	37-42"	>43"
Low Risk		3	13	13	16	8	3	1	
Moderate Risk			1	1	6	7	2	1	

Figure 6. Priority Removal by size class
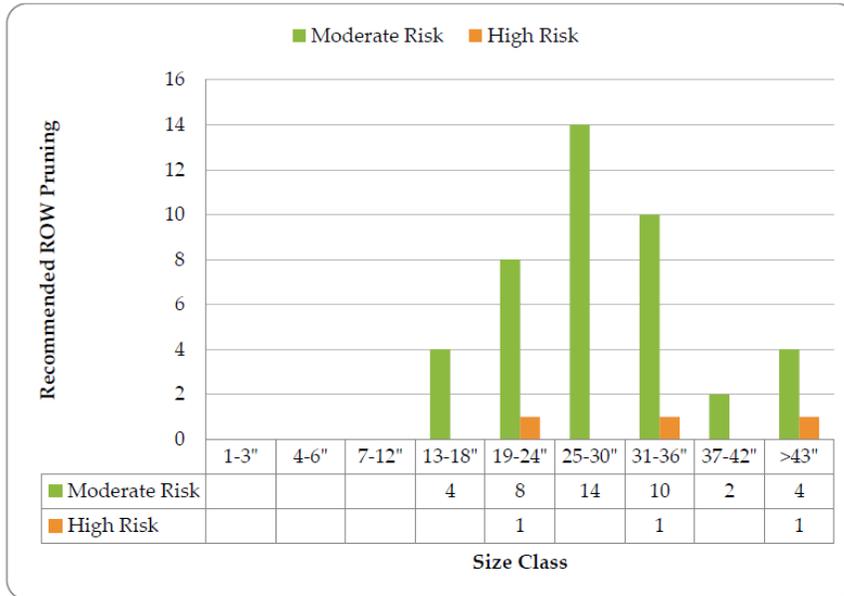
Figure 7. Priority Pruning by size class.

Routine Pruning Cycle

The Riverton tree inventory identified 946 trees that presented some level of risk but exhibited smaller defect sizes and/or a lower likelihood of impacting a target. These trees were assigned a Low-Risk rating with recommended maintenance actions of "Prune" or "Routine Prune" to proactively manage tree health, minimize reactive maintenance, and reduce the potential for elevated risk over time.
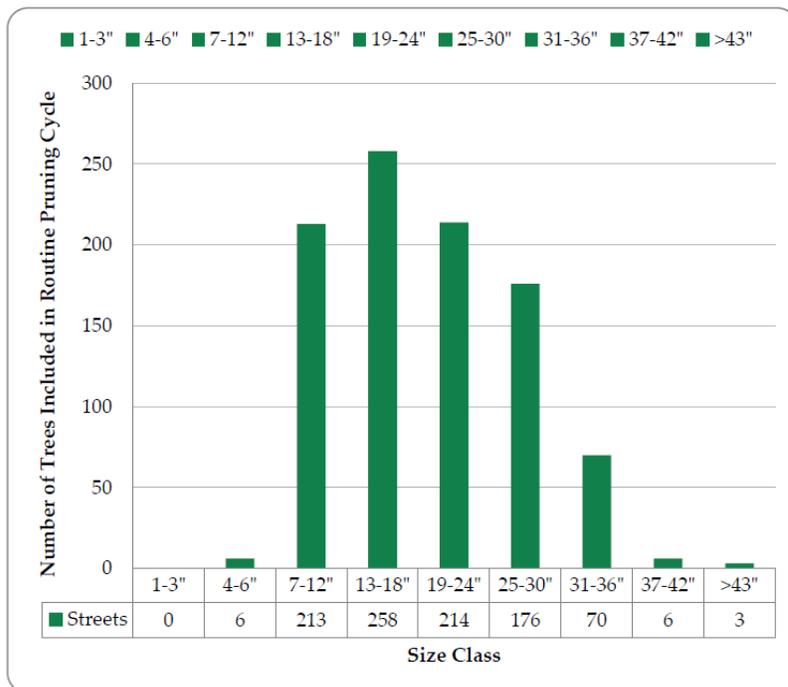
Figure 8. Routine pruning by size class.

i-Tree Streets Benefits

The i-Tree Eco application was used to evaluate the inventoried trees in terms of the economic, environmental, and social benefits they provide, helping to mitigate any public concerns regarding the costs associated with planting and maintaining the municipal tree resource. Based on this analysis, Riverton Borough's inventoried urban forest generates an estimated $18,190 in annual ecosystem service benefits through carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff reduction, and improvements to overall air quality.
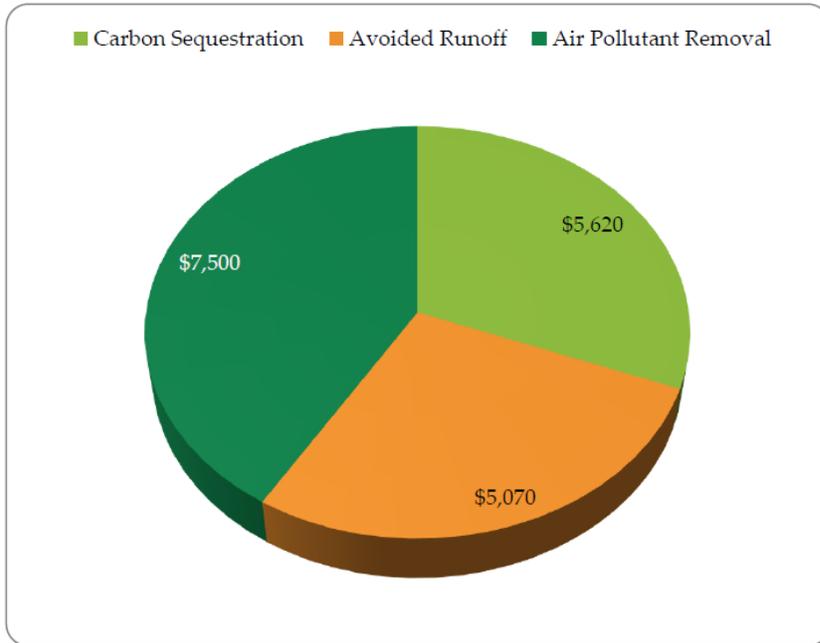
Figure 9. Distribution of the annual benefits provided by the inventoried trees

Conclusion and Recommendations

"By completing a tree inventory, the Borough of Riverton has shown interest in not only preserving the urban forest but maintaining it for future generations.

Maintaining an established planting program, routine pruning operation, and public outreach program will aid in maintaining the many benefits the urban forest provides to the community."

Post-Inventory - Trends, Activity & Status

Trends:

In 2019, Riverton Borough maintained 2,438 street and park trees. As of December 2025, the inventory documents 2,390 trees, representing a net decrease of 48 trees in the public realm.

This downward trend in the *number* of trees since 2019 reflects several deliberate and unavoidable factors.

Primarily, through Riverton's partnership with Davey Resource Group (DRG), trees identified as High- or Moderate-Risk have been systematically removed or intensively managed to mitigate safety hazards, consistent with best management practices for risk reduction.

Secondarily, Riverton's urban forest has been affected by regionally prevalent pests, pathogens, and age-related decline, including bacterial leaf scorch, Sugar Maple decline, Emerald Ash Borer, and natural death of mature trees.

The major focus of the fifth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan period has been implementation of DRG's hazard mitigation and maintenance recommendations, with replacement planting occurring where site conditions allow.

As a result of dedicated risk reduction and pest/pathogen control, Riverton tree resources are experiencing an upward trend in the *health and stability* of the existing trees.

The focus of the Sixth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan will be to address the remaining Moderate-Risk trees while transitioning toward a program emphasizing routine maintenance, canopy preservation, and expanded tree planting to rebuild and strengthen the public tree canopy over time.

2025 Activity:

- Completed a 20 tree and stump removal contract along with an additional 17 stumps.

- Completed a 27-tree planting contract.

- Conducted Arbor Day event at Riverton School in May 2025.

- Implemented an emergency trimming contract to address homeowner concerns.

- Updated TreeKeeper® 8 database to reflect recent maintenance, planting and removal work.

Ongoing Activity:

- Update and utilize the third complete street and park tree inventory, TreeKeeper® 8, including work history records for all trees.

- Evaluate and manage on a yearly basis all trees identified and classified as Moderate to High Risk.

- Plant new trees in vacant locations identified in the Inventory.

- Seek State Planting Grants and other sources to support planting and maintenance efforts.

- Advocate for State Forestry Tree Trimming Grant restoration.

Planned Activity:

- Planning to treat 41 Ash street trees in 2026.

Status

During the most recent Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan period, the Riverton Shade Tree Board has effectively maintained the Borough's street and park tree population and overall canopy coverage, while prioritizing public safety, tree health, and long-term sustainability.

1e.   Overall Program Goals

The overall program goals of the Borough of Riverton and the Shade Tree Board (STB) are closely aligned with the New Jersey Community Forest Management Program (CFMP). This Community Forest Management Plan identifies the specific goals and actions necessary to advance the STB's mission: *to ensure the continued viability and sustainability of the community's urban forest and shade tree resources, thereby protecting residents' quality of life, supporting the economic and environmental health of the Borough, and preserving the intrinsic local character that is synonymous with Riverton.*

Sixteen specific goals, together with associated objectives and implementation actions, are detailed below in section 4.a Plan Implementation, per Appendix 4.

1f.   Plan Connections & Other Considerations

The Riverton Borough Planning Board adopted a Re-Examination Report as part of its Master Plan update in 2018, reaffirming the Borough's long-standing commitment to trees and tree-lined streets as defining elements of Riverton's community character. The value of trees in shaping Riverton's historic and residential identity has been consistently recognized by both the Planning Board and the Governing Body. This commitment was further confirmed through adoption of the Shade Tree Board's recommended shade tree ordinance. The Planning Board continues to demonstrate strong support for tree preservation through rigorous review of site plan applications and by requiring the protection of existing trees wherever feasible.

Riverton's Stormwater Management Plan was strengthened in 2024 with the adoption of a municipal tree ordinance consistent with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Tree Ordinance #5-2024, when the Shade Tree Board determined that adoption of this ordinance was in the Borough's best interest. The ordinance was subsequently revised and refined by the STB in August 2024 to better reflect local conditions, resident needs, and Riverton's urban forest management objectives.

Emergency response and storm readiness, wildfire protection planning, and wood utilization are ongoing program components and are incorporated into Riverton's established forestry goals and objectives.

2. Community Forestry Program Capacity

2a. Administration

Shade Tree Management Organizational Chart
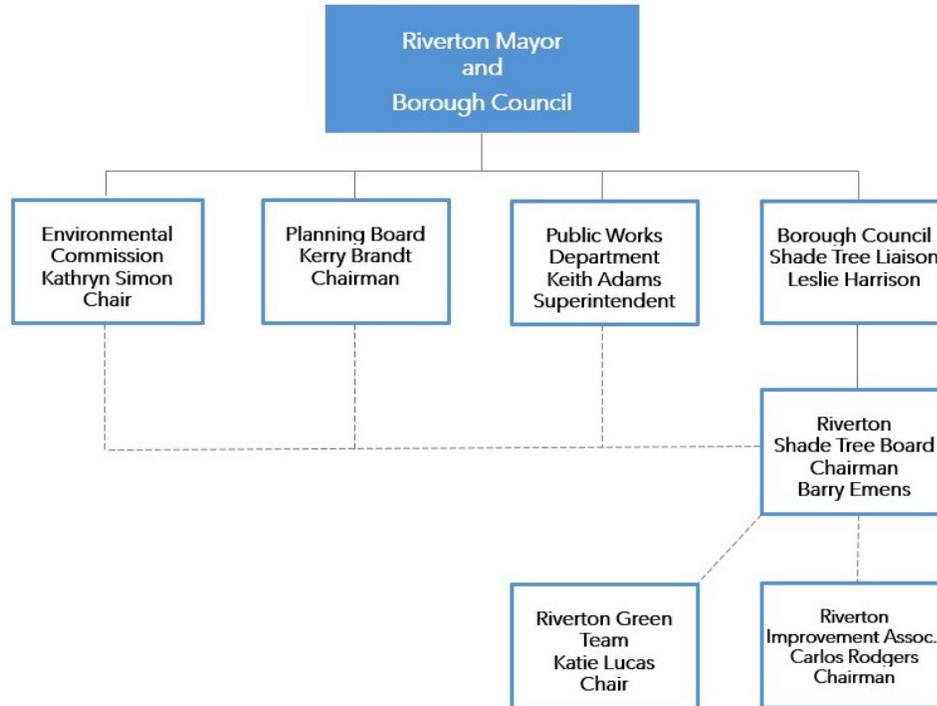
The **Shade Tree Board** is composed of five members, including the Chairman. One Borough Council member represents the Shade Tree Board to the Governing Body. The STB oversees the management of the Borough's street and park trees and is responsible for coordinating all tree-related training programs.

The Riverton Shade Tree Board continues to report directly to the Borough's **Mayor and Council**. Ms. Leslie Harrison is the newly appointed Shade Tree Liaison Councilperson. Mr. Barry Emens, Forestry Consultant, remains the Chairman of the Shade Tree Board and he, along with Ms. Harrison, coordinate all efforts and communication from the Board to the Governing Body as well as with several other municipal and neighborhood boards.

2b. Partnerships (NGOs, Nonprofit Organizations, Interdepartmental)

Working with the STB are the **Public Works Department**, Mr. Keith Adams, Superintendent; **Environmental Commission**, Ms. Kathryn Simon, Chairman; **Code Enforcement Officer**, Policeman, Vincent Coniglione; **Planning Board**, Mr. Kerry Brandt, Chairman; the **Green Team**, Chairman, Ms. Katie Lucas and a local community non-profit group, the **Riverton Improvement Association**, Carlos Rodgers, Chairman.

The following partners share the tasks described below to build capacity and an increasingly proactive approach to local shade tree management and planning.

- The Chairman of the STB and the Superintendent of Public Works work very closely together to monitor and coordinate necessary tree service contracts for trimming, removals, planting, and utility line clearance. The PW superintendent oversees and monitors the STB budget at the field level.

- The Shade Tree Board, and the Chairman specifically, will review all homeowner concerns that are filed with the Borough on the Shade Tree Board's standardized concern form. (See Appendix 5 - Form #1.) Appropriate responses to such concerns will continue to be directed through the Chairman to the local contractor, who coordinates subsequent remedial action.

- The STB has entered a two-year contract (hourly rate) with a Certified Tree Contractor to address emergency trimming needs and homeowner concerns.

- Shade Tree Board members monitor removal, trimming and planting contracts. The Borough is divided into 4 quarters (one for each member). Members continually look for hazardous street trees, new planting locations, insect and disease problems and trees that need trimming in their sections and report them to the STB Chairman. Members also help with low level trimming and mulching. All members are active.

- Several community members assist with trimming activities.

- Planning Board – Assists with aligning new houses so quality street trees are saved and that builders are careful around street trees during construction.

- Environmental Commission - Assists with the selection of native tree species.

- Code Enforcement Officer – Responsible for Enforcement of the Tree Ordinance.

- Green Team – The STB is helping the Green Team achieve Forestry credits for NJ Sustainable Certification.

- Burlington County Highway Department (Shade Tree Division) – Coordination of hazardous street tree removals and trimming on Riverton's two county roads.

- Riverton Improvement Association is the only non-profit group. The STB helps them make proper plant and site selections. They help beautify the community.

- Davey Resource Group (GRG) - The Borough of Riverton plans to continue utilizing the Davey Resource Group (GRG) Tree Inventory services and software to ensure the continued viability and sustainability of the community's urban forest and shade tree resources.

2c. Training

Mayor James Quinn is currently the elected official who has received CORE Training accreditation for Riverton, as required by the New Jersey Community Forestry Council. Mr. Barry Emens and Mr. Mark Jendrzejewski are the active volunteer members who have also received CORE Training accreditation. As needed, all STB members and newly appointed Borough Council representatives will receive appropriate training, either through attendance at the annual New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Conference held each October or through other relevant forestry education programs. On an annual basis, STB representatives obtain sufficient continuing education credits to maintain Riverton's Community Forestry accreditation.

Under the Sixth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan, the Chairman of the Shade Tree Board will administer an ongoing tree identification training program for both new and veteran STB members. This program will include a combination of classroom instruction and field-based training. No new STB members have been appointed within the past five years.

The Chairman of the Shade Tree Board will continue to train, update, and advise STB members on emerging tree varieties within the nursery industry, as well as on current insects and diseases that pose risks to Riverton's urban forest.

Shade Tree Board members, Public Works employees, and Borough Council members will participate in forestry-related training and coursework offered by Rutgers University, the New Jersey State Forestry Service, and the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, on an individual basis as needs arise.

All Public Works employees have completed chainsaw safety training, and have received instruction from the STB Chairman on proper pruning techniques ("Pruning 101"), as well as best practices for tree planting, mulching, and watering.

In addition to materials provided through the Borough's Welcome Packet and other outreach efforts, community members who express interest in planting or caring for trees within the public right-of-way receive detailed planting guidance and tree care information to support successful establishment and long-term maintenance. Examples of these materials are included in Appendix 5.

2d. Budget *** See the next page and Appendix for the Appendix 3 Budget Table.

The Riverton Borough Council provides annual funding to support the activities of the Riverton Shade Tree Board (STB). As a small municipality, available funding is limited, and appropriations for the STB are constrained by overall budgetary conditions. The Governing Body allocates funds based on the STB's proposed annual budget and expenditure reports, which are submitted by the Shade Tree Board Chair (see Appendix 3).

Appendix 3. Budget Form

Statement of 5-year Tree Budget		CFMP Budget
Administration	Municipal Salaries	—
	Fringe	—
	Indirect Costs	—
	Volunteer Contribution (Rate can be found at www.independentsector.org)	$49,230
	Other BRUSH REMOVED	$104,350
UCF Stewardship	Planting	$59,000
	Pruning	$114,794
	Removal	$91,230
	Insect/Disease Management	$13,500 EAB
	Stump Removal	INCLUDED WITH REMOVALS
	Other LEAVES REMOVED	$94,600
Education and Outreach	Training and Education (Municipal/County Employee)	$1,500
	Training and Education (Volunteer)	$4,700
	Public Outreach PAMPHLET, LETTERS, ARTICLES	$2,000
	Other RENEW DAVEY SOFTWARE FOR TREE INVENTORY	$15,000
Total	2 FMP GRANTS	$549,904

30A

In 2025, the STB received an allocation of $40,000. Over the past 25 years, annual funding levels have ranged between $35,000 and $50,000, depending on available municipal resources. The STB has determined that an annual budget of $50,000 is necessary to efficiently operate Riverton's Community Forestry Management Program and has consistently requested this level of funding for approximately 20 years. The STB anticipates a similar $50,000 annual funding need over the next five years.

Full funding at this level would provide flexibility to respond to unanticipated storm damage, increase the number of trees addressed through routine maintenance, remove additional hazardous trees, and continue treatment of ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer.

Given funding limitations, the STB relies on supplemental fundraising and external grant support. The Board receives annual contributions from residents and local organizations, which are deposited into a dedicated Planting Trust Fund and used exclusively for tree planting activities. (See Appendix 5, Donation Solicitation Form.) This solicitation is distributed annually with municipal tax bills and typically generates approximately $5,000 per year. In 2025, contributions totaled at least $7,500 due to a particularly generous donation.

Under this Community Forestry Management Plan, the STB will continue to explore and implement additional fundraising strategies to further support urban forestry programs.

The STB Chair contributes extensive time and professional forestry expertise on an ongoing basis to support the stewardship of the Borough's tree resources. In addition, other Board members, volunteers, and Public Works staff regularly contribute in-kind services, including hazardous tree surveys, inventory data entry, mulching, watering, and other field activities. Documentation of in-kind hours and services is provided in the Borough's Urban and Community Forestry Annual Accomplishment Report.

If successful in securing approval for its Sixth Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan, the Riverton Shade Tree Board will undertake several additional projects that are not fully supported by existing funding sources, including:

1.	Add 25 new trees to our current self-guided walking street tree tour for residents, public officials and the general public.	$3,000
2.	Apply for a State Forestry tree planting grant.	$20,000
3.	Apply for a State Forestry tree maintenance (trimming) grant (if available).	$20,000
4.	Renew the Davey TreeKeeper® 8 software package.	$5,000

5.	Update our pamphlet "A Homeowner's Guide to Beautiful, Safe and Healthy Trees in Riverton".	$3,000
Total Outstanding Expenses		**$51,000**

Some of the proposed projects will require more than one year to complete. However, the Riverton Shade Tree Board commits to providing in-kind services equal to 50 percent of any grant funds awarded to the Borough for the projects identified above. This commitment includes an estimated 300 hours of volunteer service, consistent with the level of volunteer effort contributed during 2025.

2e. Equipment

As a small municipality, Riverton Borough relies on contracted services to supplement the capacity of its Public Works Department for urban forestry operations. Accordingly, the majority of forestry services are performed by qualified contractors, who provide all necessary specialized equipment.

The Riverton Public Works Department maintains an inventory of tools to address emergency response needs and routine maintenance tasks that fall within the training and certification levels of in-house staff. These tools include chainsaws, gas-powered pole pruners, handsaws, loppers, and related equipment.

In addition, the Public Works Department has invested in appropriate personal protective and safety equipment — including chainsaw chaps, hard hats, gloves, eye protection, and related gear — to ensure that all work is performed safely and in compliance with applicable ANSI standards.

3. Community Engagement & Wellbeing

The Borough of Riverton and its Shade Tree Advisory Board have a long-standing history of community engagement focused on trees in the public realm and the many benefits they provide to residents. Numerous educational publications and outreach resources are distributed to, or are readily available for, community members. (See in Appendix 5.)

Photo Credit: Barry Emens

3a. Past, Present & Future Community Involvement

The street trees that line Riverton's roadways are a defining community asset that contributes significantly to the Borough's character, environmental quality, and quality of life. To sustain this legacy of tree-lined streets, the Riverton Shade Tree Board (STB) has established a comprehensive program to educate residents on the care and stewardship of the community's street and park trees. The Sixth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan will continue to strengthen the Board's well-established public education, awareness, and outreach initiatives, while expanding engagement with key community organizations and volunteers that collaborate with the STB.

Each spring, in celebration of Arbor Day, the STB sponsors an educational program at the local public school. This program typically includes both indoor and outdoor components and culminates in a tree planting involving student participation. During the upcoming plan period, the STB will seek increased involvement from the Riverton Historical Society, Environmental Commission, and Green Team in the annual Arbor Day celebration.

The Chairman of the Shade Tree Board conducts at least one annual Walking Tree Tour, providing residents and visitors with an opportunity to learn about the wide variety of tree species found along Riverton's streets. Tree diversity has long been a cornerstone of Riverton's Forestry Management Plan. As part of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the STB will expand the existing self-guided walking tour by adding 25 additional trees.

Shade Tree Board members remain readily available to respond to resident inquiries, assist with identifying tree-related concerns, and provide guidance on proper tree care. Under the Sixth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan, the Board will continue to enhance the Borough's website with expanded urban forestry information to improve public accessibility. Riverton's tree inventory is currently available online at rivertonnj.treekeepersoftware.com. Maintaining a healthy, visible tree canopy remains a key reason residents choose to live in Riverton, where every street is tree-lined.

The STB will also continue its targeted public relations and outreach program for new residents. On a semi-annual basis, a local real estate agent provides the Board with a list of new households moving into the Borough. Shortly thereafter, STB members personally deliver the Shade Tree Board pamphlet, A Homeowner's Guide to Beautiful, Safe, and Healthy Trees in Riverton. This brochure, which includes a donation solicitation, explains the value of the Borough's trees, outlines resident responsibilities for tree care, and summarizes the local tree ordinance. Last updated in July 2014, the pamphlet will be revised during the upcoming plan period. This personalized outreach effort reflects a "Welcome Wagon"–style tradition and reinforces Riverton's strong culture of community stewardship. (See Appendix 5 for outreach items.)

3b. Urban Forest Benefits

Over the past twenty-five years, Riverton Borough has been awarded numerous State Forestry grants, which have enabled the development of a comprehensive and well-regarded urban tree resource management program. These grants demonstrate the Riverton Shade Tree Board's long-standing commitment to maximizing the benefits of the urban forest, including heat mitigation, stormwater management, and enhancement of community aesthetics. These benefits are documented as part of the Borough's most recent Davey TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory.

The Shade Tree Board actively manages Riverton's tree canopy by planting replacement trees in locations where trees have reached the end of their natural lifespan, been lost to insects or disease, removed due to hazardous conditions, or otherwise declined from natural causes.

Grants previously received include:

$2,000	Preparing the 1st Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$2,000	Preparing the 2nd Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$3,000	Preparing the 3rd Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$10,000	Training, Public Education and Awareness, Tree Hazard Identification Plan, Tree Ordinance Revision, Bacterial Leaf Scorch Management Plan.
$15,000	Maintenance (Hazardous Tree Removals)
$9,000	Maintenance (Bacterial Leaf Scorch – Tree Removals)
$6,000	Tree Planting
$8,000	Maintenance (Riverton Park- Trimming, and Removing, Nature Trail)
$5,846	Tree Planting
$15,000	Tree Maintenance (Trimming)
$9,160	Updating Tree Inventory Program, New Computer and Printer
$3,000	Preparing 4th Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$7,000	Business Stimulus Tree Maintenance (Tree Trimming)
$20,000	Tree Planting
$3,000	Preparing the 5th Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$30,000	Updating Tree Inventory Program, Software Package, Five-Year Inventory Support Package
$5,000	Preparing 6th Five-Year Forestry Management Plan
$153,846	**Total**

4. Plan Implementation

    4a. Elements, Objectives, & Action Items

        4a.i Plan Implementation

Riverton has been and will continue to be guided by the five primary elements of the CFMP noted in Appendix 4, including:

- **Training & Education** of the STB, Borough staff and community members;

- **Community Forest Ordinance(s**) refinement and coordination with relevant community ordinances;

- **Tree Resource Management** to preserve and enhance the existing exceptional resources;

- **Community and Capacity-building** by continuing to utilize the TreeKeeper® 8 software with assistance from Davey Resource Group (GRG), and partnering with sister communities, Burlington County, and regional NGOs; and

- **Disaster Planning** to promote resilience through pre- and post-storm activity.

These ongoing efforts are detailed throughout this document.

        4a.ii Goals & Objectives

Goal #1 Maintain the current tree identification and training programs for new and veteran Shade Tree Board members, Borough Council Liaison representatives, and Public Works employees, with particular emphasis on local shade tree cultivars and varieties and when appropriate, the introduction of more native tree species as street trees.

Objectives

a. The Chairman of the Shade Tree board will continue to train Shade Tree Board members on how to identify tree varieties.

b. The Shade Tree Board Chairman will continue to educate Shade Tree Board members on new, appropriate and updated tree varieties available in the tree nursery industry to select the "Right Tree for the Right Place" in the urban community.

c. Continue to teach Shade Tree Board members and Public Works employees how to recognize hazardous and diseased trees.

d. Continue to encourage Shade Tree Board members, Borough Council liaison representatives, Public Works employees to attend Urban Forestry Courses given by Rutgers University, and to attend the annual New Jersey Shade Tree Federation's Conference so they can become CORE trained and earn Continuing Educational Units (CEU's).

e. Continue to work with the Riverton Environmental Commission to obtain credits and help Riverton become a Sustainable NJ Certified Community.

f. Maintain Riverton's current accreditation status each year with the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry Community Forestry Program.

Goal #2 – Revise and update the current local shade tree ordinance, as needed.

<u>Objectives</u>

a. Continue to work with the Borough Code Enforcement Official to issue permits, warns and fines so that possible violations of the shade tree ordinance can be handled more efficiently and effectively.

b. Educate the local police about the shade tree ordinances so they have a better awareness of shade tree activities in the Borough.

c. Update local shade tree preservation and maintenance practices with current industry definitions and standards.

Goal #3 – Maintain and Improve a continuous public education and tree awareness program in the Borough.

<u>Objectives</u>

a. Revise and continue to distribute to all new residents of the Borough the shade tree pamphlet "A Homeowner's Guide to Beautiful, Safe and Healthy Trees in Riverton." (Form #3).

b. Continue to speak about the importance of the community forest at local public meetings held by the Riverton Historical Society, the Environmental Commission, the Planning Board and Borough Council.

c. Maintain active communications with local newspaper, radio and television media establishments as well as social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram.

d. Continue to maintain the current effective working relationships between the Shade Tree Board and the Planning Board and actively assist the Planning Board in its review and management of site plan applications and redevelopment projects.

e. Continue to work with the Borough's media coordinator to improve the Shade Tree Board's information web page on Riverton's Internet website www.riverton-nj.com.

f. Continue to coordinate new activities with the Riverton Environmental Commission, the Riverton Improvement Association, the Recreation and Parks Commission and Green Team specifically improving and maintaining the nature trail, increasing the Borough's overall tree canopy, continuing tree safety maintenance and advancing redevelopment or expansion plans for Riverton Memorial Park, including the new Dog Park.

g. Continue promoting the new self-guided walking Street Tree Tour for local residents and public officials.

h. Continue to conduct walking Tree Tours for local residents, public officials and the general public.

i. Continue to work side by side with the Riverton Public Works Department and increase their involvement in local Forestry through activities such as small tree removals, trimming and mulching.

j. Improve communication, education and tree awareness with the Burlington County Highway Department (Shade Tree Division), Public Service Electric and Gas Company and any other power line clearance companies.

k. Develop a living memorial program for residents and/or a program that encourages grandparents to buy and plant a tree for every new grandchild.

l. Become a Sustainable New Jersey Certified Community.

m. With the passage of the Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act (N.J.S.A. 45:15C-11 et.seq.) make sure all businesses and individuals performing tree care services for the Borough are registered, approved and are either a certified Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) or a Licensed Tree Care Operator (LTCO). Work with the NJ Board of Tree Experts to correlate tree businesses that are currently approved and in good standing.

Goal # 4 – Maintain the annual Arbor Day Program at Riverton's public schools in connection with the Borough's Tree city USA activities. (2025 was Riverton's 37th year as Tree City USA.)

Objectives:

a. Through lectures, planting demonstrations and walking tours, educate students about the importance of street and park trees in the Borough.

b. Encourage students to actively participate in the preservation of trees both on private and public land.

c. Continue to support Tree City USA activities and interaction with local elementary school students and teachers.

d. Develop an adopt-a-tree program with Riverton Public School.

e. Get students more involved with tree planting activities that take place in the borough.

f. Involve the Riverton Historical Society, the Riverton Green Team and the Riverton Environmental Commission more with the yearly Arbor Day activities.

Goal # 5 – Utilize Riverton's Davey TreeKeeper® 8 computerized street tree and park inventory, including all the new GPS capabilities as the foundation for our Forestry Management Plan.

Objectives:

a. Continue to record weekly work history data into the inventory with updates from contractors, Public Works, and the Shade Tree Board volunteers on removals, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing and mulching. Currently, two members of the STB are entering data into our tree inventory.

b. Continually update inventory information for each individual tree site.

c. Use work history reports on any liability issues or requests.

d. Utilize the new computer inventory system for present and future planning and to develop reports for State Community Forestry, Tree City USA and Local Public Officials.

e. Share Riverton's Shade Tree Inventory with Rutgers (Forestry) and other members of the scientific community to help with the development of stronger State and Regional Forest Management Plans.

f. Renew the Davey software package in 2027 as part of this 6th Forestry Management Plan.

Goal # 6 – Continue to identify, monitor and remove all hazardous trees in the Borough of Riverton.

Objectives:

a. Continuously update and maintain hazardous tree survey information on the Tree Inventory computer.

b. Maintain current records of hazardous trees through reports on the Shade Tree Board Residential Concern Forms. Continue the annual windshield survey of every street tree in the Borough by the Shade Tree Board members to identify additional hazardous trees. Geographically, divide Riverton into four quarters, and permanently assign four STB members to one quarter each for tree monitoring purposes.

c. Remove all hazardous trees every year or sooner if deemed necessary as part of the Borough's annual Shade Tree Budget.

Goal # 7 – Continue to perform Storm Damage Assessment by implementing the Borough's tree care disaster plan, as needed.

Objectives:

a. Enforce the terms of the current written agreement between the Borough' Public Works Department, the Borough's LTCO contractor and the Shade Tree Board regarding response to tree care disasters, such as snow and ice storms, windstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes.

b. Follow the Tree Care Disaster Plan that was appended to Riverton's Emergency Management Plan of January 2000.

c. Continue to have Riverton's shade tree contractor respond to natural and/or weather-related tree disasters no later than 24 hours as per written contract.

Goal # 8 – Continue a tree maintenance program for all street trees as well as within the public park.

Objectives:

a. Use the street tree inventory to locate trees for trimming, elevating, or removal by the Borough's certified contractor, Riverton Shade Tree Board, Public Works, the Burlington County Highway Department (Shade Tree Division) or Public Service Electric and Gas Company's tree contractor.

b. Utilize the Shade Tree Boards record of residential complaints to further identify trees in need of maintenance.

c. The Chairman of the STB and the Superintendent of Public Works shall continue to confer regularly, no less that weekly, to ensure that high priority tree maintenance issues are attended to in a timely manner.

d. Once a year the member of the Shade Tree Board shall inspect every street tree in their assigned quarters then confer with the Chairman of the Shade Tree Board and Superintendent of Public Works to prescribe a maintenance schedule.

e. Use the high and moderate tree risk list developed by the Davey support group and STB from the tree inventory to trim or remove street and park trees.

f. Trim 400 trees a year as a short- and long-term tree maintenance objective.

Goal # 9 – Continue developing insect and disease management strategies for the Borough's tree resources.

Objectives:

a. Continue to use the TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory to maintain a current list of trees and locations that have a history of insect and disease related maintenance problems.

b. The Chairman of the Shade Tree Board shall inspect for insect and disease problems on a continuous basis and immediately notify the Shade Tree Board (STB) and the Borough Council STB Liaison person if any such problems are detected.

c. Continue to plant insect and disease resistant tree species, especially some of the new Liberty Elm series and any new tree cultivars showing resistance to insects and diseases.

d. Eliminate monocultures and expand the diversity of tree species within the Borough.

e. Do not plant certain tree species when specific long-term insect and disease problems exist in the local geographical area. Examples would be: Red Oak series in a Bacterial Leaf Scorch Disease area or Ash trees in an Emerald Ash Borer location.

f.   Monitor levels of the latest invading insect or disease like Spotted Lanternfly or Beech Leaf Disease. Communicate all public information received from Rutgers about these new insects to public officials and residents. Post this information on the Borough Website and the STB's Webpage.

Goal # 10 – A wildfire Protection Plan for Riverton

Currently, the present forest canopy and the alignment of street and park trees in the Borough of Riverton would not warrant wildfire protection from this plan, however the Shade Tree board feels the category should be included with the Forestry Management Plan for future considerations should they arise.

Objectives:

a.   Create a forest and brush fire awareness and protection plan with the Riverton Fire Department as needed.

Goal # 11 – Maintain a continuous tree replanting program to replace older, diseased an/or hazardous trees.

Objectives:

a.   Lessen the risk of serious outbreaks of insects or diseases and enhance wildlife opportunities by diversifying the Borough's tree species composition. This has always been a part of Riverton's plan from Day 1.

b.   Select trees and tree species that are recognized by the American Association of Nurserymen, landscape architects, landscape contractors and others in the nursery trade familiar with the best plants and species for ecological conditions.

c.   Purchase only trees with valid inspection certificates from the New Jersey Department or Agriculture which verify the health of the plants and absence of injurious insects and diseases.

d.   Utilize the Rutgers, Cook college Extension Service and NJ Shade Tree Federation guidelines and recommendations for proper planting installation and tree pit sizes.

e.   Employ the practices outlined in "Planting and Care of Urban Trees in Selection of Trees for the 'Right' Locations" published by the Department of environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry.

f.   Continue to pursue a cooperative relationship with local utility companies to maximize efficiency and minimize conflicts as well as duplicate maintenance programs.

g.   When appropriate, integrate more native tree plantings on the street and into the urban landscape.

h.   Seek out and plant low maintenance, drought resistant and resident friendly varieties for new street and park plantings.

i.   Maintain the shared services agreement with Burlington County Highway Department (Shade Tree Division) for planting trees on county roads. Once

planted, these trees will be maintained by the Riverton Shade Tree Board for their lifetime.

Goal # 12 – Encourage recycling of all tree removals and trimmings.

Objectives:

a. In the course of routine trimming and removal maintenance, the Borough's contractor must remove all larger limbs and trunks for his own recycling use.

b. All wood chips generated during routine trimming maintenance practices shall be made available to local residents. These can be picked up at the Public Works maintenance yard. These wood chips shall be regularly advertised at Borough Council meetings and on the Shade Tree board's page of the Borough's website. Small logs that can be cut up for firewood by the residents are also available at the PW maintenance yard.

c. Continue to improve large tree trunk recycling.

d. Maintain the brush recycling agreement with the Burlington County Recycling Center and continue to investigate the possibilities of developing shared service agreements with adjoining communities for brush and leaves and as a cost cutting measure for the Borough.

Goal # 13 – Maintain the Current Sidewalk Maintenance Program,

Currently, within the Borough of Riverton "right of ways", homeowners are responsible for the safety and maintenance of their own sidewalks.

Objectives:

a. The Shade Tree Board Chairman will assist homeowners and concrete contractors with advice on the replacement of sidewalks as not to inflict damage to the street trees, their root, keep them safe and allow room for additional growth. At the same time, these proper practices will provide safe sidewalks for pedestrians.

b. Maintain and continue to add to the list of concrete contractors for residential requests on replacing sidewalks and driveway aprons near street trees in Riverton.

c. Continue to use the Davey TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory to identify street trees that currently have root/sidewalk conflicts.

d. Besides concrete, using less invasive materials such as pavers and bricks as an alternative for tree root management.

e. Plant the "Right Tree in the Right Place" and avoid root/sidewalk conflicts.

Goal # 14 – Continue the Storm Water Management Program related specifically to shade trees for the Borough of Riverton.

Objectives:

a. Keep existing forest stands, such as those in public parks, intact and in good condition.

b. Protect and replant trees and vegetation around streams, rivers, and other water bodies. These areas are called riparian buffers.

c. Minimize forest canopy loss during construction and redevelopment. An example would include the planting of proper trees in dry detention basins as a compensation for canopy loss during development.

d. Reforest public and private land when feasible.

e. Continue the street leaf removal program in the fall by the Public Works Department.

f. Continue the brush and branch removal program throughout the year by the Public Works Department.

g. Continue to clear storm drains of debris in the Borough throughout the year.

h. Educate homeowners to place leaves in areas so as not to impede water flow along curbs.

i. Conduct street sweeping throughout the year.

Goal # 15 – Other – continue to implement the current bacterial leaf scorch management plan with the Red Oak series trees.

Objectives:

a. Continually update the TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory with information gathered from visual inspections in August or September of all red oaks, pin oaks and scarlet oaks.

b. Note and record the location of all diseased oak trees that are 80% or more infected with bacterial leaf scorch disease.

c. Each year, develop and implement a realistic tree removal plan. These annual plans will be based on annual limb dieback evidence.

d. Based on Riverton's historical records that include on the average 5 lost per year to bacterial leaf scorch, the Shade Tree Board will continue to have an annual fixed budget line item for associated tree removals.

e. Continue to cooperate with the New Jersey State Forestry Services, Rutgers University and private industry forestry officials with any new experimental projects that see solutions to this problem.

Goal # 16 – Other – Continue to implement the current treatment plan for the Emerald Ash Borer.

Objectives:

a. Continue to chemically treat (trunk injection) the 41 high value white and green ash street and park trees with Emamectin Benzoate every other year.

b. Maintain a biannual fixed shade tree budget line item for future chemical treatments. Hopefully, this may be reduced if population levels of the insect go down.

c. The members of the STB will continually survey the remaining 5 street and park ash trees throughout the Borough for signs of this insect. This species, 'Marshall's Seedless' Ash does not seem to show any signs of this insect.

d. Continue to enter all ash tree information, treatments and survey data into the Davey TreeKeeper® 8 program.

e. Educate Public Works employees and residents about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

f. Apply for a Green Communities Grant to chemically treat the high value ash trees if it becomes available.

4a.iii   Action Items

In addition to these elements, the Riverton Shade Tree Board has included a number of other long and short-term objectives/action items in the Sixth Five-Year Community Forestry Management Plan.

1. The Shade Tree Board will continue to focus on public education, awareness, and outreach within the community.

2. The Shade Tree Board will continue to offer and expand the self-guided walking street tree tour for residents, public officials, and the general public.

3. The Chairman of the STB will continue to lead and expand walking street and park tree tours.

4. The Shade Tree Board will continue to recognize residents and businesses who donate $200.00 or more towards planting with a small brass plaque located inside the Borough Office.

5. The Shade Tree Board will continue to donate credits, through the Environmental Commission and Green Team, so they can initiate the steps required to make Riverton a Sustainable Jersey certified community.

6. The Shade Tree Board will revise and update our "Homeowners Guide to Beautiful, Safe, and Healthy Trees in Riverton" in this plan.

7. The Shade Tree Board will continue the plan for Emerald Ash Borer and will continue to treat 41 selected healthy ash street and park trees every two years and remove dead ash trees when necessary.

8. The Shade Tree Board will continue to manage the local Bacterial Leaf Scorch Disease problem in certain oak trees until a more permanent solution is found. The Borough will further reduce resident populations of susceptible red, pin, and scarlet oaks, although resistance to the disease has still been observed in a few red oaks.

9. The Shade Tree Board will continue its annual Arbor Day observance and Tree Planting at Riverton School. We will continue with our Tree City USA renewals (37 years) and being involved with the Community Forestry Programs of New Jersey's Division of Parks and Forestry and the NJ Shade Tree Federation.

10. The Shade Tree Board will continue to monitor our Shade Tree Ordinance and make, if needed, any recommendations for modifications.

11. The Shade Tree Board will apply for Forestry Grants for tree planting and tree maintenance if and when they become available.

12. The Shade Tree Board will continue with our program to educate new residents in town with the distribution of our Shade Tree Pamphlet and donation letter.

13. The Shade Tree Board will continue to review and update the Tree Care Disaster Plan which has already been incorporated with the Borough's larger Emergency management Plan.

14. The Shade Tree Board will continually provide updated forestry training to its Board members and Public Works employees.

15. The Shade Tree Board will continue to update the tree Recycling Plan and will always be looking for new ways to enhance tree waste recycling.

16. The Shade Tree Board will continue to advocate for the maximum amount of shade tree funding through the Riverton Borough Council.

17. The Shade Tree Board will plan to execute the writing of Riverton's seventh five -year Forestry Management Plan.

18. Finally, the Shade Tree Board will encourage community involvement in urban forestry and show residents how trees provide many benefits such as climate control, increased property values, healthy living, etc. and demonstrate how fortunate we are to have such a successful Urban Forestry Management Program in Riverton.

4b.   Activity Schedule

The proposed timeline for the next five years is as follows:

January 2025 – December 2025

1. The Shade Tree Board will utilize and maximize our complete Davey TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory to operate Riverton's Urban Forestry Management Plan.

2. The Shade Tree Board, through the Environmental Commission and Green Team will continue to initiate steps to help make Riverton a Sustainable Jersey Community.

3. The Shade Tree Board will continue to advocate for the maximum amount of funding through the Riverton Borough Council.

4. The Shade Tree Board will revise the NJDEP Model Tree Ordinance to make it fit the best Forestry and residential interests of the community

5. Shade Tree Board Chairman, Barry Emens will conduct two walking street tree tours, one in the spring and another in the summer (Crape Myrtles only) for residents, public officials and the general public.

6. The Shade Tree Board will continue to coordinate shade tree matters more closely with Public Works, the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, the Riverton Improvement Association and other partners such as PSE&G, Burlington County (Shade Tree Division) and the River Train Line (Bombadier Corp.).

7. The Shade Tree Board will continue to improve and continually update the shade tree webpage on Riverton's internet website.

8. The Shade Tree board will continue yearly activities such as the public school's Arbor Day celebration and the Tree City USA program.

9. The Shade Tree Board members will complete recertification courses and attend the Annual NJ Shade Tree Federation Meeting.

10. The Shade Tree Board, with the assistance of an ISA Certified Arborist, will prepare Riverton's Sixth five-year Community Forestry Management Plan. This will be accomplished with a $5,000 NJ State Green Communities grant.

January 2026 – December 2026

1. The Shade Tree Board will revise and update our pamphlet, "Homeowners Guide to Beautiful, Safe and Healthy Trees in Riverton"

2. The Shade Tree Board will continue to chemically treat 41 street and park ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer.

3. The Shade Tree Board with the use of our Davey TreeKeeper® 8 inventory computer system will continue to manage tree hazards, maintain new plantings, monitor and manage Bacterial Leaf Scorch Disease cases and follow our Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Plan.

4. The Shade Tree Board will develop a tree trimming contract for approximately 80 trees

5. The Shade Tree Board will continue to focus its efforts on public education, awareness, and outreach about trees withing the community by writing two articles either in the local newspaper or on the Riverton Shade Tree Board's webpage.

6. In cooperation with a local real estate agent, the Shade Tree Board will distribute to new residents our Homeowners Tree Guide pamphlet on a quarterly basis.

7. The Shade Tree Board will continue yearly activities like Arbor Day and the Tree City USA program.

8. The Shade Tree Board members will complete recertification courses and attend the Annual New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Meeting.

January 2027 – December 2027

1. The Shade Tree Board will apply for a tree planting or tree trimming grant if available from Forestry Services.

2. The Shade Tree Board will expand the fundraising capabilities for our "Tax - Free Tree Trust Planting Fund" by including a fundraising letter with the new tax bill that goes out to residents in August.

3. The Shade Tree Board will make modifications, revisions and recommendations to our Shade Tree Ordinance if needed.

4. The Shade Tree Board will continue and expand public outreach and educational activities with residents.

5. The Shade Tree Board will renew its technical support 5-year service contract with Davey Tree Company for our TreeKeeper® 8 tree inventory program.

6. The Shade Tree Board will continually provide updated forestry training to its Board members, Public Works employees and Borough Council members.

7. The Shade Tree Board will continue Arbor Day and Tree City USA celebrations and shade tree recertification course work and credits.

January 2028 – December 2028

1. The Shade Tree Board Chairman, Barry Emens will give a guided walking street tree tour to residents, public official's and the general public during the year.

2. The Shade Tree Board will continue to chemically treat 41 street and park ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer (if needed).

3. The Shade Tree Board will continually encourage community involvement in Urban Forestry and show Residents how trees provide many benefits such as climate control, increase property values, healthy living, etc. and demonstrate how fortunate we are to have such a successful Urban Forest Management Program in Riverton.

4. The Shade Tree Board will maintain all other annual activities, training programs, certifications and tree management operations such as hazardous tree removals, trimming, planting, watering and mulching.

January 2029 – December 2029

1. The Shade Tree Board will apply for a Green Communities Grant that will enable Riverton to hire a professional forestry management consultant (NJ Tree Expert or ISA Certified Arborist) to assist with the planning, researching and drafting of the Borough's "seventh" five-year Forestry Management Plan.

2. The Shade Tree Board members will complete recertification courses and attend the Annual NJ Shade Tree Federation Meeting.

3. The Shade Tree Board will pursue any tree fund raising or grant opportunities in support of their Urban Forestry Management Program.

5. Conclusion

The Riverton Borough Shade Tree Board continues to be composed of dedicated volunteers who have consistently protected and stewarded the community's shade tree resources. Members with forestry and landscaping backgrounds have remained actively engaged over time, providing continuity, technical expertise, and institutional knowledge. Through their ongoing stewardship, the Board preserves a defining element of Riverton's historic character and community identity.

The sophistication of Riverton's urban forestry management system, along with the capacity for continued enhancement, reflects the Shade Tree Board's long-standing commitment to best practices in community forestry. Proposed future initiatives further demonstrate the breadth, effectiveness, and durability of the program. Riverton's urban forestry efforts are frequently recognized by visiting forestry and landscaping professionals as a model for what a successful Community Forestry Program can achieve.

Approval of Riverton's Sixth Five-Year Forestry Management Plan will enable the Borough to continue its proven and effective program of shade tree preservation, maintenance, and reinvestment. Continued implementation of this plan will help safeguard one of Riverton's most distinctive landscape features and ensure that shade trees and tree-lined streets remain synonymous with the Borough of Riverton for generations to come.

"It is deeply satisfying and gratifying to have forestry and landscaping professionals visit Riverton and say, 'Now this is what a Community Forestry Program should look like.'" Barry Emens, Chairman, Borough of Riverton Shade Tree Board

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Municipal/County Information Form

Municipality	Riverton Borough
County	Burlington
Address	505A Howard Street Riverton, NJ 08077
Contact Name & Title	Barry Emens, Chairman Shade Tree Board
Phone#	856-829-0120
Fax# & Email	856-829-1413, Michelle Hack, Borough Clerk, mhack@riverton-nj.com
Organization Name	Riverton Shade Tree Board
Mayor	Jim Quinn
Signature	
Date of Management Plan Submission	December 2025
The Period Covered in Management Plan	Five Years, January 2025 - December 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

Liability Statement

Although street trees are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require care, maintenance and eventually replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to planting "the right tree in the right place", help to ensure that community trees not only contribute to the environmental and economic vitality of the community, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety. Our community must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of our community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and prioritize work towards a healthy forest while simultaneously reducing risks to public safety.

History has proven that, by taking logical steps like those outlined in this plan, we can garner public support for plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety.

We also want to continue to be increasingly more proactive in the management and care of our trees. Through inventory and hazard assessment, we have positioned our Shade Tree Board to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all tree failures can be pre-empted. It's much like trying to predict which tooth might break next. However, good maintenance and diligent care can reduce the probability of hazardous occurrences.

Moreover, by working more closely with the Planning Board, the Shade Tree Board will encourage prospective developers and redevelopers to implement plans that maximize healthy shade tree plans.

With this Forestry Management Plan, Riverton will continue to devote reasonable levels of resources in a strategic manner to reduce the number of tree related accidents and thereby reduce the Municipality's exposure to liabilities and increasing public safety.

Appendix 3

Budget Forms

- Community Forestry Management Plan Budget Form
- 2025 Riverton Shade Tree Board Budget
- 2026 Riverton Shade Tree Board Budget

Appendix 3. Budget Form

Statement of 5-year Tree Budget		CFMP Budget
Administration	Municipal Salaries	—
	Fringe	—
	Indirect Costs	—
	Volunteer Contribution (Rate can be found at www.independentsector.org)	$49,230
	Other *BRUSH REMOVED*	$104,350
UCF Stewardship	Planting	$59,000
	Pruning	$114,794
	Removal	$91,230
	Insect/Disease Management	$13,500 *EAB*
	Stump Removal	*INCLUDED WITH REMOVALS*
	Other *LEAVES REMOVED*	$94,600
Education and Outreach	Training and Education (Municipal/County Employee)	$1,500
	Training and Education (Volunteer)	$4,700
	Public Outreach *PAMPHLET, LETTERS, ARTICLES*	$2,000
	Other *RENEW DAVEY SOFTWARE FOR TREE INVENTORY*	$15,000
Total	*2 FMP GRANTS*	$549,904

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2025 RIVERTON SHADE TREE BOARD BUDGET

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Enclosed you will find the proposed Budget for the Riverton Shade Tree Board in 2025.

1. Tree, Trunk and Stump Removal Contract – (Bacterial Leaf Scorch Disease, Old Age, Safety Hazards, Declining Health, Wind Storms, Drought and the Results of the Davey Tree Expert Company Inventory) (17 Complete Removals; 2 Trunk Removals; 17 Stump Only Removals) - $23,000.00
2. Planting Contract (27 trees)- $5,000.00
3. Emergency Storm Damage Reserve - $4,000.00
4. Tree Trimming Contract (Routine Maintenance) (60 trees) - $12,000.00
5. Emergency and Homeowner Safety Concerns Trimming - $5,500.00
6. Miscellaneous Expenses (Annual Shade Tree Federation Convention, Continuing Education and Training, NJ Shade Tree Federation Dues and Other Supplies) - $500.00

Total Proposed Budget - $50,000.00

Submitted by:

Barry Emens, Chairman

Shade Tree Board

2026 RIVERTON SHADE TREE BOARD BUDGET

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Enclosed you will find the proposed Budget for the Riverton Shade Tree Board in 2026.

1. Tree, Trunk and Stump Removals – (Bacterial Leaf Scorch Disease, Old Age, Safety Hazards, Declining Health, Wind Storms, Drought and the findings of the STB's Davey Treekeeper 8 Tree Inventory) (6 to 10 Complete Removals) - $9,000.00
2. Planting Contract (34 trees) - $6,000.00
3. Emergency Storm Damage Reserve - $4,000.00
4. Tree Trimming Contract (Routine Maintenance) (80 trees) - $16,000.00
5. Emerald Ash Borer Preventative Chemical Treatment Contract (41 trees) - $7,000.00
6. Emergency and Homeowner Safety Concerns Trimming - $7,000.00
7. Miscellaneous Expenses (Annual Shade Tree Federation Convention, Continuing Education and Training, NJ Shade Tree Federation Dues, Updating Shade Tree Pamphlet and Other Supplies) - $1,000.00

Total Proposed budget - $50,000.00

Submitted by:

Barry Emens, Chairman

Shade Tree Board

Appendix 4

Community Forestry Management Plan Elements

The Community Forestry Management Plan Elements noted below, and related sub-categories, are detailed in Report items 1 through 4 above, including Community Capacity, Inventory History, and Community Forestry Management Plan.

1. Training & Education
2. Community Forest Ordinance(s)
3. Tree Resource Management
4. Community and Capacity
5. Disaster Planning

Supplemental information is provided in Appendix 5 - Inventory Documents & Resources

Appendix 5

Inventory Documents & Resources

- Riverton NJ Inventory Summary Report, November 2022, by Davey Resource Group (DRG) (A summary of the 2022 Inventory is provided above in item 1.d)

- Shade Tree Removal Ordinance 5-2024

- Permit For A Borough-Owned Shade Tree

- Planting Detail (for Borough contractor use)

- Shade Tree Board Maintenance Assistance Form

- Borough of Riverton Form #1 - Complaint Form

- Shade Tree Board-Donation Solicitation Form

- Homeowner's Guide to Trees in Riverton

- Riverton Tree Walk Location Guide

- Riverton Tree Walk Map

- Riverton 2025 Crape Myrtle Walking Tree Tour, August 23, 2025

DAVEY
Resource Group

November 2022

Tree Inventory Summary Report

Riverton, NJ

Prepared for:
Riverton Borough
505A Howard Street
Riverton, NJ 08077

Prepared by:
Davey Resource Group, Inc.
295 South Water Street,
Suite 300
Kent, Ohio 44240
800-828-8312

Acknowledgments

This project supports the Borough of Riverton's vision to promote and enhance community well-being through public tree conservation and improved forestry management practices. This *Tree Inventory Summary Report* offers expertise in preserving and expanding urban canopy so the environmental, economic, and social benefits it provides continue for generations.

Executive Summary

The Borough of Riverton contracted Davey Resource Group (DRG) to conduct a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the trees, stumps, and planting sites located in the street rights-of-way (ROW) and park in Riverton, NJ. Understanding an urban forest's structure, function, and value can promote management decisions that will improve the urban forest as well as human health and environmental quality. DRG collected and analyzed the inventory data to understand species composition and tree condition and to generate maintenance recommendations. Tree values and benefits have been quantified using the i-Tree Eco benefits model (developed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service in partnership with The Davey Tree Expert Company). This report will discuss the health and benefits of the inventoried tree population throughout the Borough of Riverton.

Key Findings

- The appraised value of the Borough of Riverton's inventoried tree population is $6,750,000.

- The overall condition of the tree population is Fair.

- Most common species: *Platanus x acerifolia* (London planetree), 13%, *Lagerstroemia indica* (Crepe-myrtle), 8%, *Acer saccharum* (Sugar maple), 8%, *Quercus borealis* (Red oak), 5%, and *Acer rubrum* (Red maple), 5%.

- The majority (32%) of the urban forest is rated as Young, having a diameter of 0-8 inches.

- 38% of the population is recommended for a Routine Prune, 33% is recommended for a Young Tree Training Prune, 23% is recommended for Pruning, and 3% is recommended for removal.

- Riverton's trees provide approximately $18,190 annually in the following environmental benefits:

  o *Air Quality*: valued at $7,500 per year.

  o *Carbon Sequestration*: 33 tons valued at $5,620 per year.

  o *Avoided runoff*: 567,248 gallons valued at $5,070 per year.

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Section 1: Tree Inventory Assessment

Project Area

In the Fall of 2022, DRG arborists assessed and inventoried trees, stumps, and planting sites along the street ROW and in Riverton Memorial Park in the Borough of Riverton, NJ. Additional information about the inventory can be found in Appendix B.

Species Diversity

Throughout the Borough of Riverton's ROW and park, 2,816 sites were inventoried, including 2,427 trees, 16 stumps, and 373 proposed planting sites. Figure 1 shows the composition of the most populous species compared to all inventoried 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, the Borough of Riverton has one species, London planetree, comprising 13% of the inventoried population and two species coming close to the 10% threshold, crepe-myrtle and sugar maple, comprising 8% of the inventoried tree population.
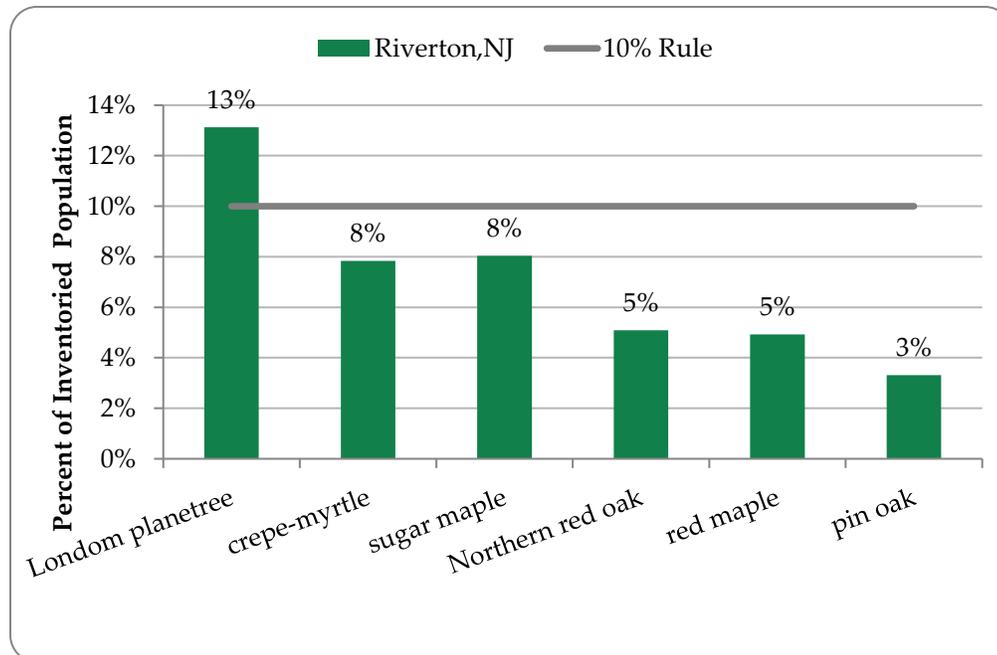
Figure 1. Tree species composition in the Borough of Riverton

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.
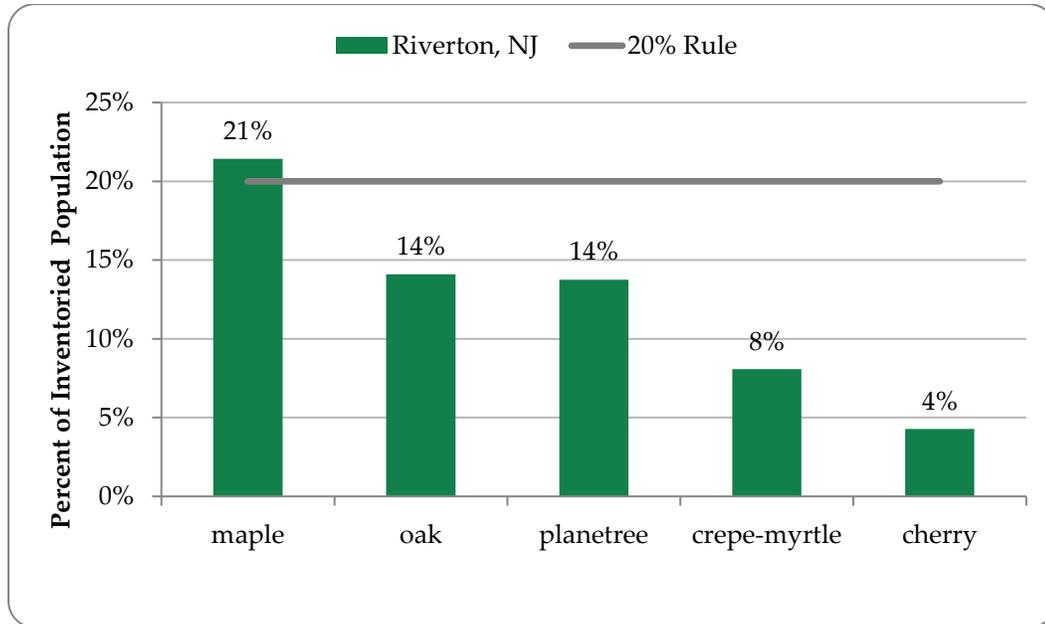
Figure 2. Top five genera in the Borough of Riverton in relation to the 20% Rule.

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.

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 (<8 inches DBH) with a smaller fraction (approximately 10%) in the large-diameter size class (>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 the Borough of Riverton's inventoried street ROW tree diameter size class distribution to the ideal proposed by Richards (1983). The Borough of Riverton's urban forest has a large proportion of young (32%) and mature trees (25%). The Borough of Riverton is approaching the ideal distribution. Maintaining an uneven age distribution will allow the Borough to allocate annual maintenance costs uniformly over many years and assures continuity in overall tree canopy coverage.
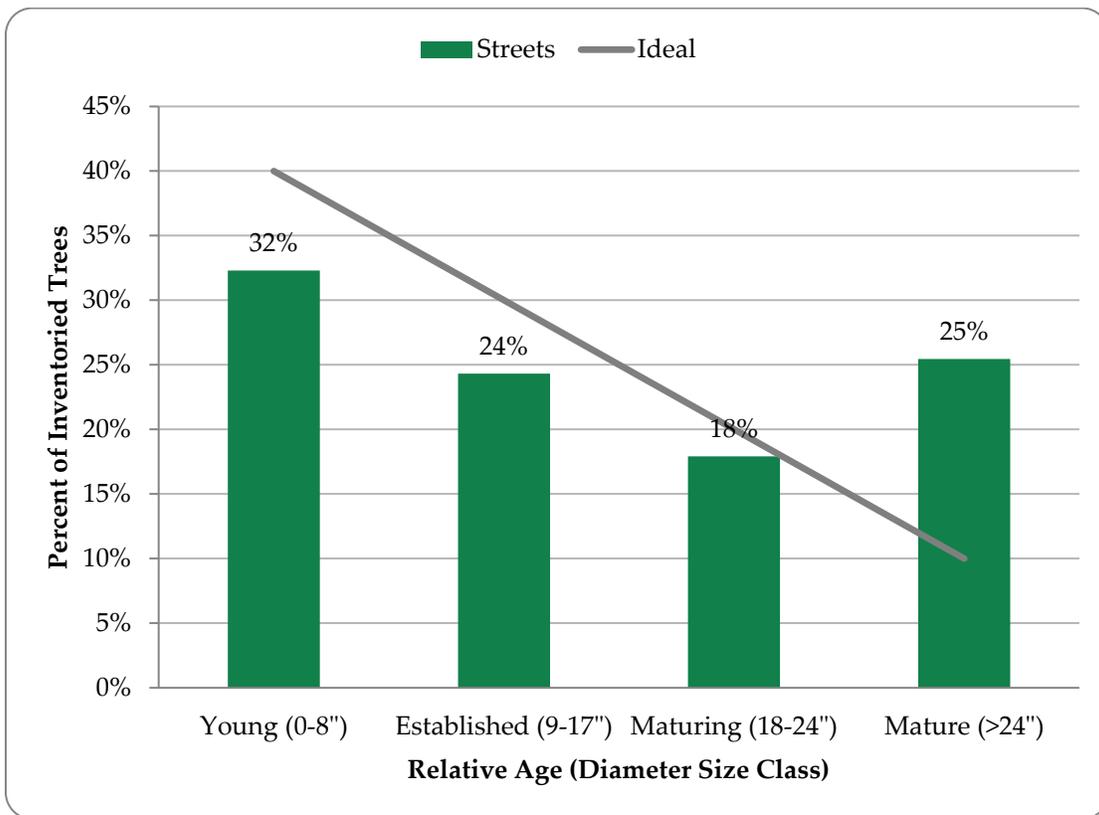
Figure 3. Relative age distribution of inventoried trees.

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, 48% and 42%, 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. Most trees in Poor and Dead condition were in the Young and Established size class. With an established maintenance schedule and proactive care, this trend can be improved to have a healthier urban forest.
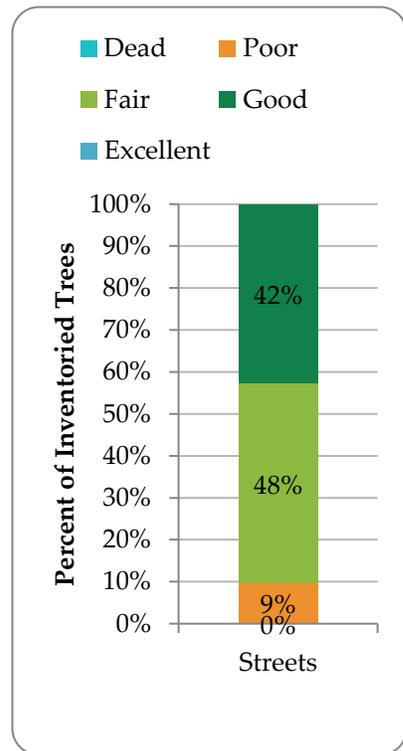
Figure 4. Condition of inventoried trees.
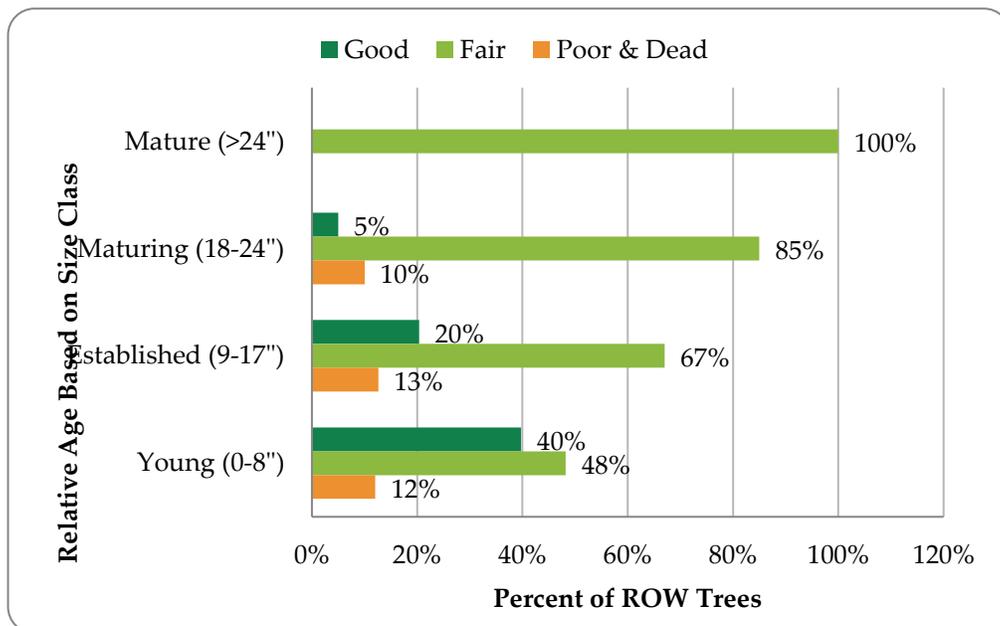
Figure 5.

Condition of inventoried trees by relative age class.

Primary Maintenance and Risk

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 to 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.

	1-3"	4-6"	7-12"	13-18"	19-24"	25-30"	31-36"	37-42"	>43"
Low Risk		3	13	13	16	8	3	1	
Moderate Risk			1	1	6	7	2	1	
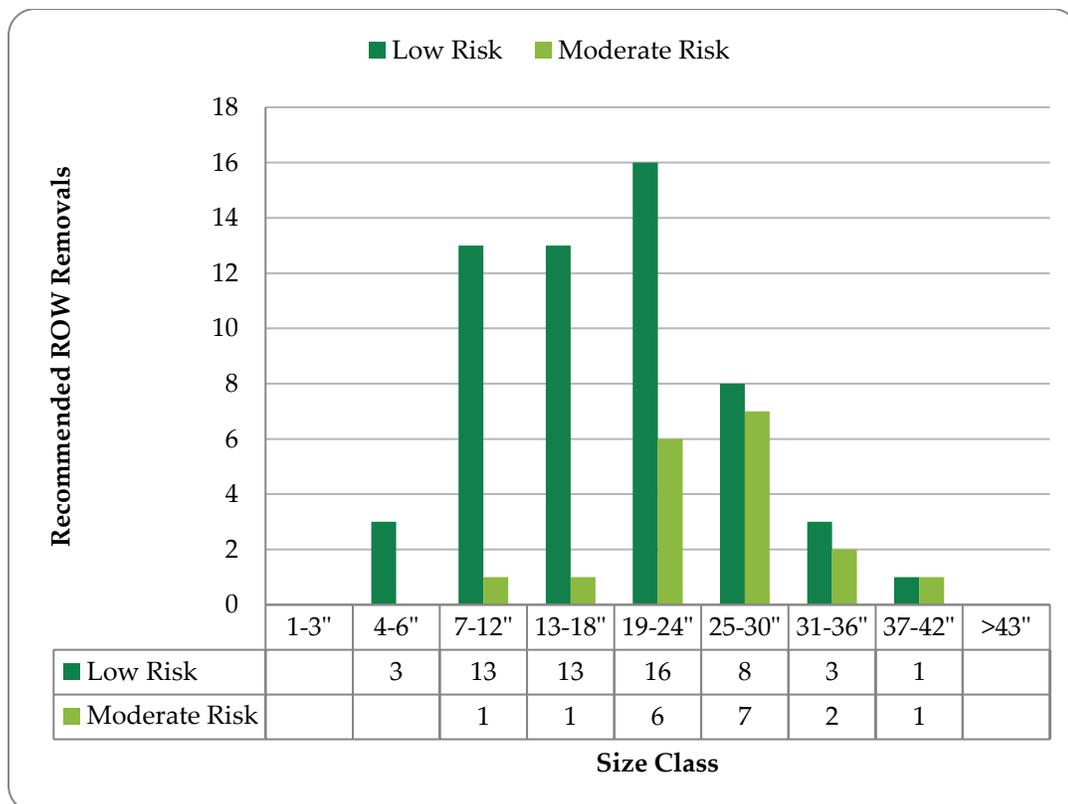
Figure 6. Priority Removal by size class

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 75 trees recommended for removal. There are 45 trees recommended for priority pruning.

	1-3"	4-6"	7-12"	13-18"	19-24"	25-30"	31-36"	37-42"	>43"
■ Moderate Risk				4	8	14	10	2	4
■ High Risk					1		1		1
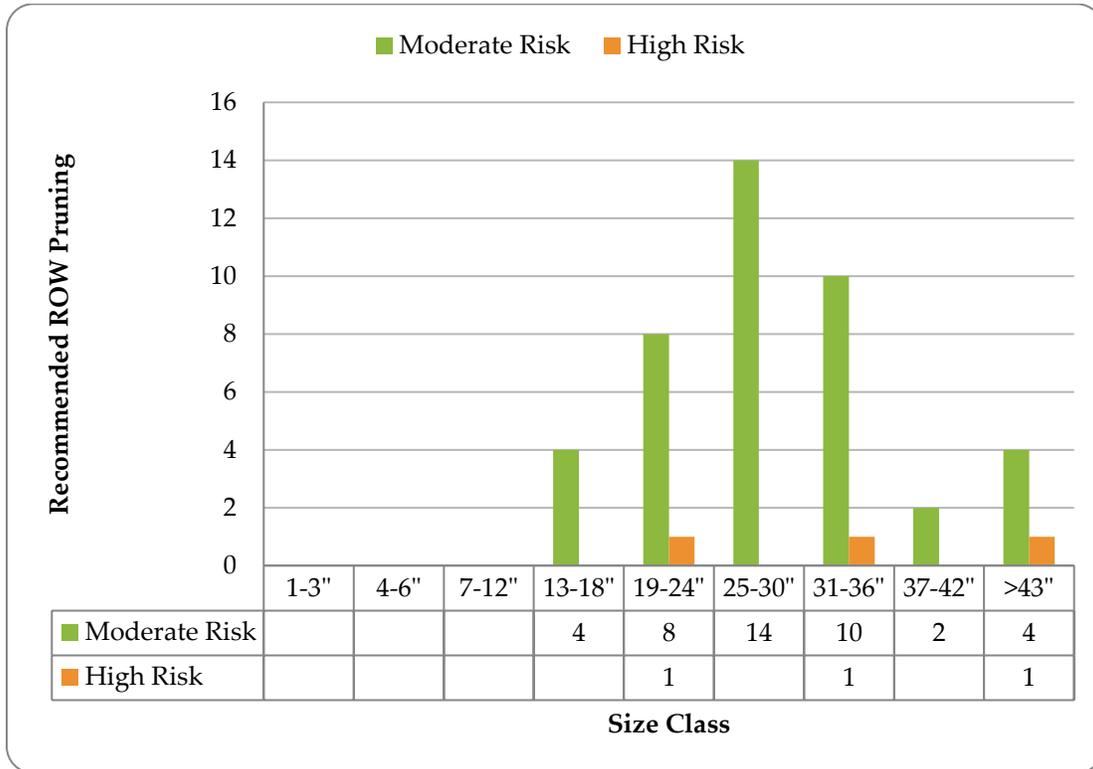
Size Class

Figure 7. Priority Pruning by size class.

Routine Pruning Cycle

The Routine Pruning cycle includes all Low-Risk trees that received a "Prune "or "Routine 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. The Borough of Riverton's inventory identified 946 trees that should be routinely pruned.

	1-3"	4-6"	7-12"	13-18"	19-24"	25-30"	31-36"	37-42"	>43"
■ Streets	0	6	213	258	214	176	70	6	3
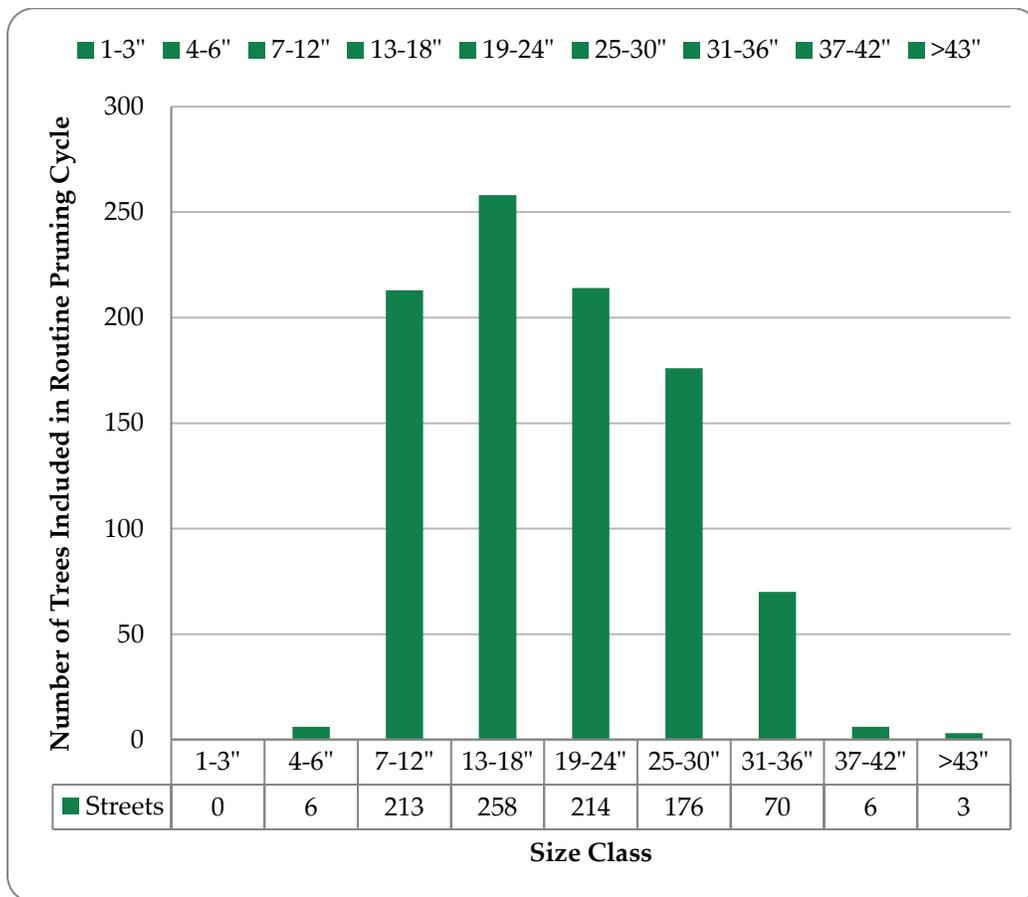
Figure 8. Routine pruning by size class.

Section 2: i-Tree Streets Benefits

The i-Tree Eco application was used to assess the trees inventoried. Trees provide a wide array of economic, environmental, and social benefits, which often exceed the cost associated with planting, maintaining, and removing them. Trees reduce air pollution, improve public health outcomes, reduce stormwater runoff, sequester, and store carbon, reduce energy use, and increase property value. The i-Tree Eco Software and other models in the i-Tree software suite, calculate the monetary value associated with the ecological services of the urban forest

The inventoried urban forest of the Borough of Riverton has a recorded benefit savings of $18,190 annually from carbon sequestration, stormwater reduction, and overall air quality improvements. Figure 8 provides a breakdown of the annual benefits provided to the Borough of Riverton.
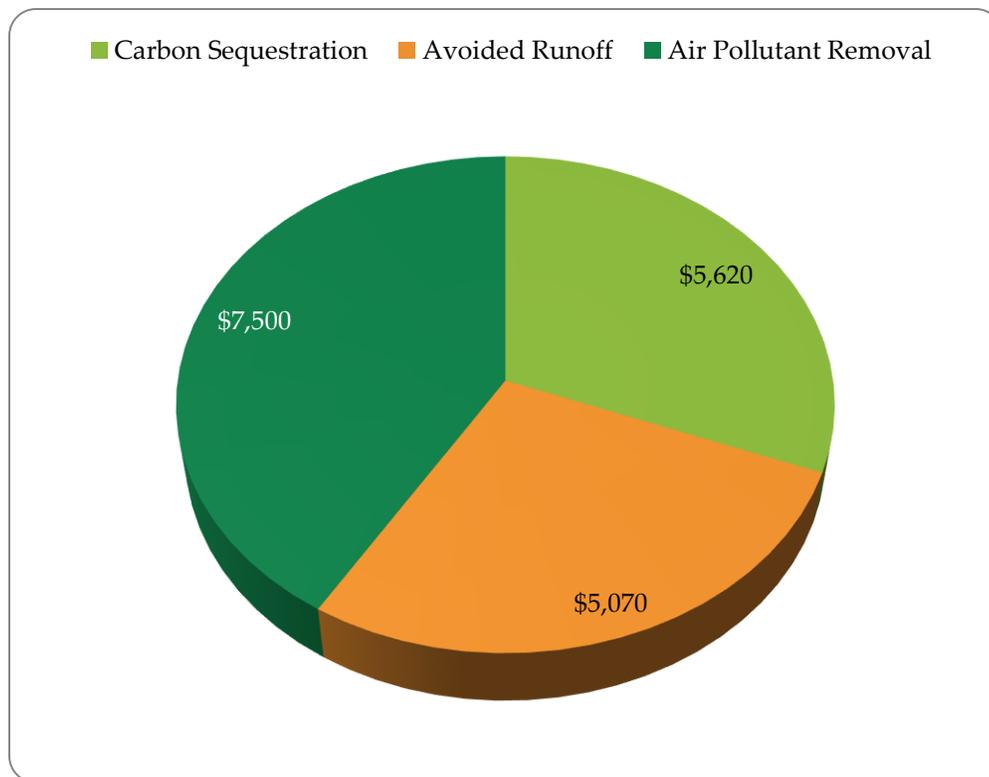
Figure 9. Distribution of the annual benefits provided by the inventoried trees

Sequestering and Storing Carbon

The i-Tree Eco model estimates both the carbon sequestered each year and total carbon stored. The Borough of Riverton's inventoried trees have stored 2,156 tons of carbon, which is all the carbon each tree has amassed throughout their lifetimes and is valued at $368,000. London planetree stores and sequesters the most carbon, with approximately 20.7% of the total carbon stored and 20% of all sequestered carbon.

| Most Common Trees Inventoried | | Count | Percent of Total | Benefits Provided by Street Trees | | | | |
| | | | | CO_2 Stored | CO_2 Sequestered | Avoided Runoff | Air Pollution Removed | Replacement Value |
Common Name	Botanical Name		%	tons	tons/year	gal/year	lbs/year	Dollars
London planetree	*Platanus x acerifolia*	325	13.4%	446.9	6.6	160,790	540	$1,791,479
Sugar maple	*Acer saccharum*	199	8.2%	235.7	2.4	39,200	140	$648,288
Common crepemyrtle	*Lagerstromia*	198	8.2%	4.9	0.5	2,047	0	$61,602
Northern red oak	*Quercus borealis*	126	5.2%	324.1	3.3	41,664	140	$795,008
Red maple	*Acer rubrum*	122	5.0%	51.4	1.7	17,211	60	$211,730
Japanese flowering cherry	*Prunus serrulata*	86	3.5%	78.6	0.6	8,371	20	$157,084
Norway maple	*Acer platanoides*	83	3.4%	53.5	1.4	10,611	40	$193,053
Pin oak	*Quercus palustris*	82	3.4%	148.5	1.8	37,496	120	$374,448
Japanese zelkova	*Zelkova serrata*	74	3.0%	28.3	0.6	19,498	60	$189,397
European beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	73	3.0%	12.4	0.3	9,011	40	$59,905
Tulip tree	*Liriodendron tulipifera*	47	1.9%	43.2	0.8	20,177	60	$105,088
Callery pear	*Pyrus calleryana*	45	1.9%	32.9	0.6	6,740	20	$88,251
Hedge maple	*Acer campestre*	44	1.8%	6.4	0.2	4,503	20	$32,127
Honeylocust	*Gleditsia triacanthos*	43	1.8%	35.8	0.8	8,970	20	$130,740
Littleleaf linden	*Tilia cordata*	42	1.7%	33.5	0.5	9,471	40	$142,374
All Other Trees Inventoried		838	34.5%	620	10.8	171,495	460	$1,769,187
Total		**2,427**	**100%**	**2,156**	**33.0**	**567,255**	**1,900**	**$6,749,759**

Table 1. Summary of benefits provided by inventoried trees ranked by species importance value.

Improving Air Quality

The inventoried tree population annually removed 1,894 pounds of air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), and particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). Sulphur dioxide removal (53 lbs. removed) is valued highest at $4,472 annually, followed by reduced ozone concentrations (1,296 lbs.) at $2,263.
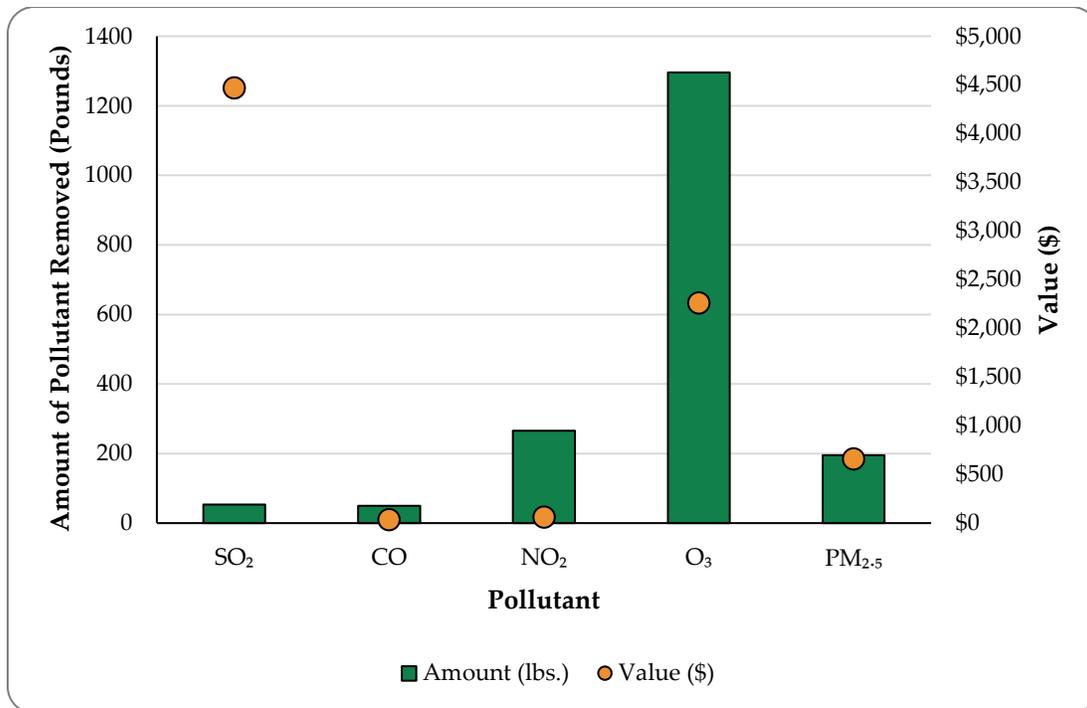
Figure 10. Quality and value of annual airborne pollutant removal by inventoried trees

Conclusion and Recommendations

Managing trees in urban areas is often complicated. Dealing with the recommendations of experts, the needs of residents, the pressures of local economics and politics, the concerns for public safety and liability issues, the physical aspects of trees, the forces of nature and severe weather events, and the expectation for all these issues to be resolved simultaneously is a considerable challenge. The Borough of Riverton must carefully consider each specific issue and balance these pressures with a knowledgeable understanding of trees and their needs. By completing a tree inventory, the Borough of Riverton has shown interest in not only preserving the urban forest but maintaining it for future generations. Maintaining an established planting program, routine pruning operation, and public outreach program will aid in maintaining the many benefits the urban forest provides to the community.

Glossary

Aesthetic/Other Report: The i-Tree Streets Aesthetic/Other Report presents the tangible and intangible benefits of trees reflected in increases in property values in dollars ($).

Air Quality Report: The i-Tree Streets Air Quality Report quantifies the air pollutants (ozone [O_3], nitrogen dioxide [NO_2], sulfur dioxide [SO_2], coarse particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter [PM_{10}]) deposited on tree surfaces, and reduced emissions from power plants (NO_2, PM_{10}, Volatile Oxygen Compounds [VOCs], SO_2) due to reduced electricity use measured in pounds (lbs.). Also reported are the potential negative effects of trees on air quality due to Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOC) emissions.

arboriculture: The art, science, technology, and business of commercial, public, and utility tree care.

canopy: Branches and foliage that make up a tree's crown.

Carbon Dioxide Report: The i-Tree Streets Carbon Dioxide Report presents annual reductions in atmospheric CO_2 due to sequestration by trees and reduced emissions from power plants due to reduced energy use in pounds. The model accounts for CO_{2+} released as trees die and decompose and CO_2 released during the care and maintenance of trees.

clean (primary maintenance need): Based on *ANSI A300 (Part 1)* standards, selective removal of dead, dying, broken, and/or diseased wood to minimize potential risk.

community forest: see **urban forest**.

condition (data field): The general condition of each tree rated during the inventory according to the following categories adapted from the International Society of Arboriculture's rating system: Excellent (100%), Very Good (90%), Good (80%), Fair (60%), Poor, (40%), Critical (20%), Dead (0%).

diameter at breast height (DBH): See **tree size**.

diameter: See **tree size**.

Energy Report: The i-Tree Streets Energy Report presents the contribution of the urban forest toward conserving energy in terms of reduced natural gas use in winter measured in therms [th] and reduced electricity use for air conditioning in summer measured in megawatt-hours (MWh).

failure: In terms of tree management, failure is the breakage of stem or branches, or loss of mechanical support of the tree's root system.

genus: A taxonomic category ranking below a family and above a species and generally consisting of a group of species exhibiting similar characteristics. In taxonomic nomenclature, the genus name is used, either alone or followed by a Latin adjective or epithet, to form the name of a species.

geographic information system (GIS): A technology that is used to view and analyze data from a geographic perspective. The technology is a piece of an organization's overall

information system framework. GIS links location to information (such as people to addresses, buildings to parcels, or streets within a network) and layers that information to give you a better understanding of how it all interrelates.

global positioning system (GPS): GPS is a system of earth-orbiting satellites that make it possible for people with ground receivers to pinpoint their geographic location.

High Risk tree: Tree that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated. Most High Risk trees have multiple or significant defects affecting less than 40% of the trunk, crown, or critical root zone. Defective trees and/or tree parts are most likely between 4–20 inches in diameter and can be found in areas of frequent occupation, such as a main thoroughfare, congested streets, and/or near schools.

Importance Values: A calculation in i-Tree Streets. Importance Values (IV) are displayed in table form for all species that make up more than 1% of the population. The Streets IV is the mean of three relative values (percentage of total trees, percentage of total leaf area, and percentage of canopy cover) and can range from 0 to 100 with an IV of 100 suggesting total reliance on one species. IVs offer valuable information about a community's reliance on certain species to provide functional benefits. For example, a species might represent 10% of a population, but have an IV of 25% because of its great size, indicating that the loss of those trees due to pests or disease would be more significant than their numbers suggest.

inventory: See **tree inventory**.

i-Tree Streets: i-Tree Streets is a street tree management and analysis tool that uses tree inventory data to quantify the dollar value of annual environmental and aesthetic benefits: energy conservation, air quality improvement, CO_2 reduction, stormwater control, and property value increase.

i-Tree Tools: State-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree Tools help communities of all sizes to strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of community trees and the environmental services that trees provide.

Low Risk tree: Tree with minor visible structural defects or wounds in areas with moderate to low public access.

mapping coordinate (data field): Helps to locate a tree; X and Y coordinates were generated for each tree using GPS.

Moderate Risk tree: Tree with defects that may be cost-effectively or practically treated. Most of the trees in this category exhibit several moderate defects affecting more than 40% of a tree's trunk, crown, or critical root zone.

monoculture: A population dominated by one single species or very few species.

Net Annual Benefits: Specific data field for i-Tree Streets. Citywide benefits and costs are calculated according to category and summed. Net benefits are calculated as benefits minus costs.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO$_2$): Nitrogen dioxide is a compound typically created during the combustion processes and is a major contributor to smog formation and acid deposition.

Ozone (O$_3$): A strong-smelling, pale blue, reactive toxic chemical gas with molecules of three oxygen atoms. It is a product of the photochemical process involving the Sun's energy. Ozone exists in the upper layer of the atmosphere as well as at the Earth's surface. Ozone at the Earth's surface can cause numerous adverse human health effects. It is a major component of smog.

Particulate Matter (PM$_{10}$): A major class of air pollutants consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and mists.

primary maintenance need (data field): The type of tree work needed to reduce immediate risk.

pruning: The selective removal of plant parts to meet specific goals and objectives.

removal (primary maintenance need): Data field collected during the inventory identifying the need to remove a tree. Trees designated for removal have defects that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated. Most of the trees in this category have a large percentage of dead crown.

right-of-way (ROW): See **street right-of-way**.

risk: Combination of the probability of an event occurring and its consequence.

risk assessment (data fields): The risk assessment is a point-based assessment of each tree by an arborist using a protocol based on the US Forest Service Community Tree Risk Rating System. In the field, the probability of tree or tree part failure is assigned 1–4 points (identifies the most likely failure and rates the likelihood that the structural defect(s) will result in failure based on observed, current conditions), the size of defective tree part is assigned 1–3 points (rates the size of the part most likely to fail), the probability of target impact by the tree or tree part is assigned 1–3 points (rates the use and occupancy of the area that would be struck by the defective part), and other risk factors are assigned 0–2 points (used if professional judgment suggests the need to increase the risk rating). The data from the risk assessment is used to calculate the risk rating that is ultimately assigned to the tree.

risk rating: Calculated from the field risk assessment data (see **risk assessment**), this is the sum of total risk assessment values. Risk ratings range from 3–10, with 3 being the lowest risk and 10 being the highest risk. In this Plan, the risk rating was used to identify the severity of risk assigned to a tree and to prioritize tree maintenance needs. The following categories were used:

- risk rating of 9 or 10 = Severe Risk tree

- risk rating of 7 or 8 = High Risk tree
- risk rating of 5 or 6 = Moderate Risk tree
- risk rating of 3 or 4 = Low Risk tree
- risk rating of 0 = no risk (used only for planting sites and stumps)

secondary maintenance need (data field): Recommended maintenance for a tree, which may be risk oriented, such as raising the crown for clearance, but generally was geared toward improving the structure of the tree and enhancing aesthetics.

Severe Risk tree: Tree rated to be Severe Risk cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated. Most Severe Risk trees have multiple and significant defects present in the trunk, crown, or critical root zone. Defective trees and/or tree parts are most likely larger than 20 inches in diameter and can be found in areas of frequent occupation, such as a main thoroughfare, congested streets, and/or near schools.

species: Fundamental category of taxonomic classification, ranking below a genus or subgenus, and consisting of related organisms capable of interbreeding.

stem: A woody structure bearing buds and foliage and giving rise to other stems.

stems (data field): Identifies the number of stems or trunks splitting less than one foot above ground level.

Stored Carbon Report: Whereas, the i-Tree Streets Carbon Dioxide Report quantifies annual CO_2 reductions, and the i-Tree Streets Stored Carbon Report tallies all of the Carbon (C) stored in the urban forest over the life of the trees as a result of sequestration measured in pounds as the CO_2 equivalent.

Stormwater Report: A report generated by i-Tree Streets that presents the reductions in annual stormwater runoff due to rainfall interception by trees measured in gallons (gals.).

street name (data field): The name of a street right-of-way or road identified using posted signage or parcel information.

street right-of-way (ROW): A strip of land generally owned by a public entity over which facilities, such as highways, railroads, or power lines, are built.

street tree: A street tree is defined as a tree within the right-of-way.

structural defect: A feature, condition, or deformity of a tree or tree part that indicates weak structure and contributes to the likelihood of failure.

stump removal (primary maintenance need): Indicates a stump that should be removed.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2): A strong-smelling, colorless gas that is formed by the combustion of fossil fuels. Sulfur oxides contribute to the problem of acid rain.

Summary Report: The i-Tree Streets Summary report presents the annual total of energy, stormwater, air quality, carbon dioxide, and aesthetic/other benefits. Values are dollars per tree or total dollars.

tree benefit: An economic, environmental, or social improvement that benefits the community and results mainly from the presence of a tree. The benefit received has real or intrinsic value associated with it.

tree inventory: Comprehensive database containing information or records about individual trees typically collected by an arborist.

tree size (data field): A tree's diameter measured to the nearest inch in 1-inch size classes at 4.5 feet above ground, also known as diameter at breast height (DBH) or diameter.

tree: A tree is defined as a perennial woody plant that may grow more than 20 feet tall. Characteristically, it has one main stem, although many species may grow as multi-stemmed forms.

urban forest: All of the trees within a municipality or a community. This can include the trees along streets or rights-of-way, in parks and greenspaces, in forests, and on private property.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): Hydrocarbon compounds that exist in the ambient air and are by-products of energy used to heat and cool buildings. Volatile organic compounds contribute to the formation of smog and/or are toxic. Examples of VOCs are gasoline, alcohol, and solvents used in paints.

Young Tree Train (primary maintenance need): Data field based on *ANSI A300 (Part 1)* standards, pruning of young trees to correct or eliminate weak, interfering, or objectionable branches to improve structure. These trees, up to 20 feet in height, can be worked with a pole pruner by a person standing on the ground.

References

Richards, N.A. 1983. "Diversity and Stability in a Street Tree Population." *Urban Ecology* 7(2):159–171.

Stamen, R.S. "Understanding and Preventing Arboriculture Lawsuits." Presented at the Georgia Urban Forest Council Annual Meeting, Madison, Georgia, November 2–3, 2011.

APPENDIX A
RISK ASSESSMENT/PRIORITY AND PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE

Risk Assessment

Every tree has an inherent risk of tree failure or defective tree part failure. During the inventory, DRG performed a modified Level 2 qualitative risk assessment for each tree and assigned a risk rating based on the ANSI A300 (Part 9), and the companion publication *Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment* (ISA 2011). Trees can have multiple failure modes with various risk ratings. One risk rating per tree will be assigned during the inventory. The failure mode having the greatest risk will serve as the overall tree risk rating. The specified time period for the risk assessment is one year.
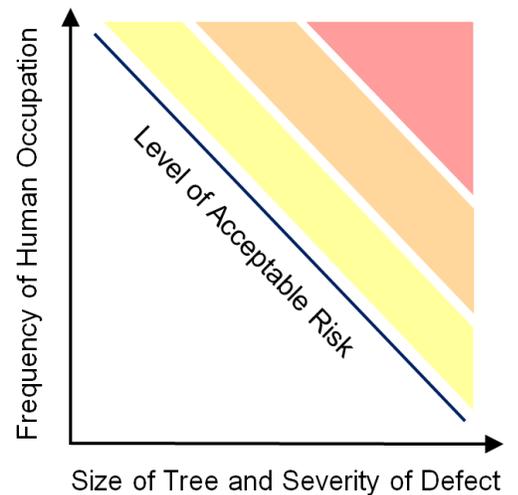
- **Likelihood of Failure**—Identifies the most likely failure and rates the likelihood that the structural defect(s) will result in failure based on observed, current conditions.

  - Improbable—The tree or branch is not likely to fail during normal weather conditions and may not fail in many severe weather conditions within the specified time period.

  - Possible—Failure could occur but is unlikely during normal weather conditions within the specified time period.

  - Probable—Failure may be expected under normal weather conditions within the specified time period.

- **Likelihood of Impacting a Target**—The rate of occupancy of targets within the target zone and any factors that could affect the failed tree as it falls towards the target.

  - Very low—The chance of the failed tree or branch impacting the target is remote.

    - Rarely used sites
    - Examples include rarely used trails or trailheads
    - Instances where target areas provide protection

  - Low—It is not likely that the failed tree or branch will impact the target.

- Occasional use area fully exposed to tree
- Frequently used area partially exposed to tree
- Constant use area that is well protected
  - Medium—The failed tree or branch may or may not impact the target.
    - Frequently used areas that are partially exposed to the tree on one side
    - Constantly occupied area partially protected from the tree
  - High—The failed tree or branch will most likely impact the target.
    - Fixed target is fully exposed to the tree or tree part
- **Categorizing Likelihood of Tree Failure Impacting a Target**—The likelihood for failure and the likelihood of impacting a target are combined in the matrix below to determine the likelihood of tree failure impacting a target.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very Likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

- **Consequence of Failure**—The consequences of tree failure are based on the categorization of target and potential harm that may occur. Consequences can vary depending upon size of defect, distance of fall for tree or limb, and any other factors that may protect a target from harm. Target values are subjective and should be assessed from the client's perspective.
  - Negligible—Consequences involve low value damage and do not involve personal injury.
    - Small branch striking a fence
    - Medium-sized branch striking a shrub bed
    - Large tree part striking structure and causing monetary damage
    - Disruption of power to landscape lights
  - Minor—Consequences involve low to moderate property damage, small disruptions to traffic or communication utility, or very minor injury.
    - Small branch striking a house roof from a high height
    - Medium-sized branch striking a deck from a moderate height

- Large tree part striking a structure, causing moderate monetary damage
- Short-term disruption of power at service drop to house
- Temporary disruption of traffic on neighborhood street

- Significant—Consequences involve property damage of moderate to high value, considerable disruption, or personal injury.

  - Medium-sized part striking a vehicle from a moderate or high height
  - Large tree part striking a structure resulting in high monetary damage
  - Disruption of distribution of primary or secondary voltage power lines, including individual services and street-lighting circuits
  - Disruption of traffic on a secondary street

- Severe—Consequences involve serious potential injury or death, damage to high-value property, or disruption of important activities.

  - Injury to a person that may result in hospitalization
  - Medium-sized part striking an occupied vehicle
  - Large tree part striking an occupied house
  - Serious disruption of high-voltage distribution and transmission power line disruption of arterial traffic or motorways

- **Risk Rating**—The overall risk rating of the tree will be determined based on combining the likelihood of tree failure impacting a target and the consequence of failure in the matrix below.

Likelihood of Failure	Consequences			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

Trees have the potential to fail in more than one way and can affect multiple targets.

Tree risk assessors will identify the tree failure mode having the greatest risk, and report that as the tree risk rating. Generally, trees with the highest qualitative risk ratings should receive corrective treatment first. The following risk ratings will be assigned:

- None—Used for planting and stump sites only.

- Low—The Low-Risk category applies when consequences are "negligible" and likelihood is "unlikely"; or consequences are "minor" and likelihood is "somewhat likely." Some trees with this level of risk may benefit from mitigation or maintenance measures, but immediate action is not usually required.

- Moderate—The Moderate Risk category applies when consequences are "minor" and likelihood is "very likely" or "likely"; or likelihood is "somewhat likely" and consequences are "significant" or "severe." In populations of trees, Moderate Risk trees represent a lower priority than High or Extreme Risk trees.

- High—The High-Risk category applies when consequences are "significant" and likelihood is "very likely" or "likely," or consequences are "severe" and likelihood is "likely." In a population of trees, the priority of High-Risk trees is second only to Extreme Risk trees.

- Extreme—The Extreme Risk category applies in situations where tree failure is imminent and there is a high likelihood of impacting the target, and the consequences of the failure are "severe." In some cases, this may mean immediate restriction of access to the target zone area to avoid injury to people.

Trees with elevated (Extreme or High) risk levels are usually recommended for removal or pruning to eliminate the defects that warranted their risk rating. However, in some situations, risk may be reduced by adding support (cabling or bracing) or by moving the target away from the tree. DRG recommends only removal or pruning to alleviate risk. But in special situations, such as a memorial tree or a tree in a historic area, BBG may decide that cabling, bracing, or moving the target may be the best option for reducing risk.

Priority Maintenance

Identifying and ranking the maintenance needs of a tree population enables tree work to be assigned priority based on observed risk. Once prioritized, tree work can be systematically addressed to eliminate the greatest risk and liability first (Stamen 2011).

Risk is a graduated scale that measures potential tree-related hazardous conditions. A tree is considered hazardous when its potential risks exceed an acceptable level. Managing trees for risk reduction provides many benefits, including:

- Lower frequency and severity of accidents, damage, and injury

- Less expenditure for claims and legal expenses

- Healthier, long-lived trees

- Fewer tree removals over time

- Lower tree maintenance costs over time

Regularly inspecting trees and establishing tree maintenance cycles generally reduce the risk of failure, as problems can be found and addressed before they escalate.

In this plan, all tree removals and Extreme and High Risk prunes are included in the priority maintenance program.

Proactive Maintenance

Proactive tree maintenance requires that trees are managed and maintained under the responsibility of an individual, department, or agency. Tree work is typically performed during a cycle. Individual tree health and form are routinely addressed during the cycle. When trees are planted, they are planted selectively and with purpose. Ultimately, proactive tree maintenance should reduce crisis situations in the urban forest, as every tree in the inventoried population is regularly visited, assessed, and maintained. DRG recommends proactive tree maintenance that includes pruning cycles, inspections, and planned tree planting.

BOROUGH OF RIVERTON
ORDINANCE #5-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF
RIVERTON, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE
OF NEW JERSEY, GOVERNING REMOVAL OF TREES AND SHRUBS

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to implement provisions governing tree and shrub removal; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to protect the existing trees and vegetation within the Borough and promote replanting of trees that are removed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Riverton, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 120 entitled "Tree and Shrub Removal" is hereby added to the Code of the Borough of Riverton to read as follows:

§ 120-1 Purpose.

An ordinance to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in the Borough of Riverton to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

§ 120-2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The use of the word "shall" means the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

"**Applicant**" means any "person", as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.

"**Critical Root Radius (CRR)**" – means the zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet. For example: a tree with a 6" DBH would have a CRR = 6"x1.5' = 9'.

"**Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)**" means the diameter of the trunk of a tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the downhill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

"**Hazard Tree**" means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.

> 1.   Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
>
> 2.   Is dead or dying;
>
> 3.   Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
>
> 4.   Is causing obvious damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, etc.); or
>
> 5.   Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a certified arborist or Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).

"**Person**" means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.

"**Planting strip**" means the part of a street right-of-way between the public right-of-way and the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic or between the abutting property line and the curb or traveled portion of the street, exclusive of any sidewalk.

"Resident" means an individual who resides on the residential property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

"Street Tree" means a tree planted in the sidewalk, planting strip, and/or in the public right-of-way adjacent to the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic. This also includes trees planted in planting strips within the roadway right-of-way, i.e., islands, medians, pedestrian refuges.

"Tree" means a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

"Tree Caliper" means the diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six (6) inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the soil line.

"Tree removal" means to kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, and improper grading and/or soil compaction around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of tree treatments intended to manage invasive species.

§ 120-3 Regulated Activities.

A. Application Process.

1. Any person planning to remove any non-street tree with DBH of 35" or more on their property shall submit a Tree Removal Application to the Construction Office. No tree shall be removed until municipal officials have reviewed and approved the removal.

2. Tree removal permits shall be issued by the Construction Office or his or her designee. Application shall be in a form specified by the Shade Tree Board or his or her designee and shall contain the name and address of the owner of the lands upon which the trees or shrubs sought to be removed are located; the authority of the person, corporation or entity applying for the permit to remove the trees or shrubs; the type, size and location of the trees or shrubs sought to be removed. The application shall contain such additional information, surveys, plans or certifications as may be required by the Borough. No tree shall be removed until municipal officials have reviewed and approved the removal.

3. The application fees shall be $25.00 for each tree to be removed. Said fee may be changed by ordinance at the discretion of the Borough Council.

B. Standard for granting or denying a permit; conditions.

1. The following standards shall govern the grant, conditional grant or denial of a tree removal permit in the Borough of Riverton:

   a. The Shade Tree Board shall be satisfied that the removal or destruction of any particular tree or shrub which is unique in age, size or type is required for effective utilization of the lands in question.

   b. The Shade Tree Board shall be satisfied that the removal or destruction of trees and shrubs proposed shall not impair the growth and development of the remaining trees and shrubs on the lands where the trees are situated or on adjacent lands.

   c. The Shade Tree Board shall be satisfied that the removal or destruction of trees and shrubs proposed shall not cause soil erosion or impair existing drainage patterns.

   d. The Shade Tree Board shall be satisfied that the proposed removal or destruction of trees and shrubs shall not result in a reduction or loss of value to properties proximate to the removal or destruction.

   e. The Shade Tree Board shall be satisfied that adequate precautions shall be taken with respect to the removal of trees and shrubs, that other trees will not be damaged by mechanical removal, that the roots of the remaining trees will not be cut, that the trees removed will not be buried or burned and that dead trees are not permitted to become harborage for rats or other rodents.

2. The Construction Official shall grant or deny any such permit with reference to the standards contained above in § 120-3(B). In applying such standards, the Construction Official may condition the grant of the permit upon such reasonable conditions as may be deemed necessary to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

C. Tree Replacement Requirements
1. Any person, who removes one or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, with a DBH of 35" or more per acre, unless otherwise detailed under § 120-4, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.

The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with the list of non-approved trees which will be provided by the Shade Tree Board.

Replacement tree(s) shall be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than tree removed or meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below, and shall be planted within twelve (12) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the municipality. Replacement tree(s) shall be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within twelve (12) months. Trees planted in temporary containers or pots do not count towards tree replacement requirements.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table		
Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Required Action
1	DBH of 35" or greater	Replant one (1) tree with minimum DBHs of 2.5" for each tree removed

D. Replacement Alternatives:
1. If the municipality determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall do one of the following:

   a. Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.

   b. Pay a fee of in an amount to set by Borough per tree removed. This fee shall be placed into The Shade Tree Trust Fund, dedicated to tree planting.

§ 120-4 Exemptions.

A. All persons shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the following cases:

1. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;

2. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the municipality;

3. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan;

4. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;

5. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;

6. Hazard trees may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement;

7. Any tree located on publicly owned land and removed by the public agency or its representatives. See Chapter 35 "Shade Tree Board and Tree Maintenance" regarding trees located on Borough property.

B. All persons claiming an exemption shall provide proper justification, in writing, to the municipality. Proper justification includes, photographs of all trees to be cut down, a report from a Licensed Tree Expert, and/or an ISA certified arborist.

§ 120-5 Enforcement.

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer or their designee during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

§ 120-6 Violations and Penalties.

Any person firm, partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not to exceed $2,000. Each tree removed or damaged in violation of this chapter shall be deemed a separate offense. The removal of a tree of significance is not subject to a fine limit.

SECTION 2. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Amendment shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provisions so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective;

SECTION 3. If any ordinances or parts thereof are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance those provisions shall be repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance within applicable law.

INTRODUCTION July 16, 2024 Roll Call Vote						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Fullerton		X	X			
Corbi			X			
Rafter			X			
Reed	X		X			
Scott			X			
Wilburn			X			

ADOPTION August 20, 2024 Roll Call Vote						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Fullerton	x		X			
Corbi			X			
Rafter			X			
Reed		x	x			
Scott						X
Wilburn						X

CERTIFICATION

I, Kelly Andrews, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Riverton, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the forgoing to be a true and correct copy of an Ordinance which was tabled by the Council of the Borough of Riverton at its meeting of April 16th, 2024, and reintroduced by the Council of the Borough of Riverton at its meeting of July 16th, 2024 with a second reading, public hearing, and final adoption to be held on August 20th, 2024.

Kelly Andrews,
Municipal Clerk
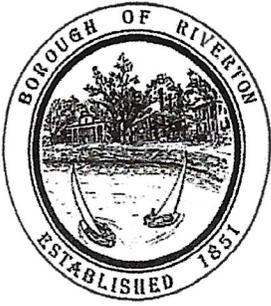
Borough of Riverton
505A Howard Street
Riverton, NJ 08077
856-829-0120

PERMIT FOR A BOROUGH-OWNED SHADE TREE

Please complete all fields:

Date of Application: _____

Property Owner: _____

Address: _____

Location of Tree: _____

Description of Tree: _____

Details of Proposed work: _____
Add pages if needed

_____

I, the property owner as listed above, agree to be responsible for all of the tree and stump removal and/or trimming costs associated with this permit. All work to the tree should be conducted by a tree care company that is registered and licensed under the NJ Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act N.J.S.A. 45:15C-11 et seq.

All work must be completed within 30 days of approval.

_____   _____
Property Owner Signature   Date

INTERNAL USE ONLY	
Shade Tree Chair: _____	Date: _____
☐Approve	
☐Deny	
Code Enforcement Officer: _____	Date: _____
NOTES:	

EXTENSION GRANTED: Circle: YES or NO   Date

:

DIAGRAM #1
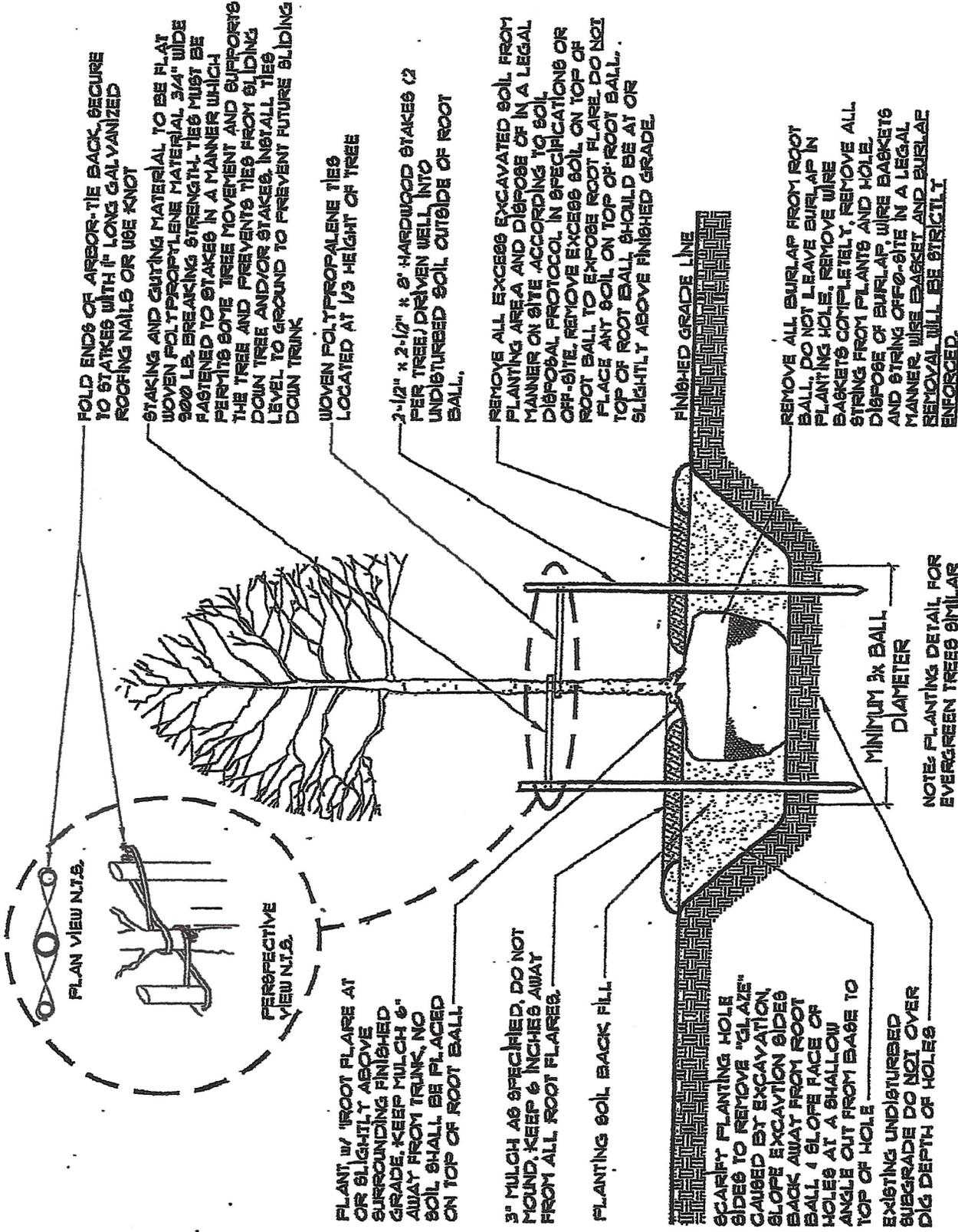
FOLD ENDS OF ARBOR-TIE BACK. SECURE TO STAKES WITH 1" LONG GALVANIZED ROOFING NAILS OR USE KNOT

STAKING AND GUYING MATERIAL TO BE FLAT WOVEN POLYPROPYLENE MATERIAL 3/4" WIDE 900 LB. BREAKING STRENGTH. TIES MUST BE FASTENED TO STAKES IN A MANNER WHICH PERMITS SOME TREE MOVEMENT AND SUPPORTS THE TREE AND PREVENTS TIES FROM SLIDING DOWN TREE AND/OR STAKES. INSTALL TIES LEVEL TO GROUND TO PREVENT FUTURE SLIDING DOWN TRUNK.

WOVEN POLYPROPALENE TIES LOCATED AT 1/3 HEIGHT OF TREE

2-1/2" x 2-1/2" x 8' HARDWOOD STAKES (2 PER TREE) DRIVEN WELL INTO UNDISTURBED SOIL OUTSIDE OF ROOT BALL.

REMOVE ALL EXCESS EXCAVATED SOIL FROM PLANTING AREA AND DISPOSE OF IN A LEGAL MANNER ON SITE ACCORDING TO SOIL DISPOSAL PROTOCOL IN SPECIFICATIONS OR OFF-SITE. REMOVE EXCESS SOIL ON TOP OF ROOT BALL TO EXPOSE ROOT FLARE. DO NOT PLACE ANY SOIL ON TOP OF ROOT BALL. TOP OF ROOT BALL SHOULD BE AT OR SLIGHTLY ABOVE FINISHED GRADE.

FINISHED GRADE LINE

REMOVE ALL BURLAP FROM ROOT BALL. DO NOT LEAVE BURLAP IN PLANTING HOLE. REMOVE WIRE BASKETS COMPLETELY. REMOVE ALL STRING FROM PLANTS AND HOLE. DISPOSE OF BURLAP, WIRE BASKETS AND STRING OFF-SITE IN A LEGAL MANNER. WIRE BASKET AND BURLAP REMOVAL WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

PLAN VIEW N.T.S.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW N.T.S.

PLANT W/ ROOT FLARE AT OR SLIGHTLY ABOVE SURROUNDING FINISHED GRADE. KEEP MULCH 6" AWAY FROM TRUNK. NO SOIL SHALL BE PLACED ON TOP OF ROOT BALL.

3" MULCH AS SPECIFIED, DO NOT MOUND. KEEP 6 INCHES AWAY FROM ALL ROOT FLARES.

PLANTING SOIL BACK FILL

SCARIFY PLANTING HOLE SIDES TO REMOVE "GLAZE" CAUSED BY EXCAVATION. SLOPE EXCAVATION SIDES BACK AWAY FROM ROOT BALL. 1 SLOPE FACE OF HOLES AT A SHALLOW ANGLE OUT FROM BASE TO TOP OF HOLE

EXISTING UNDISTURBED SUBGRADE. DO NOT OVER DIG DEPTH OF HOLES

MINIMUM 3x BALL DIAMETER

NOTE: PLANTING DETAIL FOR EVERGREEN TREES SIMILAR

TREE PLANTING DETAIL
DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

REVISED 07/15/11

SHADE TREE BOARD

April 2025

Dear Riverton Resident:

The Riverton Shade Tree Board is asking for your assistance in maintaining the newly planted shade tree,

_____ near your home at _____. If the tree has not been mulched with wood chips it will be done in the near future by us or the contractor. Please see the guidelines below on how to properly care and maintain new plantings.

The First Year

1. New shade trees require a considerable amount of moisture to become established. By watering this tree thoroughly during the spring, summer and fall dry periods you will greatly enhance its future in Riverton (20 gallons each time).
2. Please <u>do not</u> plant any flowers or other plant materials around the base of the new tree. These materials compete for water which is critical for the trees' first year survival.
3. Do not fertilize the tree, as this will cause harm to the newly formed fibrous roots
4. Do not add any additional mulch to the tree; 3" – 4" is the recommended amount.

The Second Year

1. The Shade Tree Board will fertilize the tree each spring, usually on March or April.
2. Continue to water the tree when needed.

The Riverton Shade Tree Board truly appreciates your help in caring for the trees of Riverton Borough.

Thank you on behalf of the Riverton Shade Tree Board,

Shade Tree Board Borough Council Liaison, Edgar Wilburn
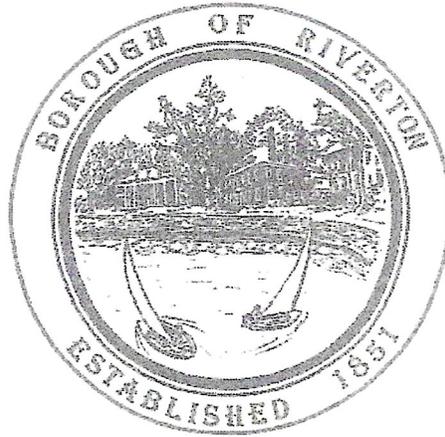
2025 Members ~ Barry Emens, John Frazier, Ed Sanderson, Nelson Dimpter, and Dan Colbert

BOROUGH OF RIVERTON
SHADE TREE BOARD

DATE	NAME AND ADDRESS	CONCERN	REMARKS

Mayor
James Quinn

Borough Council
William Corbi, Councilman
Kirk Fullerton, Council President
Nicole Rafter, Councilwoman
Scott Reed, Councilman
Julie Scott, Councilwoman
Edgar Wilburn, Councilman

Kelly Andrews RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk
kandrews@riverton-nj.com

TELEPHONE:

(856) 829-0120

Fax: (856) 829-1413
www.riverton-nj.com

BOROUGH HALL
505A Howard Street
Riverton, NJ 08077

SHADE TREE BOARD
July 2025

Dear Riverton Resident:

For over 35 years, the Borough of Riverton is proud to be a "Tree City USA" as designated by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Borough's Shade Tree Board makes this possible year after year. The Shade Tree Board, which is comprised of a volunteer group, works tirelessly to raise funds, provide Shade Tree education, manage the tree inventory and schedule all care and maintenance for the Borough owned trees.

In order to properly maintain and replenish the Shade Tree inventory, we are asking you to make a tax-deductible contribution. Donations of $100 or greater will be recognized on a memorial plaque in the Borough Hall. This is a time-honored tradition here in Riverton and is an excellent way to memorialize or honor a loved one. However, all donations are welcomed and appreciated.

To make a contribution, please remit a check payable to the "Riverton Borough STB Trust Fund" with the coupon below. These funds are placed in a dedicated trust account which is only used to purchase, maintain and plant trees that are lost or damaged due to age, disease or storms.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to the Borough of Riverton.

Sincerely,
Shade Tree Board 2024 Members

Borough Council Liaison, Mayor James Quinn
Barry Emens, Chairman, John Frazier, Ed Sanderson, Nelson Dimpter, and Dan Colbert

---

Make check payable to "Riverton Borough STB Trust" ⚘ Mail or drop off: 505A Howard Street, Riverton, NJ 08077

Please remit with this stub

Donations over $100 plaque in the Borough Hall

Check # _____

Donation Amount $_____   _____

Name _____   _____

                                           _____

Address _____   *15 characters per line - MAX

Trees in Riverton

A Homeowner's Guide to Beautiful, Safe, and Healthy Trees

In return for the care we give our trees, they give us:

- Cleaner air; they remove carbon dioxide and replenish our oxygen...

- Quieter streets; they cut down noise by as much as 70%...

- Cooler summer days and nights; they breathe out moisture...

- Enhance property values in a town where we are proud to live...

The Board's philosophy is to preserve each existing tree as long as is feasible. When one must be replaced, an appropriate species is carefully chosen for the locations. Not all species are good trees for our streets. Some trees get too big, some have shallow roots and lift sidewalks, some are subject to blights or have difficulty with pollution, and some attract pests or have difficulty with existing trees.

For these reasons, residents are not permitted to plant trees in the borough property along the streets. The Board does an inventory of our trees to tell us the species, location, size, and health of each one in town.

Trivia *answers below*

How many trees does Riverton have lining its streets & parks...?

1,000   2,005   2,475

The most numerous tree, by variety, along Riverton streets is...?

American Elm   Pin Oak   Red Oak

London Plane   Sugar Maple

See your Borough directory for the names and phone numbers of Shade Tree Board members.

The Borough Hall phone is 829-0120.

Answers: 2,475 and London Plane

Which trees are Borough trees?

The property owner is responsible for the care of trees on their properties . Which trees are Borough trees? All those trees planted in the curb strips along most streets. Also in a few specific locations just inside the sidewalks, right of ways and in the park and public recreation areas. The Riverton Shade Tree Board is appointed by the Mayor and Council of Riverton. They serve without pay, as a public service for the continued beauty of Riverton. The Board oversees the care of our "Urban Forest", with the help and guidance of professionals.

When you think of a town like Riverton, with its many trees, both private and public, it is not hard to envision a forest. We have urbanized the forest by building a small city of homes, shops, streets and walkways. Hence a new name has been given to our town trees, the Urban Forest.

An urban forest has 3 basic physical needs:

1. Planting
2. Maintenance (includes protection)
3. Removal

The Riverton Shade Tree Board is charged with care of the Publicly owned part of Riverton's Urban Forest.

What can you do to help your trees

- Consult the Board for guidance if you are planning to plant a tree that may be near a Borough tree.

- Be sure to water new trees planted near your home, at least for the first year. You can make a difference. Your interest and your help can help us keep Riverton as beautiful for future generations, as we have found it in our generation. Mulch your trees! The single best and easiest thing you can do for trees is to try to duplicate the mulch which nature provides in the forest. Apply about 3 inches of composted wood chips, leaves or other organic matter around the base of the tree, in a circle at least 3 feet in diameter. Keep the mulch away from the bark. Mulch conserves moisture, cools the soil, and prevents erosion.

- Probably the most important thing you can do for the trees near your property is to give them a drink during summer dry spells. Because of paved streets, sidewalks, and compacted soil around them, many trees need extra water to stay healthy.

- Report any large limbs that are dead or show signs of rot.

- Report any trees damaged from storms or accidents.

- DO NOT attempt to trim, treat, or repair a tree yourself.

- Do not paint wounds on trees. Call the Borough Clerk or the Shade Tree Board.

- Try to keep the soil around trees from becoming compacted.

Be friendly to the trees near your home...

Have you really looked at the trees along the street by your home? Or do you ignore them until the fall?

The trees can become friends if you really get to know them.

Take a look at one of them. Really look at it.

Look at its bark, its leaves.

Can you guess what kind of tree it is?

How long do you think this tree has grown here?

Do you know how this tree helps you?

Do any birds or animals call this tree home?

If you have children at home, they may enjoy answering these questions, and getting to know "their tree".

Riverton Tree Walk

LOCATION GUIDE

The QR tags that are affixed to these Borough trees were generously donated by the Members of the Riverton Shade Tree Board

Council Liaison, Jim Quinn

Chairman, Barry Emens

Ed Sanderson

John Frazier

Nelson Dimpter

Dan Colbert

1. 505A Howard (Borough Hall)
   London Plane

2. 408 Howard
   Green Vase Zelkova

3. 406 Howard
   New Harmony American Elm

4. 213 Howard (Porch Club)
   Greenspire Little Leaf Linden

5. 400 Howard (School Playground)
   Starburst Amur Maackia

6. 304 Howard (Episcopal Church)
   Willow Oak

7. 406 Howard
   Kwanzan Flowering Cherry

8. 300 Howard
   Autumn Blaze Maple

9. 300 Howard at 3rd St.
   Duraheat River Birch

10. 204 Howard
    Princeton Sentry Ginkgo

11. 202 Howard
    Sawtooth Oak

12. 107 Howard on 2nd
    Pyramidal European Hornbeam

13. 201 Howard on 2nd
    Kentucky Coffee Tree

14. 107 Howard
    Princeton American Elm

15. 120 Howard
    Tulip Tree

16. 501 2nd
    Pin Oak

17. 200 Main on 2nd
    Black Walnut

18. 403 2nd
    Chestnut Oak

19. 203 Main
    Northern Red Oak

20. 301 Main on 3rd
    Cucumber Magnolia

21. 207 Main
    Magnifica Hackberry

22. 306 Main (Riverton Library)
    American Sycamore

23. 308 Main
    Ivory Silk Tree Lilac

24. 410 Main
    Hedge Maple

25. 501 Main on 5th
    Red Sunset Maple

TREE CITY USA.

BOROUGH OF RIVERTON
ESTABLISHED 1851

Riverton Memorial Park

Municipal Complex

Light Rail Station

RIVERTON

Riverton Tree Walk

Delaware River

Riverton Yacht Club

Bank Ave.

Penn Street

Main Street

2nd Street

14.
15.
12.
13.

Howard Street

Cinnaminson Street

2nd Street

18. 17.
16.
19.
21. 11.
10.

Lippincott Ave.

3rd Street

9.
20.
8.

22.
6.
23. 4.

4th

4th Street

5.
24. 3
7
2.
1.

5th Street

25.

Main Street

Broad Street

Broad Street

Locations and Common Names

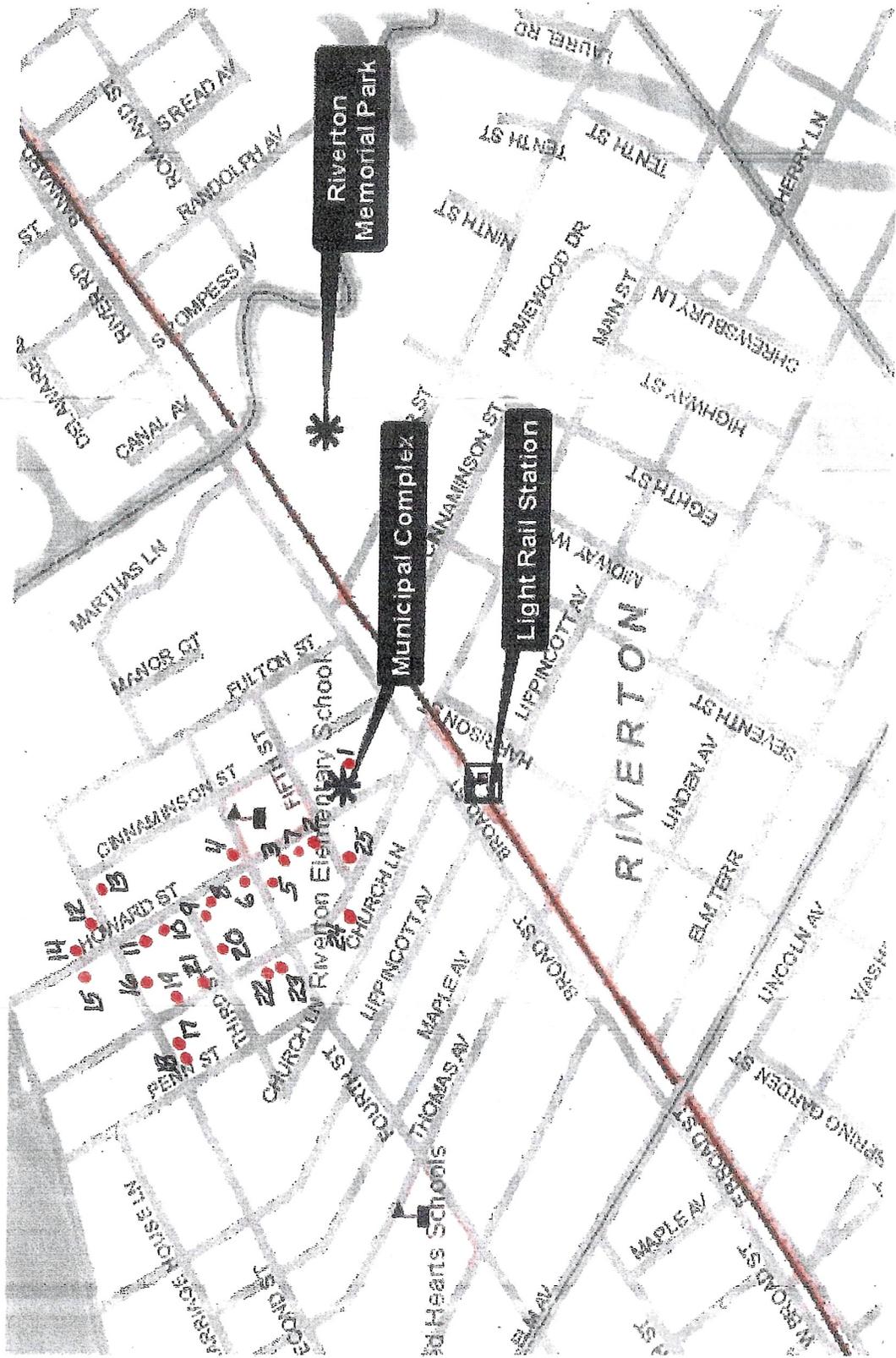1. 505A Howard St. (Borough Hall) - London Plane
2. 408 Howard St. - Green Vase Zelkova
3. 406 Howard St. - New Harmony American Elm
4. 213 Howard St. (Porch Club) - Greenspire Little Leaf Linden
5. 400 Howard St. - (School Playground) Starburst Amur Maackia
6. 304 Howard St. (Christ Church) - Willow Oak
7. 406 Howard St. - Kwanzan Flowering Cherry
8. 300 Howard St. - Autumn Blaze Maple
9. 300 Howard St. - Duraheat River Birch
10. 204 Howard St. - Princeton Sentry Ginkgo
11. 202 Howard - Sawtooth Oak
12. 107 Howard St. - Pyramidal European Hornbeam
13. 201 Howard St. - Kentucky Coffeetree
14. 107 Howard St. - Princeton American Elm
15. 120 Howard St. - Tulip Tree
16. 501 2nd St. - Pin Oak
17. 200 Main St. - Black Walnut
18. 403 2nd St. - Chestnut Oak
19. 203 Main St. - Northern Red Oak
20. 301 Main St. - Cucumber Magnolia
21. 207 Main St. - Magnifica Hackberry
22. 306 Main St. (Library) - American Sycamore
23. 308 Main St. - Ivory Silk Tree Lilac
24. 410 Main St. - Hedge Maple
25. 501 Main St. - Red Sunset Red Maple

Tour Sponsored by
The Riverton Shade Tree Board
(Map is not to scale)

Riverton 2025 Crape Myrtle Walking Tree Tour

August 23, 2025

1. Enduring Summer
2. Pokomoke
3. Cherry Dazzle
4. Sioux
5. Natchez
6. Potomic
7. Dynamite
8. Muskogee
9. Tuscaroa (S.H. Church)
10. Tonto