



TREE INVENTORY INTERIM REPORT

In late 2018, Holland Township was awarded a grant from NJ DEP Department of Parks and Forestry to conduct an inventory of trees in the township roads rights-of-way. Shortly thereafter, requests for proposals were sent out to four consultants, three of whom responded. The Forestry subcommittee for the town's Environmental Commission (hereafter, the subcommittee) then evaluated the proposals using the following criteria: years and specificity of experience, level of certification, prior experience in Holland Township, proposed level of coverage (miles of road, number of trees, hours of effort, etc.), specificity of plan for using volunteer effort, detail of proposed report format, detail on precise data that would be collected and number of qualified personnel available for the project in the company (depth). Farr Forestry was chosen as the consultant and all agreed that it was too late in the season to effectively collect data and that we would begin field work in the spring of 2019 after leaf-out began.

Before field work began, the subcommittee met and identified all town roads, their respective rights-of-way (which varied widely), divided the town into four quadrants and did drive-bys of all roads to give them a priority rating of one (high), two or three (low). We also solicited feedback from the town DPW on our prioritization, allowing us to split the priority one roads into two categories – one that both DPW and the subcommittee placed at a high priority and the other that was only prioritized by the subcommittee.

Field work began in mid-May of 2019 and was concluded for the season in early November. At the conclusion of our first season of field work, 2841 trees were inventoried along about 25 miles of town roads, including all the roads that had been prioritized by both the DPW and the subcommittee. Information collected included tree species (on rare occasions just to the genus level), tree DBH, 3-tier crown health, a 5-tier risk rating, 3-tier maintenance recommendation, data regarding utility conflicts and location of each tree. Of interest was the fact that over 18% of the trees inventoried were White Ash and nearly 2/3 of all trees counted were represented by only 10 species.

Our consultant logged about 150 hours (3/4 of the proposed total), volunteers put in over 152 hours and township employees more than 100 hours; close to the total amount required by the grant.

Our plan for May of 2020 is to begin with the remaining priority one roads and move to priority two roads as time and money allow.

