



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

# MEMO

To: Parks, Tree and Greenway Committee  
From: Hillary Pace, Environmental Planner  
CC: Shelley DeHart, Planning Director  
Joe Fivas, Town Manager  
Date: October 3, 2011  
Re: FY 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Parks, Tree and Greenway Committee

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The Parks, Tree and Greenway Committee has had an active year engaging the community about tree education and park and greenway development. Additionally, the committee has been active in developing new policies for projects such as a community garden program.

Since the inception of the Parks, Tree and Greenway Committee in November of 2006, the committee has been instrumental in putting together many of the important policies, ordinances, and plans in place today at the Town. Below is a list of some of the larger accomplishments of this committee this past fiscal year 2010-2011.

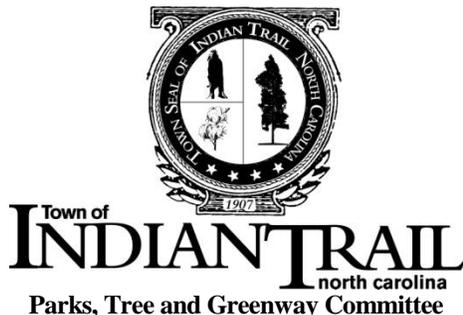
## 1. **Tree Ordinance**

- a. Ordinance Review- The committee reviewed the Tree Ordinance in sections throughout the past year as a form of training for existing and new committee members.
- b. Alternative Planting Plans- Pursuant to section 880.010, the Committee reviewed and provided recommendation to the Planning Director regarding alternative planting plans for developments within the Town.

2. **Earth Day/Arbor Day-** Assisted in the planning efforts for all of the Town's Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations (2 months annually, plus volunteer time).
3. **Tree City USA Award-** The committee has been active in maintaining the Town's Tree City USA and annual Growth Awards. One of the criteria for this yearly award is to have an active Tree Board, participating in tree planting events, tree ordinance development and other outreach and education.
  - a. Tree Care Class at Union West Regional Library- The Committee hosted a "Trees as an Ecosystem" class in July of 2010 for local youths, educating them about the importance of trees as it relates to their ecological functions and benefits.
  - b. Tree Planting Events
    - i. Crossing Paths Park- The Committee volunteered at the "Community Planting Day" along with BB&T.
    - ii. Sun Valley Elementary School- The Committee planted two red maples for the purpose of shade trees at the school's playground site.
4. **Community Garden-** The Committee is continuing to develop a community garden policy and program for the Town. Development of this program has involved visiting speakers from NC Cooperative Extension and site visits to local community gardens.
5. **Outreach and Education-** The Committee is charged with continual outreach and education about the benefits of trees within the community. The Committee actively searches out opportunities for education and partnerships with public and private agencies.

## **Draft Work Program**

The committee was created with four specific duties, which are outlined in the committee's adopted bylaws. When working on the draft work program, the committee used the four duties as a starting point. They also incorporated the requirements from the adopted plans and from the Tree City USA Certification. Please review the draft work program (see attachment). The committee is asking the Council to review the proposed work program and to approve and/or modify as the Council desires.



**Proposed Work Program FY2011-2012:**

**FOUR (4) DUTIES OF THE PARKS, TREE, AND GREENWAY COMMITTEE**

- 1. Make recommendations on Park, Tree and Greenway Related Matters**
  - a. Training on Tree Ordinance (throughout the year) \*\*\*
  - b. Continue looking for park land (throughout the year)
  - c. Community Garden Program (3 months)
    - i. Complete development of community garden program.
    - ii. Identify feasible locations for community gardens within Town.
  
- 2. Assist in the Development of Ordinances, Policies, and Plans related to Parks, Tree and Greenway Matters**
  - a. Urban Forestry Management Plan (3-4 months)
    - i. Develop a long-range, community-wide management master plan for Indian Trail's Urban Forest.
  - b. Carolina Thread Trail- Designee will update committee on the progress of the plan (throughout the year) \*\*\*
  - c. Meet with a series of speakers (throughout the year)
    - i. The committee can bring in people to speak on park, tree and greenway related matters. Examples include guest speaker sessions with Union Power concerning tree plantings around power lines.
  
- 3. Assist in Community Outreach and public education related to Parks, Trees and Greenways**
  - a. Participate in tours of existing parks and greenways in surrounding municipalities.
  - b. Develop partnerships to explore tree planting opportunities, and hold tree planting and care classes (throughout the year) \*\*\*
    - i. Tree Planting Program- Work with David Grant, Union County Urban Forester, to develop a tree planting program to extend into Indian Trail neighborhoods.

- ii. Work with other public and civic groups in the Town on possible partnerships. Examples include the continuing partnership with Union County Library's "Trees as and Ecosystem Class".

**4. Assist in the Planning of Community Events Related to Parks, Trees, and Greenways.**

- a. Plan and participate in the Earth Day and Arbor Day Event (3 months) \*\*\*
- b. Create a Heritage Tree Program.
  - i. The Committee will work to create a Heritage Tree Program that identifies Indian Trail's largest and most historic trees. The Committee will conduct interpretative tours of the trees, focusing on the wide range of benefits provided by these trees.
  - ii. Develop a local award program, recognizing businesses, residents and neighborhoods for their heritage trees. Publicity for such recognition may extend into Town newsletters and Council presentations.
  - iii. Develop a component of the program that engages the local youth to champion the benefits of Heritage Trees.
- c. Volunteer at various events celebrating parks, tree and greenways.

\*\*\* Task is required for the committee