

PRESS RELEASE

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Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has awarded the contract for its second, spring, round of tree planting under a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry 2006 Cool Cities Community Stewardship Program funding grant in the amount of \$25,000 to River's Edge Nursery, LLC, Woodbine. The current grant will leverage a \$35,724 tree-planting project.

The Borough was previously the recipient of another \$25,000 Cool Cities grant which was used to provide sixty-four diverse shade trees as provided for in the Borough's streetscape project specifications, for a total tree-planting project of \$41,000. To date, Woodbine has leveraged, with in-kind contributions, \$50,000 in Cool Cities grant funding into a nearly \$77,000 tree-planting initiative. Woodbine has also recently received an additional \$25,000 in Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) funding for its tree maintenance and tree awareness incentives, soon to be advertised for bids.

The current phase of Woodbine's Neighborhood Tree Planting Program is designed to incorporate eight different types of trees into various sections of the community, for a total of sixty-four additional trees to fill open spaces that will then provide a more complete canopy of shade for homes throughout the remainder of Woodbine. Planting is being done under the Borough second five-year state-approved Community Forestry Management Plan, which lays out the location for these plantings. It will complement the aesthetic public improvements being financed through other grants being financed through other grant programs and provide a comprehensive awning throughout the Borough. There are two energy conservation benefits that will be achieved by a tree planting project of this nature. First is that homes in the project area will gradually experience a greater level of shade coverage as the new trees grow and mature. Second, trees release water vapor that helps cool the air and the increase in the number of trees by 60% as proposed in the landscaping plan will greatly add to this cooling.

The Cool Cities program is grant-funding provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program and administered by the New Jersey Forest Service's Community Forestry Program. The purpose of the program is to assist municipalities in promoting energy conservation in residential areas through tree plantings, helping to address tree resource issues and management goals that are priorities in the municipal, state-approved, Community Forestry Management Plan. Woodbine is currently in year three of its second five-year plan.

"We are now working on the community awareness component of our tree initiative, and wish to remind residents that while these trees are in part the replacement for damaged trees which have been removed, the existence of stump remnants despite stump grinding prevent placement in the exact location of the removed trees," added Mayor Pikolycky.