

South Williamsport Borough

Phone: (570) 322-0158

Project Manager: William Miller

Grant Award: \$4,800

South Williamsport Hazard Tree & Replacement Program was initiated by the South Williamsport Shade Tree Commission and used an existing street tree inventory to define the scope of work. The inventory, started in 1996, was entered into the TreeKeeper Jr. software program. It showed the commission that 80% of South Williamsport's community trees were in decline.

Forestry work focused on removing hazardous trees or trees in decline because of age, utility pruning, road salt damage, improper pruning techniques, or compaction damage. Trees located within the public right of way and in areas of high traffic and visibility were rated as highest priority. Hazard pruning focused on trees with structural problems that could pose danger to vehicles or pedestrians.

The Shade Tree Commission set a goal to exceed a 1 to 1 replanting ratio. A letter explaining removal costs and replanting procedures was prepared and sent to property owners. Property owners with dangerous trees were asked to cost-share their removals by 25%. A fee of \$25 was required for planting new trees. Of the 40 trees identified as hazardous, 21 were removed and 37 new trees were planted.

Community education, participation, and partnership building goals were also set. The importance of selecting proper tree species and the care of new trees was stressed. Pennsylvania College of Technology students gained valuable hands-on experience planting and mulching the new trees. In recognition of Arbor Day, kindergarten students from Central Elementary School learned about caring for trees while they were given a planting lesson.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$4,800
Cash Contributions	\$3,091
In-kind Contributions	\$9,046
Total Project Cost	\$16,937



Project Accomplishments

- Removed 21 of 40 hazardous trees and replanted appropriate replacements.
- Used an existing street tree inventory as the basis for a certified arborist assessment of high priority removals and pruning.
- Provided educational opportunities for 16 Pennsylvania College of Technology horticultural students.
- Recognized by the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry with a Tree City USA Award.
- Worked with volunteers who committed 281 hours of service.
- Involved 37 borough households, and 40 kindergarten students in the renewal of their community forest.
- Raised \$2,166 by requesting a voluntary 25% cost-share from local residents for the removal of their dangerous trees.
- Raised \$925 in cost-share funds required for new trees.
- Achieved a 1 to 2.52 cost share ratio for the grant.

Partners' Contributions

Borough of South Williamsport – Delivered trees and mulch
Dincher & Dincher Tree Service – Arbor Day education
Pennsylvania College of Technology Students – Planting trees
Penn State Extension Service – Technical assistance
PP&L – Tree pruning
Sun Gazette – Publicity and photographs



