

## Borough of Clarks Summit

Phone: (570) 586-9316

Project Manager: James Vones

Grant Award: \$14,300

The **Clarks Summit Shade Tree Inventory** project initiated a three-phase program within the borough. The project objectives were to assess the condition of the existing trees, to develop and act upon a remediation program for hazardous trees, and to develop a renewal policy to replant wherever possible.

Project efforts concentrated on 1.6-square miles containing approximately 25-miles of local roads and several state highway right-of-ways within the Borough of Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County. The Borough was divided into six Shade Tree Districts using major transportation corridors as boundary lines. Work focused on the three districts that contained the most hazardous trees.

Preliminary work, volunteer training, and public information was begun during the summer and fall of 1997. The borough purchased TreeKeeper, Jr. software to electronically manage their inventory data. Urban Forester Vincent Cotrone provided borough employees with training in software use. A certified arborist completed the inventory, performed hazard assessments, and completed a Municipal Tree Plan. Of the 978 trees under borough jurisdiction, 505 were evaluated, 102 were recommended for removal, and 134 required pruning.

Grant funds could not cover all the necessary work, but many removals in three Shade Tree Districts were scheduled and costs offset using the borough's "general funds" account. The grant culminated with the planting of 41 new replacement trees.

## Project Value and Match

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>\$14,300</b>
Cash Contributions	\$53,590
In-kind Contributions	\$23,375
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$91,265</b>



## Significant Revisions to Scope of Work

Early on, the chairman of the Shade Tree Commission and the project manager resigned. Jim Vones, Borough Manager assumed responsibility for project management. The grant was reevaluated and its scope redefined. A certified arborist was hired to complete the work. Two vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission were filled and monthly meetings were scheduled to oversee the work.

### Project Accomplishments

- Evaluated 505 trees in three Shade Tree Districts.
- Removed 102 hazardous trees, pruned 134 trees, and planted 41 trees.
- Identified and sprayed severe calico scale infestations on 24 trees in the heart of the downtown district.
- Used professional expertise for tree inventory and assessment for the first time in the history of the borough.
- Borough employees received TreeKeepers, Jr. software training and used the program to inventory and document 978 trees.
- Used Street Tree Fact Sheets to gather database information.
- Developed the Borough's first tree management plan.
- Worked with the borough council and DCNR District Forester to investigate liability issues involved in assessing borough trees.
- Held an Arbor Day celebration.
- Earned Tree City USA recognition.
- Achieved a 1 to 5.38 cost share ratio for the grant.

### Partners' Contributions

Borough of Clarks Summit – DPW and administrative support  
Penn State Extension Service – Technical assistance  
PennDOT District 4-0 – Safety services  
Doolin Trees & Services – Services



TREE LIABILITY GRANTS