

# THE CITY OF SUMMIT

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CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

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## News Release

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**For immediate release**

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### **Shade Tree Advisory Committee Looks Back at 2020 and Plans for 2021**

SUMMIT, N.J., February 19, 2021 – The City of Summit Shade Tree Advisory Committee is sharing information on projects completed in 2020 and goals for new projects in 2021. The committee is appointed by Common Council and provides input on the City of Summit Tree Management Program. Members are charged with creating an inventory of, and making recommendations for, the preservation of significant historic and landmark trees in Summit.

#### 2020 Projects

##### **Hello Neighbor program**

In support of a city initiative to plant 1,000 trees in Summit between the years of 2020 and 2023, the Committee created and executed the “Hello Neighbor” tree tagging program during the spring and fall. Resident volunteers and committee members tagged 250 of the 400+ newly planted trees with cards labeled with the tree species, and hung tags with tree care instructions on the doors of homes with newly planted trees.

##### **Roots for Rivers Reforestation**

With assistance from Union County, Shade Tree Advisory Committee Chair John Kilby and retired Environmental Commission member Dr. Marian Glenn enlisted the help of city staff and volunteers to plant 203 trees and shrubs in floodplains. Funding was provided by The Nature Conservancy and Sustainable Jersey. Plantings were made at the Transfer Station along the driveway and around the Summit Free Market building, and near the Passaic River trail off of Chatham Road. The statewide Roots for Rivers Reforestation program aims to restore watershed areas in New Jersey by planting native trees and shrubs in degraded floodplain areas.

##### **Reeves-Reed Arboretum programs**

The Shade Tree Advisory Committee participated in two events at Reeves-Reed Arboretum. At the Maple Sugaring Fest in January, the committee answered questions about Summit trees and distributed literature about the Ash Borer beetle, an invasive species that causes severe damage to ash trees in North America. The committee also participated in the Festival of Trees in December, a holiday celebration where local organizations, businesses, and families decorated trees placed around the arboretum grounds.

##### **Outreach to residents**

The committee updated the notification letter to residents about tree removal and replacement processes in Summit. In addition, the committee created a tree species fact sheet that is available on the city [website](#).

#### 2021 Goals

In 2021, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee will continue to promote the importance of trees to residents through annual programs and community partnerships, such as:

- Hello Neighbor Tree Tagging program;
- Tree Sucker Pruning program;
- partnership with Reeves-Reed Arboretum;

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- updating inventory of Landmark Trees in Summit; and
- Arbor Day programming.

Continued support for 2021 tree-friendly programming at Reeves-Reed Arboretum will include the Maple Sugaring Fest and Festival of Trees, as well as the Fall in Love with Trees educational program, scheduled for Fall 2021.

The Shade Tree Advisory Committee offers flexible volunteer opportunities for interested citizens. Volunteers can assist with the Hello Neighbor Tree Tagging and Tree Sucker Pruning programs, and help inventory landmark trees in Summit. Citizens can email John Kilby at [johnwkilby@gmail.com](mailto:johnwkilby@gmail.com) to learn more or to sign up to be a volunteer.

More information on the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is available on the city [website](#).

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