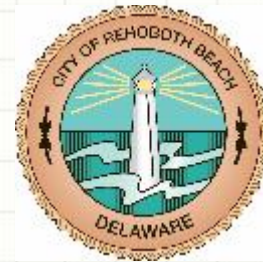


**MAYOR'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON TREES  
REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**





# Mission Statement

Preserve and grow the community forest of Rehoboth Beach, through public education, and by promoting programs and policies that enhance the tree canopy for current and future generations.



## **Committee Members**

Commissioner Toni Sharp, Chair

Elise Burns

Commissioner Richard Byrne

Sturges Dodge

Kathryn Downs


Terri Eskew

Susan Gay

Andrea Hoffman


Francis Markert

Jeffrey Trunzo



“. . the abundance of trees and tree canopy contributes to the City’s unique wooded seaside character and distinguishes the City from many coastal communities.”

Comprehensive Development Plan, 2010



“When people say ‘Oh, what a beautiful town, what they are really saying is ‘Oh, what beautiful trees.’ ”

Ed McMahon  
Chair, Sustainable Development  
Urban Land Institute

# Tree Survey Results

437 responses

- 77% respondents live in City; 33% year-round
- 75% say trees create aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods and business districts
- 83% would like to see more trees planted
  - 76% would like more street trees
  - 49% would like more private property trees
- 53% named loss of mature trees as top concern
- 69% would support new rules for planting/protecting trees
- 61% would support an increase in city tree budget





# Community Outreach

Country Club Estates Property Owners  
Assn Annual Meeting, Sept. 8, 2018

Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Assn Fall  
Meeting  
Oct. 20, 2018

# What's Happening on a Daily Basis

- Trees on private property

2016 – 250 removed, 117 new

2017 – 285 removed, 129 new

2018 – 351 removed, 141 new

**Total – 886 removed, 387 new**

***Avg 24 trees removed every month***

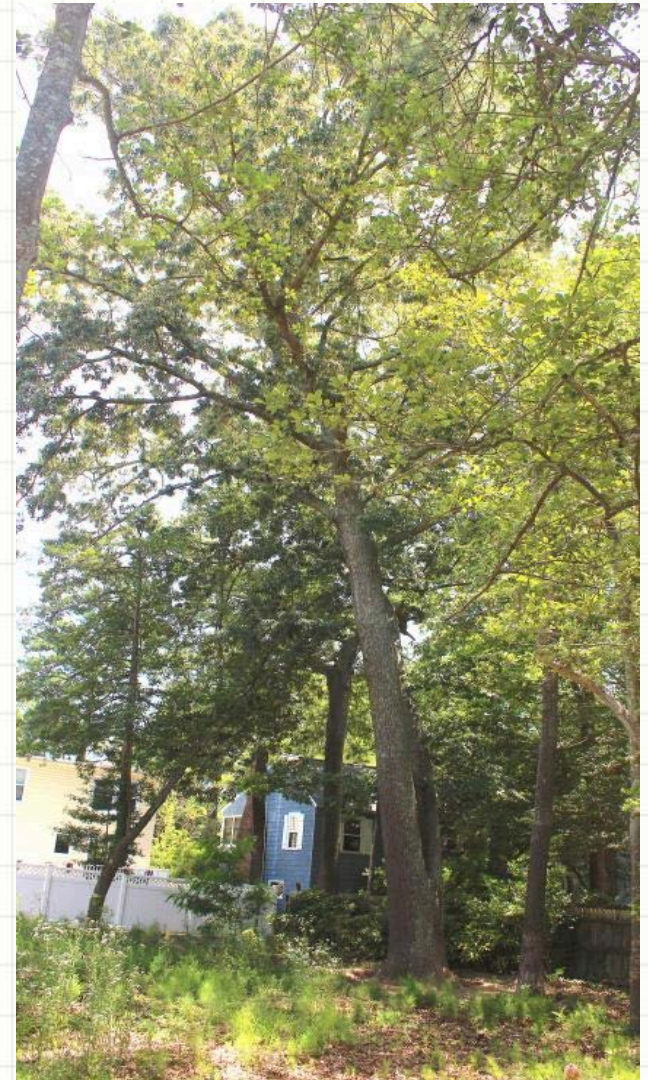
- Trees on city property

2016-2017 – 110 trees replanted

For every tree removed, 2.6 planted

**City trees – 260% replacement**

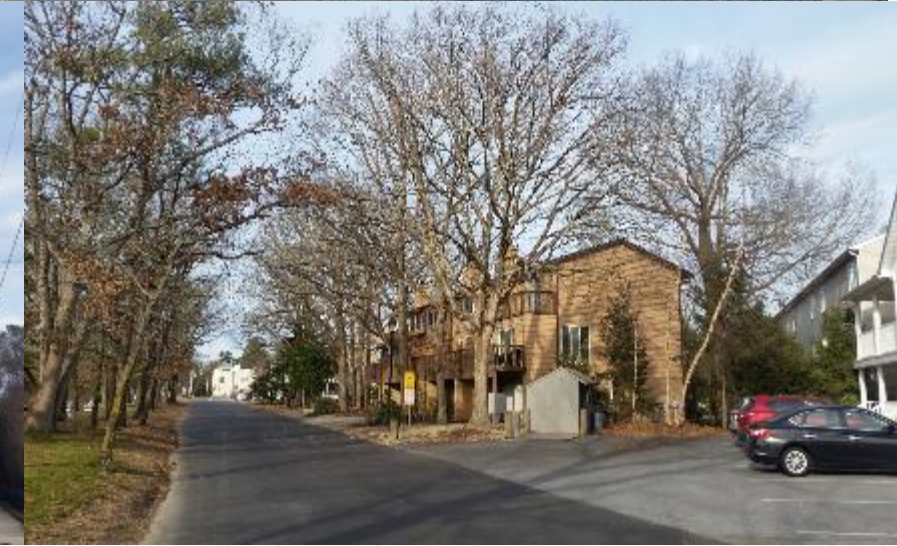
**Private – 44% replacement**





# Issues

1. Status of comprehensive urban forest plan (incl. private and public property)
2. Tree-related activities
  - City – Rehoboth Ave, Parks
  - Private – ie CCE partnership
3. High-mid canopy trees
4. Education
5. Evaluating success measures



**Trees = Infrastructure**

# Trees Clean Air

- Street trees absorb 9 times more pollutants than more distant trees
- USDA says that just 100 trees annually remove 53 tons of carbon dioxide and 43 lbs of other pollutants from the environment
- Two medium-size trees can supply oxygen required for a single person for a year.
- Trees also absorb airborne pollutants through leaf uptake and contact removal



# Trees Absorb Stormwater

- Trees increase stormwater infiltration rates, resulting in a 60% reduction in stormwater runoff entering our lakes and ocean.
- As stormwater flows to our lakes and ocean, it picks up pollutants that have built up on city streets. Trees reduce the number of harmful pollutants that get into our lakes and the ocean.
- *Each* mature tree can store 50 – 100 gallons of water during one large storm, and thousands of gallons per year.
- Trees reduce soil erosion and the accumulation of sediments in our lakes and ocean.
- A healthy tree canopy means we protect our valuable assets with lower cost in maintaining our stormwater infrastructure.

# Trees Save Energy

- Trees can shade buildings and sidewalks, minimizing the heat island effect, increasing life of road surfaces, and *lowering cost* of paving and maintenance.
- Trees can add 40-60% more life to costly asphalt.
- Tree windbreaks can reduce residential heating costs 10 – 15%.
- Shading and evaporative cooling from trees can cut air conditioning cost by 20 – 50%.
- The net cooling effect of a young healthy tree = ten room-size air conditioners running 20 hours a day!



# Trees Mitigate Climate Change

- A healthy tree can store 13 lbs of carbon each year.
- Our city's trees sequester tons of carbon each year, essentially removing the exhaust from thousands of cars.
- Cutting down trees reverses the effects of carbon sequestration and releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Trees, especially large trees like oaks, can stem the tide of climate change by providing a habitat to birds and insects.

# Trees Calm Traffic

- Trees have a traffic calming effect – people drive slower on treed streets!
- This benefit reduces the frequency and severity of crashes, and helps keep both drivers and cyclists safer.
- Street trees create a physical barrier between the street and the sidewalk, keeping pedestrians, children and pets out of harm's way.
- Trees also increase walkability, with temperature differentials of 5-15 degrees felt when walking on tree-canopied streets.

# Trees Support Businesses

- Trees increase our economic vitality by causing people to linger and shop longer at businesses that are surrounded by trees.
- Businesses on tree-lined streets show 12 percent higher income streams.
- Trees provide as essential competitive edge for main street stores vs. competition from shopping plazas.

# Trees Create a Healthier Community

- A green environment is a huge asset to public health
- When people have access to a treed community, they have fewer sick days and recover from illnesses and surgery more quickly.
- Study has shown that planting 10 street trees on a block can make people feel 7 years younger
- Trees help combat obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, anxiety and addiction.

# Trees Create a More Valuable Community

- Trees create a lasting impression on how community is perceived by visitors and enhance economic vitality by attracting businesses and tourists.
- Trees increase property values – on individual properties by 6-11%; if entire street tree-lined, 25%
- In a coastal environment like ours, trees are an indispensable part of our uniqueness, the value of which is immeasurable.
- Davey Tree Inventory (Dec. 2010) estimated total value of City's public trees at \$2,067,313





“Economic development in the  
absence of environmental  
integrity is not sustainable”

Janette Monear  
Urban Forestry Pioneer



Win – Win – Win – Win

✓ Trees appreciate  
in value over time

✓ Trees reduce cost of other  
infrastructure

✓ Trees add to economic vitality  
of the City

✓ Trees increase tourism

# GO FROM . . .

GRAY Infrastructure

TO

GREEN Infrastructure

