

South Abington Parks, Recreation and Shade Tree Committee

Phone: (570) 586-2111 x103

Project Managers: Jim Mayfield and Gerry Kelly

Grant Award: \$14,300

South Abington Hazardous Tree Remediation project provided an opportunity for the Shade Tree Committee and South Abington Parks and Recreation Committee to work together to improve a youth-oriented park system by protecting and enhancing the park's natural resources. Activities focused on tree assessment and care and on removing and replacing hazardous trees in the park. The work improved the attractiveness of the park and reduced township liability.

Work began with an evaluation of the trees in the park and along the wooded trail. Trees that threatened the safety of park users were identified, mapped, and assessed. Over 70 trees were found to be structurally weak. Findings indicated that 152 trees should be removed, 329 pruned and 21 needed cabling. Removals and pruning occurred through the grant with township assistance, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry expertise, and a contracted certified arborist. Plantings occurred through the course of the entire grant period.

Large trees purchased with donations from 30 individuals were planted. The removal of hazardous trees provided more growing space for remaining trees and improve species diversity. Shrubs were purchased by the township and through the PA Bureau of Forestry's Stream ReLeaf Program. Trees were planted by volunteers throughout the park, along the woodland edge and along 180-l.ft. of Leggets Creek which runs through the park.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$14,300
Cash Contributions	\$12,079
In-kind Contributions	<u>\$11,522</u>
Total Project Cost	\$37,901



Significant Revisions in Scope of Work

After a review of the assessment report it was determined that the project scope exceeded the available funds. Pruning activities were restricted to the woodland trail. Municipal Tree Restoration Program removals were completed by Pennsylvania Power & Light. Future road widening plans along Routes 6 & 11 corridor resulted in the township putting new tree plantings on hold.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 61 trees, 40 PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry seedlings, pruned 95 hazardous trees and removed 73 dangerous trees in the 3.9-acre park and in the 26-acre woodland.
- Planted 180-l.ft. of Leggets Creek corridor.
- Planted 62 shrubs under contract and 50 shrubs with volunteers.
- Inventoried and mapped 421 trees and assessed 545 trees.
- Worked with 35 local volunteers who committed 235 hours of service.
- Provided stewardship opportunities to 350 school students in the nearby South Abington Elementary School.
- Supported the school's use of "Project Learning Tree," "Project Wild," and "Project Aquatic" through the enhancement of habitat.
- Supported one existing planning effort entitled "South Abington Township Community Park Plan."
- Served as the catalyst for the borough's adoption of a Shade Tree Ordinance by bringing higher visibility to urban forestry benefits.
- Cosponsored an Urban and Community Forestry Workshop with Penn State Cooperative Extension.
- Completed a spring and summer bird census with Audubon Society.
- Supported one Tree City USA Award and held a tree planting ceremony for Arbor Day.
- Supported Pennsylvania's Stream ReLeaf program.
- Promoted forestry in an interview with WMGS 94.3 radio station.
- Worked with 21 diverse partners to implement the grant.
- Matched the grant with 11 donated trees.
- Promoted the first-time adoption of an annual Shade Tree Committee budget of \$5,000 by the Township.
- Achieved a 1 to 1.39 cost share ratio for the grant.

Partners' Contributions

Abington Business & Professional Assoc. – \$1,500 contribution
Abington Rotary – Financial contribution
Chinchilla Hose Company – Meeting space
Chinchilla United Methodist Church – Volunteer cleanup
Everything Natural Store – \$1,000 contribution
Lackawanna County Recycling Center – Mulch
Metropolitan Life Company – Excavation & tree transport
NEPA Community Tree Association – Workshop
Northeastern Pennsylvania Audubon Society – Bird survey
PA Urban Forestry Council – Financial support
PennDOT District 4-0 – Assistance with right-of-way issues
Penn State Cooperative Extension – Public education
Pennsylvania Energy Company – Leased woodland to township
Pennsylvania Power & Light – Tree removals
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission – Landscaping
Sabatini's Restaurant – Adjacent property plantings
South Abington Board of Supervisors – Township plantings
South Abington Department of Public Works – Watering
South Abington Elementary School – Plantings
South Abington Police – Security
USA Waste of Eastern Pennsylvania – Portable potty