

Join New Cumberland's "TreeTeam"

New Cumberland, along with many other small towns, has experienced a loss of trees due to a variety of causes, including age, disease, neglect, and wind damage. Concerned that we are losing trees faster than we are replacing them, a group is starting a "TreeTeam" in New Cumberland. The mission of the "TreeTeam" will be to enhance New Cumberland's vitality and charm by restoring and protecting our trees through community maintenance, planting, education and advocacy. The "TreeTeam", although in its early stage, is in the process of pursuing a grant with the New Cumberland Olde Towne Development Committee and the Borough of New Cumberland to plant 20 trees between the Spring of 2011 and the Fall of 2011.

Other projects the "TreeTeam" is considering:

- Creating a website with relevant information;
- Starting a Nature Walk in Borough Park with tree types identified;
- Inventorying the trees in New Cumberland;
- Researching tree programs in other boroughs; and
- Identifying trees that are suitable for different spots in New Cumberland.

Goals of the "TreeTeam":

- Plant and maintain appropriate trees in New Cumberland;
- Be a resource for property owners who wish to plant and maintain trees;
- Provide education and awareness about the benefits and care of trees; and
- Raise funds to achieve these goals.

What will members of the "TreeTeam" do?

- Provide moral, financial and/or volunteer support;
- Come up with ideas for accomplishing goals;
- Provide expertise or training in tree planting and maintenance;
- Enlist new members interested in the "TreeTeam" (friends, neighbors);
- Volunteer labor by planting, pruning or watering trees; and/or
- Volunteer time by inventorying trees, raising funds, writing grants, developing the website or planning events.

Who may be part of the "TreeTeam"?

- Residents of New Cumberland and surrounding areas;
- Civic or community organizations;
- Youth groups, scouts, elementary, secondary, high school students/classes;
- Businesses; or
- All persons and/or organizations interested in restoring and protecting trees in New Cumberland.

For more information or to join:

- Contact Georgia Earp at 774-2128 or gmearp@verizon.net

A CASE FOR TREES!!

Enhanced Community Life

- Trees create natural places for children to play.
- The shade from trees means cooler walks in the neighborhood.
- Trees offer cool places to talk with neighbors.
- Sitting under a tree is a great place to relax, read or watch the day go by.
- Trees support wildlife by offering food and shelter for birds.
- Trees improve and soften the landscape and add beauty throughout the community.
- Trees help to alleviate the effects of the heat by providing shade over homes, streets, parking lots and parks.
- In addition to providing shade, trees emit water vapor that cools hot air.
- Trees lower stress by buffering traffic noise and cooling hot temperatures.

Increased Economic Growth

- Trees help to lower energy bills by providing shade in the summer and blocking cold wind in the winter.
- Trees increase property value.
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism.
- Commercial retail areas with trees are more attractive to shoppers.
- Apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer and space in a wooded area is more valuable to rent or sell.

Cleaner Air

- Tree leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- Leaves absorb carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air such as carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.
- In exchange, trees give off vital oxygen.

Cleaner Water and Less Polluted Runoff

- Trees reduce flooding and erosion.
- Trees greatly allow rain to seep naturally into the ground.
- It has been estimated that for every 5% of tree cover added to a community, storm water is reduced by approximately 2%.
- Local trees protect our rivers and creeks.
- Trees with mature canopies can absorb the first half-inch of rainfall, reducing the impact of CSOs (combined sewer overflows) on our waterways.