

A Case for Trees!!

Trees keep us cool in the summer. Trees provide relief from the heat by shading our homes, sidewalks, streets, parking lots and parks. In addition to providing shade, trees emit water vapor that cools hot air. Properly planted trees can cut your air conditioning costs by 15-35%.

Trees conserve energy in the winter. Trees can slow cold winter winds and cut your heating costs by 10-20%.

Trees improve our quality of life. Trees create natural places for children to play. Shade trees cool summer walks. Trees lower stress by buffering traffic noise and cooling hot temperatures.

Trees make our homes and neighborhoods more beautiful. Trees mark the changing seasons, soften the landscape, and add grace and seasonal color.

Trees attract songbirds. Trees provide nesting sites, food and cover for countless species of birds.

Trees help clear the 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.

Trees help clean our rivers and streams. Trees with mature canopies can absorb the first half-inch of rainfall, reducing polluted runoff in our waterways.

Trees reduce flooding and erosion. Trees hold soil in place and 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%.

Trees can increase home values by up to 15% or more. Studies of comparable houses with and without trees place a markedly higher value on those whose yards are sheltered by trees.

Trees can enhance economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas with trees are more attractive to shoppers. Apartments bordered by trees rent more quickly and tenants stay longer. Space in a wooded area is more valuable to rent or sell.

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, we have started a TreeTeam in New Cumberland. The mission of the TreeTeam is to enhance New Cumberland's vitality and charm by restoring and protecting our trees through community maintenance, planting, education and advocacy. The TreeTeam is pursuing a grant with the Borough of New Cumberland to plant 20 trees in Borough parks between the Spring of 2011 and the Fall of 2011. Highland Gardens has offered to identify trees that are suitable for different locations and discount trees sold to TreeTeam members.

Other projects the TreeTeam is considering:

- Creating a Nature Walk in Borough Park.
- Investigating the development of an arboretum at Hillside Elementary School.
- Updating an inventory of street trees in New Cumberland.
- Researching tree programs in other boroughs.
- Creating a Facebook page and a website with relevant information.

Goals of the TreeTeam:

- Promote the growth and care of 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 does joining the TreeTeam mean?

- Supporting the goals of the Team.
- Providing moral, financial and/or volunteer support.
- Spreading the word about the TreeTeam to friends and neighbors.

What kind of help do we need?

- Ideas for accomplishing goals.
- Expertise in tree planting and maintenance.
- Planting, pruning or watering trees.
- Fund raising.
- Grant writing.
- Website development.
- Event planning.
- Project coordination.
- Outreach to other organizations.

For more information or to join:

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