

The Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus Shade Tree Commission (STC) has undertaken a tree replacement program to reestablish the tree canopy in the Borough. Sadly hundreds of trees of been damaged by various storms in the last few years, and old age too. The Ho-Ho-Kus STC was fortunate to be amongst a handful of towns to receive a \$30,000 grant from the State of NJ that will allow us to replace 100 trees at no cost to the taxpayers. Failure to comply with the Grant including locations already selected would result in a loss of reimbursement. We cannot remove trees that were already planted.

While many people have been requesting and waiting many years for plantings some of you may have been surprised to see markings for utility lines or even to see your tree in front of your home planted in the boroughs right-of-way. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused. We would like to assure you these replacement trees have been part of a long process in which we utilized landscape architects and a certified tree expert. The aesthetics including proper location, landscape design principles taking into account what maybe overhead or below in the ground with various utility lines(all have been marked already), or former tree locations all were part of our professional team's consideration for the best possible placement consistent with best practices. All the trees were approved for their quality by the New Jersey State program and are utility friendly species and will only serve to enhance our neighborhoods. The Shade Tree Commission (is a volunteer organization); are by law responsible for maintaining the look of all Borough property including the right-of-way (typically the 10 feet from the end of the street in front of your homes. To date 80 trees have been planted and we have approximately 50 more to go over the next two days. Should you have any further questions about the particular species or choices that were made by our professional team we ask that you call Bill Comery License Tree Expert at 201-723-5202. For other questions on the Borough's Right of Way call Borough Hall 201- 652-4400 ext. 221 please join us in welcoming our new trees!

Some Facts About Trees taken from the NJ Forest Service Web Site:

Economic Contributions: Trees or lack of trees can influence economics. A property for sale with five large trees in the front yard yields a 4% higher price that property with no trees for with smaller trees.

Over fifty years a tree provides \$125,000 worth of benefits

- \$60,000 in filtered air
- \$35,000 clean water
- \$30,000 oxygen

Energy Savings:

A home shaded by three trees can cut energy bills by 50% in the summer thanks to shade and transpiration. Those same trees serve as windbreaks for those cold winter winds, and reduce heating costs by 30%. As few as three trees properly positioned can save the average household between \$100 and \$250 annually in energy costs.

Rows of trees reduce wind speed by up to about 85%, with maximum reductions increasing in proportion to visual density. Because even a single row of dense conifers can cause large reductions in wind speed, effective windbreaks can be planted on relatively small house lots. Compared with an open area, a good windbreak that does not shade the house will save about 15% of the heat energy used in a typical home.

Environmental Health

100 mature trees can intercept 100,000 gallons of rainfall per year. The rain falls on the canopy, catching the water and allowing it to gently drip to the ground or evaporate. This lessens street flooding and soil erosion.

Trees help trap and hold particle pollutants such as dust, pollen, and smoke that can damage our lungs. Trees remove pollutants by absorbing them through the pores in the leaf surface. Particulates are trapped and filtered by leaves, stems and twigs, and washed to the ground by rainfall. Trees also absorb CO₂ and other dangerous gasses and replenish the atmosphere with oxygen. Yearly, one acre of trees absorbs enough oxygen for 18 people.

Trees keep water clean and drinkable. When non-point source pollution such as oil, fertilizers and sediment get washed away with the rain, tree roots can trap and filter out the contaminants before they affect the water supply.