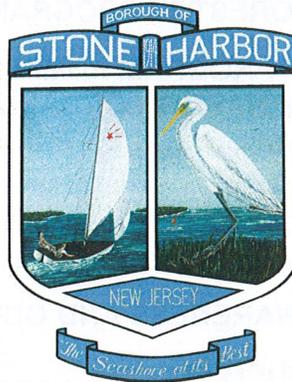




COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR
CAPE MAY COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

2016-2020



PREPARED FOR: THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR
9508 2nd Avenue
STONE HARBOR, NJ 08247

PREPARED BY: THE LOMAX CONSULTING GROUP, LLC
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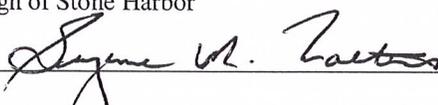
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Community Forestry Management Plan

1. Municipal/County Information Form (*Attachment A*)

Municipality: Borough of Stone Harbor
County: Cape May County
Address: 9508 Second Ave, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
Contact Name and Title: Jill Gougher, Borough Administrator
Phone #: (609) 368-6800
Email: gougherj@shnj.org
Organization Name: Borough of Stone Harbor
Mayor's Signature: 
Date of Management Plan Submission: September 9, 2016
Time Period Covered In Management Plan: 2016 - 2020

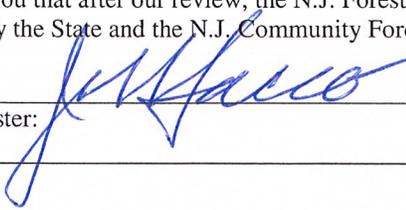
Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Practices Identified in Management Plan

- CSIP #1 Training
- CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
- CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness
- CSIP #4 Arbor Day
- CSIP #5 Tree Inventory
- CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment
- CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment
- CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
- CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management
- CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection
- CSIP #11 Tree Planting
- CSIP #12 Tree Recycling
- CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- CSIP #14 Storm Water Management
- CSIP #15 Other

Official Use Only Certification

The above named municipality has made formal application to the New Jersey Forest Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the N.J. Forest Service has concluded that this plan meets the standards set forth by the State and the N.J. Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed:

State Forester: 

Approved Date: 12 Jan 17

2. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

This Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP or Plan) for the Borough of Stone Harbor was prepared to establish programs that recognize the unique nature of its tree resources and to plan future programs that will continue to protect and enhance these resources. The Borough's previous CFMP was prepared in September 2011 and covered a time period between 2011-2015. This CFMP will expand on the Goals and Objectives of the previous CFMP to continue Stone Harbor's commitment to managing their tree resources in a positive manner.

The Borough established goals and objectives compatible with its forestry planning process vision to provide forest and tree streetscapes for the benefit of its residents and visitors in addition to the wildlife that rely on tree resources. The Plan presented herein recognizes the accomplishments of the Borough and its partners in furthering community forestry endeavors, including the Borough's "Tree City USA" status. The Natural Resource Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Public Works Department will serve to implement the CFMP.

The Plan recognizes that the Borough, which is located on a barrier island and is a seashore resort community, experiences a unique set of opportunities and challenges. As a generally built-out, urbanized community, the Borough of Stone Harbor contains limited tree resources that are concentrated in areas that include Stone Harbor Point Park, Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary, and in the center medians of Second Avenue. The Borough leadership and administration, supported and advised by the Natural Resources Committee and Shade Tree Committee, are committed to the maintenance and enhancement of its natural resources, as well as maintained streetscapes.

The principal challenge faced by the Borough revolves around the resort nature of the community, with a relatively small year-round population, but large summer population. Trees are an asset that requires year-round care, an effort that, at times, exceeds the resources of this small community. Further, the overall environment of the Borough ranges from moderate to severe at times. The droughty, sandy soil of the coastal plain has low water and nutrient holding capacity. The geography of the Borough, including proximity to both the Atlantic Ocean, Great Channel and Hereford Inlet, exposes the tree resources to harsh growing conditions. Prolonged exposure of flooding during coastal storms and frequent salt spray

common to barrier island communities create stressors on the community forest resources. Further, the damaging winds associated with these storms present unique sets of management protocols. These challenges require a carefully studied approach to the management of the Borough's tree resources.

Notwithstanding these concerns, the Borough expresses, through this Plan, its intention to protect and enhance the tree resources, including streetscapes, while at the same time engaging in efforts to avoid accidents caused by these resources, thereby obtaining liability protection for damage and/or injury caused by trees.

B. Mission Statement

The mission of the Borough's CFMP is to protect, enhance and sustain productive community shade tree and forest resources that will improve the quality of life for the residents, visitors and wildlife that inhabit and/or visit this unique resort community.

The approach to fulfill this mission entails engaging the community through education and outreach programs while concurrently enlisting support and guidance from the Mayor and Borough Council, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, Garden Club and their community forestry and landscape consultants. This community effort will ensure that the overarching values expressed by the community include appropriate management and improvement of the open space, active recreational areas, and the streetscapes of the residential and commercial districts. While enhancing the tree resources, the Borough is committed to promoting the safety and welfare of its citizens by inventorying the extent and condition of its trees and by maintaining them, while still recognizing the limits of its resources.

C. Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1

Review and adopt the CFMP

Objectives:

- A. Review the Borough's organizational structure for management of tree/forest resources.
- B. Prepare the draft CFMP with input from the Borough's Administration, Natural Resources Committee, Planning Board, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club.
- C. Present the CFMP to the Borough, its reviewing organizations/agencies and the public

for adoption.

- D. Review and revise the CFMP to facilitate appropriate portions of the Borough Ordinances consistent with the adopted CFMP.
- E. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
- F. Review and adopt a Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP) as a component of the CFMP. Train appropriate personnel in implementation of the DVMP.
- G. Implement the Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP), initially through a Pilot Project.
- H. Revise the Borough Ordinances to incorporate the provision of the Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP).

GOAL 2

Inventory and Assessment of the Community Forest Resources within the Borough

Objectives:

- A. Establish a base map of the Borough for inventorying existing trees and tracking landscape/streetscape improvements on public property.
- B. Conduct a preliminary inventory of the naturally occurring forest areas and active recreational park and streetscape tree resources on public property within the Borough.
- C. Prepare an inventory of trees on public property, including along Borough rights-of-way, which may be hazardous and/or storm-distressed and prepare a list of priority trees requiring maintenance by the Public Works Department.
- D. Inventory of invasive trees threatening the integrity of the dune system within the Borough.

GOAL 3

Develop a Plan for Tree Resource Enhancement within the Borough

Objectives:

- A. Develop lists of tree species and other vegetation suitable for planting in the Borough's streetscapes, including planting strips, in order to minimize water requirements and minimize insect and disease damage, while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife and enhancing the aesthetics of the Borough, including view sheds.
- B. Develop standards and procedures for streetscape tree planting and maintenance, especially in planting strips

- C. Establish and train Borough staff regarding an annual pruning program that enhances and strengthens trees while reducing the frequency of emergency situations associated with coastal storm damage and utility failures.
- D. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
- E. Replace hazard tree removals, where feasible, by planting trees in suitable locations.
- F. Prepare and adopt a tree protection ordinance, a dune vegetation protection ordinance and a landscaping standards ordinance, including planting strips.
- G. Establish guidelines for new plantings within the Borough.

GOAL 4

Develop Outreach Initiatives that Encourage Public Awareness and Support of Community Forestry Programs.

Objectives:

- A. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.
- B. Identify Borough resources available for the dissemination of information to the public.
- C. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.
- D. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
- E. Working with appropriate Borough departments and professionals to incorporate elements of this Plan into Borough of Stone Harbor's Master Plan.
- F. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
- G. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to

identify trees and talk about their attributes.

- H. Publish a quarterly e-newsletter that will encourage residents to read about trees and tree care, inform them of educational workshops, and provide information about other places to go for further education.
- I. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
- J. Develop and post on the Borough website a recommended list of plants that are suitable for planting on public land, private property, and in streetscapes.

GOAL 5

Develop a Plan for Sustaining Forestry Resources in the Borough

Objectives:

- A. Develop a process with the Mayor and the Council for allocation of Borough resources to obtain funding from within the Borough, as well as from other sources, to implement the CFMP.
- B. Develop a plan to train Borough staff/personnel regarding the importance of maintaining and caring for tree resources and responding to inquiries or reports from the public concerning tree-related issues.
- C. Coordinate with the Borough Planning Board to incorporate elements of the CFMP into the next master plan re-examination.
- D. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.

GOAL 6

Provide Educational Opportunities in Support of the CFMP.

Objectives:

- A. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
- B. Develop information guiding the use of suitable trees and shrubs to be used in the community to minimize water requirements and to minimize insect and disease damage while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife.
- C. Provide an educational program to professional landscapers concerning Borough Ordinances in addition to the selection and care of native trees and other vegetation meeting landscaping needs while at the same time conserving water and minimizing disease and insect damage.

- D. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.
- E. Develop interpretive (educational) trails using the existing access paths to the beach and dune system/parks. Establish stations on the paths that correspond to an educational brochure.

GOAL 7

Develop a natural tree destruction response plan addressing tree damage

Objectives:

- A. Identify risks to the community trees and the associated potential for damage resulting from tree failure on Borough property.
- B. Develop a plan, in consultation with Borough emergency management personnel, to plan for/respond to tree damage episodes. This plan will include the required Borough personnel and equipment, public safety protocols, preemptive pruning for storm events, and outline the clean-up and disposal of tree debris. Public Works Department personnel and/or specialized group of volunteers will be trained to treat tree damage episodes safely.

D. Liability Statement

Although street and public open space trees are an asset to the community, it is inevitable that they mature and require care, maintenance and eventually replacement. Care and maintenance, in addition to planting "the right tree in the right place," can help insure that community trees not only contribute to the aesthetic, environmental and economic vitality of the area, but also reduce the potential hazards to public safety. The community must work within a reasonable budget that may not be able to meet each and every need of our community forest immediately. Therefore, it is the intent of this Plan to focus available resources to the greatest need and work step-by-step towards healthy trees in streetscapes and public open spaces with commensurate reduced risk to public safety.

The Borough intends that by taking logical steps outlined in the CFMP, in concert with the provisions and recommendations of the Dune Vegetation Management Plan, it will garner public support for Plan implementation and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the environment and public safety.

The Borough also wants to become more pro-active in the management and care of its trees through this CFMP, as well as its public lands through a companion document, the Dune Vegetation Management Plan. Through inventory and hazard assessment, the Borough will position the Shade Tree Committee to coordinate with the Public Works Department to take corrective action prior to structural tree failure and other hazardous tree-related conditions. It is acknowledged that not all hazardous conditions can be predicted. Good maintenance and care will reduce the probability, but unexpected events may still occur.

Following this Plan and its supporting natural resource management guidelines will demonstrate that the Borough is devoting reasonable levels of resources in a planned manner to mitigate the number of tree-related incidents/accidents, thereby reducing its exposure to liabilities and increasing public safety.

3. Community Overview - Past, Present and Future...

A. Introduction

The Borough initiated the development of this Plan, as well as the previous CFMP, as part of community-wide planning initiatives to address streetscape and gateway design, address public safety and concerns, inform landscaping standards and engage in proactive stewardship of its natural resources. The Borough is committed to its long-standing history of planting and maintaining street trees, and doing so in a manner that account for the growing conditions and surrounding environment. The Borough has examined its streetscapes and public lands natural areas and has recognized the need for maintenance, care and management of these resources. This Plan is prepared to address the mission and goals for tree resource management and to define objectives and an organizational structure to support this effort in anticipation of future coastal storm impacts. The Borough continues its interest in tree resources by planting trees and shrubs around new public buildings and by supporting the forestry/landscaping efforts of community partners. Likewise, the Borough's Dune Vegetation Management Plan provides clear, goals and objectives, as well as implementations standards and recommendations, for the stewardship of vegetation resources beyond just trees.

B. Environmental Context

The Borough of Stone Harbor is located in the outer coastal plain region along the southern extent of Seven Mile Island and along Cape May County's Atlantic Ocean coastline. It is bordered to the north by the Borough of Avalon, the estuarine tidal waterway of Great Channel to the west and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Located to the south is Hereford Inlet with North Wildwood located on the far side. The municipality encompasses approximately 1.6 square miles, as illustrated in **FIGURE 1 (APPENDIX A)**.

In order to place this CFMP in a meaningful context, it is noteworthy that the Atlantic Ocean coastline (eastern portion of the Borough) and the back bays (western portion of the Borough) are separated by just over a ½-mile wide land mass, which results in very limited opportunities for natural forested areas. These maritime features strongly influence the region, including climatic conditions, as well as the tidal nature of these waterbodies and their relative salinities influence the growing conditions of the surrounding lands. Soils in this region are comprised of sands, low in nutrient values, higher in salt concentrations and excessively drained. Accordingly, the associated low fertility and high water table limits the scope and scale of forest

resources that can survive in this dynamic coastal zone. The majority of tree/forest resources are located within Stone Harbor Point, Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary, streetscapes or rights-of-way, small parks throughout the Borough, and along the margins of the back bay coastal marshes and beachfront dune systems.

Some of the major considerations for choosing trees in the coastal environment of Stone Harbor is resistance to salt spray, droughty soils, and harsh winter winds. Species selection is restricted by these factors if the trees are expected to survive. A list of plants that are tolerant to these conditions was developed for the Borough and included in the Dune Vegetation Management Plan.

The Land Cover Map of the Borough illustrates the distribution of urban (developed) areas and open space/natural areas (**FIGURE 2 – APPENDIX A**). The majority of the land area is classified as urban land cover with natural areas at the southern end of the Borough. The limited forest resources within the Borough are contained within four types of ecological communities (underlined below). These areas represent portions of the Borough suitable for application of the CFMP. The Natural Open Space Areas (located in the southern end of the Borough), Coastal Marsh Margins (western limits of the Borough), the Dune Complex (southern and eastern limits of the Borough), and the Streetscapes and Community Parks (within the core of the Borough) provide the greatest opportunities for tree management and enhancement. These areas will require routine tree inspection and maintenance. Opportunities exist along the Borough's public properties for programmatic tree enhancement; however, these areas are also limited due to existing development patterns. Additional considerations account for vegetation management adjacent to privately owned lands in order to minimize damaging and/or invasive species, as well as insect and disease damage, while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife and enhancing the aesthetics of the Borough, including view sheds.

C. History

Early inhabitants of the Seven Mile Beach island, of which Stone Harbor makes up the southern extent, were likely Lenni Lenape Native Americans. Aaron Learning purchased Seven Mile Beach in December of 1772 and used the land for timber and livestock grazing. In the early 1800s, the Tatham family purchased the land and constructed beach houses that were used by excursionists visiting the island. The Seven Mile Beach Company purchased the land in 1887 and established the settlements of Avalon on the north end of the island and Stone Harbor on the south end. Stone Harbor was named after an English sea captain named Captain Stone,

who sought refuge behind the island during a severe storm. The first buildings were finally constructed in 1891 in Stone Harbor. By 1907 Stone Harbor ownership changed again, with Howard Reese and David Risely as owners in title. Their company, South Jersey Realty Company, proceeded to prepare Stone Harbor for development by leveling sand dunes, filling marshes, dredging waterways, paving streets, constructing shore protection structures, installing a sewage system, and constructing wells on the island. The only way to reach the island at this time was by railroad until the first roadway to the island was opened in 1911 at 96th Street. By 1914 Stone Harbor was of sufficient size with development and infrastructure to be recognized as a Borough.

Presently, Stone Harbor is a resort town with the beach serving as the primary resource of interest to the community; however, natural open space areas found in the Borough are also a valuable resource. The two major natural open space areas are the Stone Harbor Point and the Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary which are both located in the Borough's Public Use zoning district. It is a goal of Stone Harbor's Master plan to promote "eco-tourism themes and programs that link the Bird Sanctuary and the Point to the Downtown area".

The Master Plan describes the Point as being classified as a "NJ Waterfowl Focus Area by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture due to the significance of the area for the breeding, migration and over-wintering of waterfowl". The Point also provides habitat for diamond back terrapins, sea turtles, and butterflies during their migration. Substantial tree resources located in the Point are critical to the value of this habitat.

The Bird Sanctuary was found in 1947 and registered as a National Landmark by the National Park Service in 1965. The Bird Sanctuary is 21 acres of natural open space that has been managed for migrating bird species. Prior to 2003, the park was not maintained and was overgrown with non-native and invasive species of plants. An effort was made by the Borough starting in 2003 to return the sanctuary to its natural conditions by removing non-native and invasive vegetation which resulted in birds starting to return to the park in greater numbers shortly after management activities began. Other recent improvements to the sanctuary include recovery of a fresh water pond, removal of invasive plants, garden themes, and bird viewing areas.

In addition to beachfront economic redevelopment, the Borough has focused on revitalization of the downtown core for shopping and entertainment. Included with these beautification and

economic improvement are event spaces, landscaped features and parks. The community has prioritized quality of life considerations for residents and visitors alike, enhanced by public amenities and a renewed focus on community trees, streetscapes and management of public lands.

D. Culture

The culture of the community revolves largely around its seashore amenities, namely the beachfront and bayside areas, but also includes natural open space areas and traditional festivities in the downtown core. The majority of properties are utilized for seasonal vacation homes; consequently, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the population increases dramatically. During the summer tourist season the population changes from 866 year-round residents to over 20,000 residents and visitors. As of the census of 2010, there were 866 people, 441 households and 255.8 families residing in the Borough. Further, Stone Harbor has a broad base of community involvement rooted in civic, service and beautification efforts and an extensive calendar of events. Community partners and civic groups coordinate with the Borough on programming, events and special projects/

E. Community Values

Public policy and its associated planning documents reflect the values of this community. Accordingly, the Borough's Master Plan, dated June 22, 2009, emphasizes the protection and continued management of natural open space areas such as the Stone Harbor Point and Bird Sanctuary, preventing the removal of mature trees without replacement in both the residential and business districts, the emphasis of street trees in the business district, and the creation of a Natural Resource Monitoring Program. The Borough Understand that's trees are beneficial to both the residential and business districts since they "temper the conditions of both the sun and winds; provide necessary shade for the summer months; counterbalance the hard edges of building and other hardscape features; and they add color and texture to any location".

Tree resources of the Borough were preliminarily inventoried during the winter of 2015 for purposes of identifying the preliminary distribution of street trees and natural areas on the newly established Forestry Base Maps for the municipality (**APPENDIX B**). Commonly occurring trees planted in the streetscapes and parks of the community include Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) and Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*). Dominant tree species within the naturalized landscapes of the community

include American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergiana*) is an invasive species that are ubiquitous throughout the Borough, both in natural and planted landscapes.

While the existing Borough planning documents provide objectives for natural resource protection, management, and monitoring, this CFMP will bring a pointed focus to the tree resources of the Borough. Subsequent to the approval of this Plan, it is anticipated that Plan will be integrated into relevant sections of Borough Ordinances as they are created, modified and updated in the future.

F. Community Forestry Program Progress Summary

The Borough's initial Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) was well-received and actively implemented by the community, which has already helped to improve the management of forest resources in the Borough of Stone Harbor. CFMP implementation was a cooperative effort between the Shade Tree Committee, Natural Resources Committee, Public Works Department, mayor and council, as well as the Wetlands Institute. The initial CFMP benefited the Borough by increasing tree resources in the community, improving public safety considerations with respect to hazard tree awareness, improving the quality of trees planted in the Borough, establishing guidelines for management of vegetation on public and private lands, and maintaining the Borough's "Tree City USA" status. This progress will be continued and expanded through this subsequent 5-year CFMP.

As evidenced by the previously submitted Annual Accomplishment Reports prepared by the Borough, goals/objectives achieved during the previous 5-year plan included educating the public about forest resources in the Borough and appropriate tree species for planting, training public works employees in tree maintenance, planting new trees, preparing plans for the management of vegetation in the Borough's parks and dunes, and the celebration of tree with an annual Arbor Day celebration. Specific activities for public education conducted during this period included guided tours of the Bird Sanctuary and the creation of a pamphlet for distribution to the community concerning species selections, planting techniques and maintenance. Training of Public Works employees was conducted, including CORE training and advanced sessions, for which CEUs were obtained, on tree maintenance to reduce potential tree hazards, pruning, and proper planting. The Borough also held Annual Arbor Day Celebrations throughout the 5-year period to disseminate information and heighten educational awareness on the value

of trees in the community. Tree plantings were conducted each year in the Borough, especially at the Stone Harbor Elementary School, the Second Avenue islands, and public gardens throughout the Borough. Additionally, the Shade Tree committee inventoried and photographed every tree on the 42 traffic islands on Second Avenue to establish base data for monitoring tree health.

Challenges that emerged during the initial plan included potential for conflicts between trees and utilities, large trees planted where there is inadequate area to grow, and the need for a comprehensive Community Education Program. No specific problems were encountered during program implementation for the Goals/Objectives of the initial CFMP; however, opportunities to engage the community in community forestry management were identified. Accordingly, the scope of activities was expanded by the Borough through consultation with the Natural Resources Committee in order to establish more proactive management of natural resources, including trees within the natural areas.

Resource management plans adopted during the initial CFMP period included the Vegetation Management Plan for the Bird Sanctuary and the Dune Vegetation Management Plan. This subsequent CFMP includes more pertinent information that aligns with these plans and reflects the Borough initiatives to address natural areas maintenance for overall ecological health. Accordingly, the Borough's dune ordinance was updated to account for the guidelines established in the plans. Overall, the initial CFMP has allowed the Borough and its residents to better realize and appreciate the importance of trees and how best to manage them. This subsequent 5-year CFMP will help to expand on the progress already made to preserve and improve the Borough's tree resources.

4. Community Forestry Program Administration

Two principal groups within the Borough are committed to overseeing the management of the municipal tree resources, as illustrated in the Organizational Chart. The Shade Tree Committee is responsible for the tree inventory, assessment, planning and education, while the Grounds staff of the Stone Harbor Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance and care of municipal trees. Any maintenance requests beyond the capability or expertise of the Public Works Department are contracted to professional landscapers or certified tree experts on an “as needed” basis. Community outreach for issues pertaining to tree resources, events, activities and Borough initiatives is coordinated through the Borough Administrator.

The membership of the current Stone Harbor Shade Tree Committee includes:

Karen Lane, Council Member

Elaine Heil

Fran Burns

Marilyn Hahle

Sue Conrad

The Grounds staff of the Stone Harbor Public Works Department is fully integrated into community forestry activities with Grant Russ, Director of Public Works, serving as the Primary Point of Contact.

Borough of Stone Harbor

Department of Public Works

8018 3rd Ave

Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

(609) 368-7311

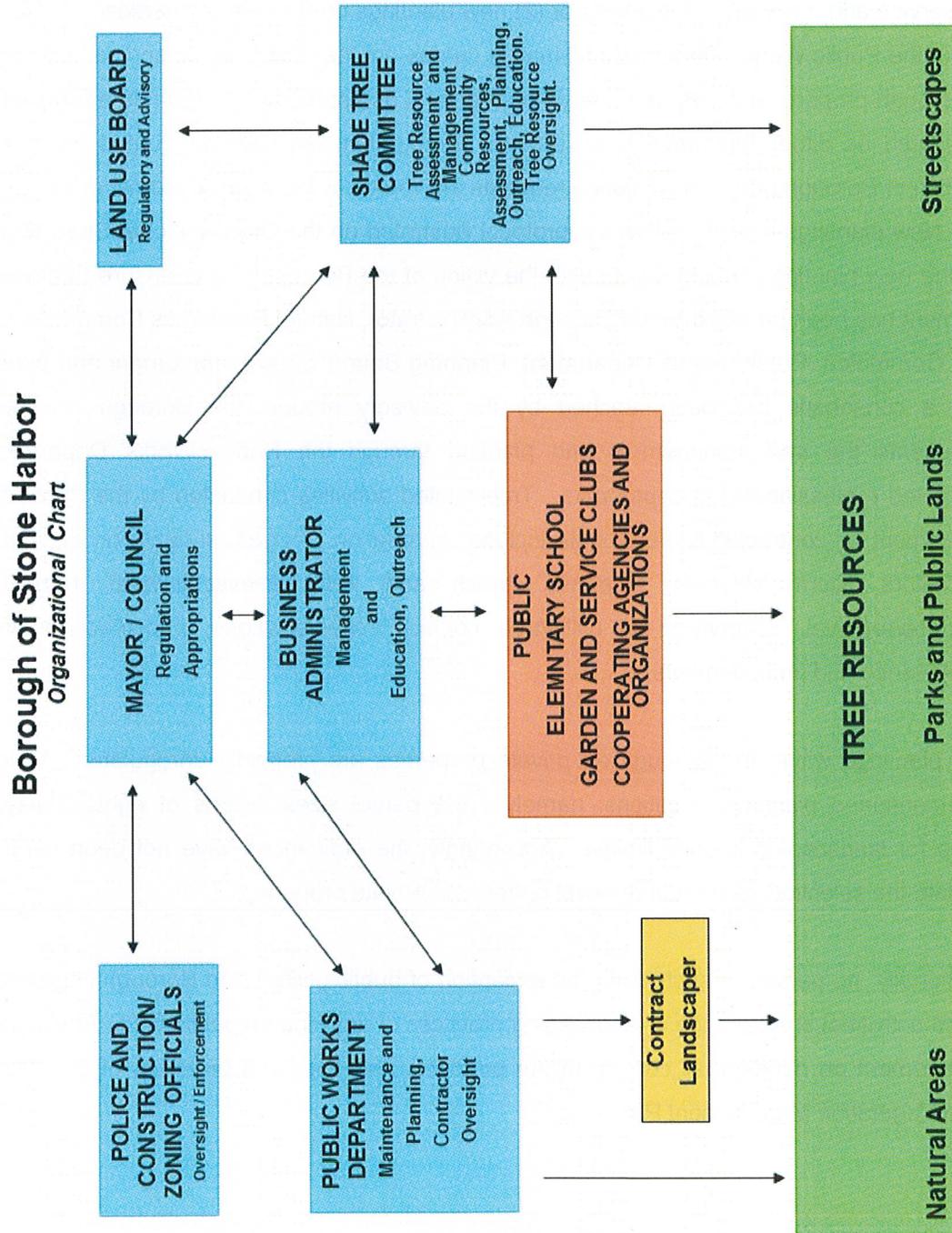
The continuity and flow of the Borough administration and organization is imperative to the success of the community tree resources. The Borough Organizational Chart is presented on the following page. The Mayor and Council receive input from the Borough Administrator, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, Public Works Department, Planning Board, Code Enforcement and the public. This input provides a vision for the future of the community. As part of this planning effort, working relationships are forged with various departments and community groups within the Borough, each performing its individual duties to ensure a healthy,

sustainable population of trees.

Requests for municipal tree services are addressed through one of two processes: (1) Borough tree service and maintenance requests or (2) new plantings on Borough properties. The Grounds staff of the Public Works Department ultimately carries out the maintenance and service requests on Borough property and may use outside contractors, as appropriate. Tree-related requests are designated as either "emergency" or "routine". Emergency requests are routed to immediate dispatch of Borough personnel. Routine requests are routed to the work schedule for the Grounds staff. New plantings typically follow the protocol illustrated on the Organizational Chart to ensure that the new plantings are consistent with the vision of the Borough and to ensure that adequate comment has been provided by the Borough Administrator, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, Public Works Department, Planning Board, Code Enforcement and the public. After a consensus has been reached by the advisory groups, the Borough Administrator implements the tree management and planting through the Public Works Department or contracted professionals, as appropriate. Tree-related activities conducted by the Public Works Department or contracted professionals include: installation of trees, supervision of landscape contractors, storm clean-up response, brush and leaf removal/disposal, hazard tree response/removal, supervision of utility/tree conflict issues/solutions, parks/facilities/grounds maintenance and improvements.

New plantings within the Borough on private properties are presently unregulated. Given the aforementioned planning limitations, namely small parcel sizes, widths of rights-of-way, yard space for landscaping is quite limited. Accordingly, the ordinances have not been set forth to regulate the selection/placement/removal of trees on private property.

Additionally, no person or entity (with the exception of public utilities and Borough contractors for limited activities) shall engage in landscaping practices of any kind on public land. Any vegetation management on dunes shall conform to the protocols and approved practices of the Borough's Dune Vegetation Management Plan.



5. Community Map

The CFMP Base Map, titled, "Borough of Stone Harbor - Forestry Base Map with Preliminary Street Tree Inventory and Naturally Vegetated Areas Overlay, Community Forestry Management Plan", prepared by The Lomax Consulting Group, dated February 14, 2016 is presented in **FIGURE 3**. This base map details the municipality and locates the Borough's forest-related resources. The base map is provided as a BING color aerial at a scale of 1" = 1,000' such that important community forest features can be clearly identified. The base map clearly labels the Borough streets, roadways, and public facilities for reference when considering potential sites for prescribed activities. Additionally, this base map contains important tree resource information as part of this initial forestry assessment of the Borough. Natural Vegetated Areas that contain trees are preliminarily delineated and streetscapes with a significant density of street tree plantings are depicted.

A preliminary inventory of tree resources within the Borough indicates that higher densities of street trees are located along Second Avenue and residential neighborhoods east of Central Avenue. Street tree distribution west of Central Avenue is more sporadic and sparse. Additionally, street tree plantings were typically concentrated in the business district in the vicinity of 96th Street and areas with a presence of public facilities, including parks. Natural areas with tree resources are located in the southern part of the Borough; with the greatest concentrations located in Stone Harbor Point, Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary, along the beach/dune system, coastal marsh fringe, and within public parks.

6. Training Plan

CORE employee training serves as the basis for implementing the CFMP. The State recommends that at least one employee of the municipality and one volunteer receive this training. In addition, The Lomax Consulting Group has obtained CORE and relevant advanced training for multiple employees to assist the Borough in development and implementation of its CFMP. The Borough will secure CORE training for two individuals, one from the Public Works Department and another from the Shade Tree Committee in 2016. Further, the Borough is dedicated to expanding the number of trained staff and diversity of training programs as part of the CFMP as outlined in the Goals section of this Plan. The Borough intends to allocate funds in its Tree Budget to accomplish this training.

The training proposed by the Borough includes the following:

1. Expanding the number of Borough staff and volunteers that are CORE trained and participation in skills training through Continuing Education Programs. The objective is to increase the number of trained staff and volunteers while increasing the depth of knowledge and experience of this working group.
2. Training shall be focused on the Shade Tree Committee and Public Works Department regarding their roles and responsibilities, understanding the CFMP and Borough policies/practices relating to tree resources management.
3. Training the Public Works Department staff and the Shade Tree Committee members to identify and report tree hazards, in addition to the process through which the problems are resolved.
4. Training of the Public Works Department staff in advanced tree pruning techniques.

7. Public Education/Awareness/Outreach

The Borough is engaged in tree and vegetation resource management through its Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Shade Tree Committee, Public Works Department and affiliated community organizations. Community outreach for issues pertaining to tree resources, events, activities and Borough initiatives is coordinated through the Borough Administrator. The venues through which the community anticipates conducting public outreach and education are listed below.

Programs

- *Educational Information at Community Facilities*
- *Commemorative Bench Programs*
- *Educational Booths at Community Events – Green Fair and Arbor Day*
- *Cooperative Programming with the School System*

Media Communications

- *News Releases*
- *Borough Website*

Outreach to Groups

- *Direct Mail Brochure*
- *Quarterly Newsletter*
- *Email Blasts*
- *Community Organizations Presentations*

Through the use of existing resources, the Shade Tree Committee will develop a network of distribution outlets for dissemination of important information specific to the value of trees, forestry-related programs and events, existing tree resource protections (e.g., guidance documents, CFMP), as well as procedures for reporting violations. The Stone Harbor school system was also identified as another important channel for distribution of information to the public. Other community partners anticipated to assist in the outreach of the Shade Tree Committee include the Garden Club, school and service organizations. It is anticipated that the CFMP will be posted to the Borough's website for easy access and reference by the public.

The school serves as the host site for annual Arbor Day activities, which provides outreach opportunities to engage the public in community forestry efforts and communicate the Borough's

efforts to protect and enhance its tree resources. Borough partners are invited to this event to highlight the importance of trees and distribute seedlings to the students for planting. A Green Fair is held annually by the Borough to promote conservation and recycling practices, as well as to increase awareness of important natural resources, including trees. Vendors and conservation groups are invited and encouraged to provide education outreach to the public.

The aforementioned community partners, outlets, events and Borough website will serve to carry the mission and message of the Shade Tree Committee and the CFMP. Media communication opportunities through the issuance of new releases and mailings will also be utilized to promote events and programs in support of tree resource enhancement and management.

8. Statement of Tree Budget

The Borough is distinct from many municipalities in that its tree programs need special training and experience to enhance and protect its tree resources because of the coastal environmental conditions. In order for the Borough to act as steward of the landscape, the allocation of resources is important. The 2016 Tree Budget includes Borough plantings and public funds associated with this project.

BOROUGH ESTIMATED TREE BUDGET 2016

Department of Public Works Personnel for Tree-Related Services Salaries/Wages (25% of Public Works efforts dedicated to tree-related services)	\$225,900.00
Education and Training – Shade Tree Committee & Public Works Staff CORE, tree care/maintenance & safety	\$550.00
Tree Planting Plants and Materials	\$4,738.70
Tree Maintenance Materials	included above
Equipment Rental	included above
Shade Tree Committee Volunteer Time (25 hours @ \$21.79/hour)	\$544.75
Partner Organizations Volunteer Time (Wetlands Inst. tours/technical guidance)	\$25,000.00
Contractor and Consultant Fees (CFMP Preparation)	\$4,475.00
Fees Paid to Wetlands Inst. Docents	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$262,208.45

9. Statement of Plan Implementation

The following Statement of Plan Implementation addresses the specific actions proposed to carry out the Borough CFMP's goals and objectives, as identified in Section 2, and establishes a yearly Implementation Timeline.

A. Background

The CFMP addresses tree-related opportunities and considerations within the Borough, while concurrently coordinating the actions within the Borough, of its volunteers and interested state and federal agencies. The Plan has been approved by the Borough, after receiving public input, and the implementation strategy is presented below along with the timeline for each action.

B. Yearly Implementation Timeline

The following yearly implementation timeline defines the planned actions (Tasks) to achieve the goals and objectives discussed in Section 2.

Year 1, 2016

GOAL 1

Review and adopt the CFMP

Objectives:

1. Review the Borough's organizational structure for management of tree/forest resources.
2. Prepare the draft CFMP with input from the Borough's Administration, Natural Resources Committee, Planning Board, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club.
3. Present the CFMP to the Borough, its reviewing organizations/agencies and the public for adoption.
4. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
5. Review and adopt a Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP) as a component of the CFMP. Train appropriate personnel in implementation of the DVMP.
6. Implement Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP), initially through a Pilot Project.
7. Revise the Borough Ordinances to incorporate the provision of the Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP).
8. Establish a base map of the Borough for inventorying existing trees and tracking landscape/streetscape improvements on public property.

9. Conduct a preliminary inventory of the naturally occurring forest areas and active recreational park and streetscape tree resources on public property within the Borough.
10. Inventory of invasive trees threatening the integrity of the Borough dune system.
11. Develop lists of tree species and other vegetation suitable for planting in the Borough's streetscapes, including planting strips, in order to minimize water requirements and minimize insect and disease damage, while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife and enhancing the aesthetics of the Borough, including view sheds.
12. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
13. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.
14. Identify Borough resources available for the dissemination of information to the public.
15. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.
16. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
17. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
18. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to identify trees and talk about their attributes.
19. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
20. Develop a process with the Mayor and the Council for allocation of Borough resources to obtain funding from within the Borough, as well as from other sources, to implement the CFMP.

21. Develop a plan to train Borough staff/personnel regarding the importance of maintaining and caring for tree resources and responding to inquiries or reports from the public concerning tree-related issues.
22. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.
23. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
24. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.

Year 2, 2017

1. Review and revise the CFMP to facilitate appropriate portions of the Borough Ordinances consistent with the adopted CFMP.
2. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
3. Implement the Dune Vegetation Management Plan (DVMP), initially through a Pilot Project.
4. Prepare an inventory of trees on public property, including along Borough rights-of-way, which may be hazardous and/or storm-distressed and prepare a list of priority trees requiring maintenance by the Public Works Department.
5. Develop lists of tree species and other vegetation suitable for planting in the Borough's streetscapes, including planting strips, in order to minimize water requirements and minimize insect and disease damage, while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife and enhancing the aesthetics of the Borough, including view sheds.
6. Establish and train Borough staff regarding an annual pruning program that enhances and strengthens trees while reducing the frequency of emergency situations associated with coastal storm damage and utility failures.
7. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
8. Replace hazard tree removals, where feasible, by planting trees in suitable locations.
9. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public

concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.

10. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.
11. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
12. Working with appropriate Borough departments and professionals to incorporate elements of this Plan into Borough of Stone Harbor's Master Plan.
13. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
14. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to identify trees and talk about their attributes.
15. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
16. Develop and post on the Borough website a recommended list of plants that are suitable for planting on public land, private property, and in streetscapes.
17. Develop a plan to train Borough staff/personnel regarding the importance of maintaining and caring for tree resources and responding to inquiries or reports from the public concerning tree-related issues.
18. Coordinate with the Borough Planning Board to incorporate elements of the CFMP into the next master plan re-examination.
19. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.
20. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
21. Develop information guiding the use of suitable trees and shrubs to be used in the community to minimize water requirements and to minimize insect and disease damage while sustaining pollinators and appropriate wildlife.

22. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.
23. Identify risks to the community trees and the associated potential for damage resulting from tree failure on Borough property.

Year 3, 2018

1. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
2. Prepare an inventory of trees on public property, including along Borough rights-of-way, which may be hazardous and/or storm-distressed and prepare a list of priority trees requiring maintenance by the Public Works Department.
3. Develop standards and procedures for streetscape tree planting and maintenance, especially in planting strips
4. Establish and train Borough staff regarding an annual pruning program that enhances and strengthens trees while reducing the frequency of emergency situations associated with coastal storm damage and utility failures.
5. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
6. Replace hazard tree removals, where feasible, by planting trees in suitable locations.
7. Prepare and adopt a tree protection ordinance, a dune vegetation protection ordinance and a landscaping standards ordinance, including planting strips.
8. Establish guidelines for new plantings within the Borough.
9. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.
10. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.

11. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
12. Working with appropriate Borough departments and professionals to incorporate elements of this Plan into Borough of Stone Harbor's Master Plan.
13. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
14. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to identify trees and talk about their attributes.
15. Publish a quarterly e-newsletter that will encourage residents to read about trees and tree care, inform them of educational workshops, and provide information about other places to go for further education.
16. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
17. Coordinate with the Borough Planning Board to incorporate elements of the CFMP into the next master plan re-examination.
18. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.
19. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
20. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.
21. Identify risks to the community trees and the associated potential for damage resulting from tree failure on Borough property.
22. Develop a plan, in consultation with Borough emergency management personnel, to plan for/respond to tree damage episodes. This plan will include the required Borough personnel and equipment, public safety protocols, preemptive pruning for storm events, and outline the clean-up and disposal of tree debris. Public Works Department personnel and/or specialized group of volunteers will be trained to treat tree damage episodes safely.

Year 4, 2019

1. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
2. Prepare an inventory of trees on public property, including along Borough rights-of-way, which may be hazardous and/or storm-distressed and prepare a list of priority trees requiring maintenance by the Public Works Department.
3. Establish and train Borough staff regarding an annual pruning program that enhances and strengthens trees while reducing the frequency of emergency situations associated with coastal storm damage and utility failures.
4. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
5. Replace hazard tree removals, where feasible, by planting trees in suitable locations.
6. Prepare and adopt a tree protection ordinance, a dune vegetation protection ordinance and a landscaping standards ordinance, including planting strips.
7. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.
8. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.
9. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
10. Working with appropriate Borough departments and professionals to incorporate elements of this Plan into Borough of Stone Harbor's Master Plan.
11. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
12. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public

- through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to identify trees and talk about their attributes.
13. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
 14. Coordinate with the Borough Planning Board to incorporate elements of the CFMP into the next master plan re-examination.
 15. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.
 16. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
 17. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.
 18. Develop interpretive (educational) trails using the existing access paths to the beach and dune system/parks. Establish stations on the paths that correspond to an educational brochure.

Year 5, 2020

1. Provide training to the Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club concerning the scope and provisions of the CFMP to facilitate implementation.
2. Prepare an inventory of trees on public property, including along Borough rights-of-way, which may be hazardous and/or storm-distressed and prepare a list of priority trees requiring maintenance by the Public Works Department.
3. Establish and train Borough staff regarding an annual pruning program that enhances and strengthens trees while reducing the frequency of emergency situations associated with coastal storm damage and utility failures.
4. Continue removing and mitigating hazard trees through the use of the Borough's existing Public Works Department resources. Update hazard tree inventory.
5. Replace hazard tree removals, where feasible, by planting trees in suitable locations.
6. Prepare and adopt a tree protection ordinance, a dune vegetation protection ordinance and a landscaping standards ordinance, including planting strips.
7. Develop on-line content with the assistance of the Mayor, Borough Council and Administration, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Department of Public Works, Shade Tree Committee, and Garden Club for dissemination to the public

- concerning the value of trees in the Borough, existing tree resource protections (i.e., ordinances/guidance documents/CFMP) and appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations.
8. Incorporate Community Forestry messages in community communications (e.g. website and newsletters), Borough resources, public relations news releases and events. Develop an inventory and schedule of outreach communications and events, including Arbor Day, and engaging speakers and authors who present programs on tree-related topics.
 9. Continue to host a Green Fair event and an Arbor Day event in the Borough (in cooperation with other Borough stakeholders) and maintain a booth to distribute tree information.
 10. Working with appropriate Borough departments and professionals to incorporate elements of this Plan into Borough of Stone Harbor's Master Plan.
 11. Sustain "Tree City USA" designation to help support tourism, eco-tourism and public goodwill.
 12. In cooperation with the Public Works Department, Planning Board, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and Wetlands Institute, lead field trips for the public through the Bird Sanctuary, parks, dune paths and natural areas in the Borough to identify trees and talk about their attributes.
 13. Establish links from the Borough's web site for the CFMP and resources for tree care concerns.
 14. Coordinate with the Borough Planning Board to incorporate elements of the CFMP into the next master plan re-examination.
 15. Maintain the limited existing native tree resources within dune system through active management of invasive tree species by the end of the five-year period.
 16. Expand the number of Borough personnel and volunteers who have attended CORE and advanced training required by the Community Forestry Act.
 17. Develop a school enrichment program, in connection with the Borough School Board and the Public Works Department, Natural Resources Committee, Shade Tree Committee, and the Garden Club which provides insight and experiences associated with the value of trees, forested habitats in the community and Arbor Day activities.

C. Summary

1. A Tree Inventory and Assessment has been initiated in the form of a preliminary survey of the distribution of trees within the Borough. This survey provides a general location of street trees and natural forest areas. The presence of invasive tree species was noted as part of evaluations completed for the Borough's Dune Vegetation Management Plan. Additionally, the survey established the preliminary location of street tree plantings of a significant density. These densities correspond to locations along the central commercial district of the Borough, as well as along streets with a presence of public facilities. This information is useful in tailoring future programs and planting efforts in the Borough. It is expected that throughout the term of this Plan, Years 1-5 will include an on-going inventory and updated assessment of locations within the Borough, including streetscapes, public parks and natural areas that require forestry management and/or enhancement. During Year 2 the initial tree inventory database will be established and tested.

2. As part of the initial tree resource survey, attention was paid to Hazard Tree Identification and Management. The presence of invasive species within municipal parks and natural areas was noted. The local dominance of these species was evident in several locations within the Borough, which serves as an initial objective to specifically document these areas and formulate a plan to address the potential for hazard trees associated with this growth. Additionally, the preliminary survey of trees in the Borough indicated that there are hazard trees within the streetscapes that will need to be specifically identified and addressed in the near term. Dead and dying trees and tree growth into utility lines occurrences will need to be catalogued and reported. It is expected that throughout the term of this Plan, Years 1-5 will identify and monitor tree species within the Borough that need to be addressed. During Year 2 an inventory of hazard trees and a prioritization for maintenance and/or removal will be initiated. The complete tree hazard identification will be completed during Years 3, 4 and 5. Continued training of Borough staff and volunteers during all five years of the Plan is intended to increase awareness and improve reporting of hazard trees.

3. Tree Planting efforts are anticipated to focus on priority areas identified as part of the Tree Inventory and Assessment, Hazard Tree Identification and Invasive Species Replacement efforts identified above. Enhancement of streetscapes and planting of appropriate trees and shrubs in public open spaces, as well as on private property, will be accomplished through a number of programs and outreach efforts. Initially, in Year 1, the Borough will develop a list of tree species and other vegetation suitable for use in the diverse and challenging growing conditions of this barrier island. The foundation component of the Plan is the development of events that will support tree

planting and enhancement. Annual releases of public information will be organized in Years 3-5 to facilitate public awareness for trees planting on their own property.

4. Tree Maintenance and Care of the Borough's forestry resources is presently provided through the Public Works Department. Greater awareness community-wide will be facilitated through the communication network identified in Year 1. Further, in Years 2-5, information will be developed to concerning the value of trees, existing resource protections and the appropriate notification procedures for reporting violations specific to trees. Plans are anticipated to be developed in Years 2 and 3. These include the coordination of planting, care and management of the Borough tree resources utilizing the Public Works Department, the Shade Tree Committee and the Garden Club, service clubs and other volunteer organizations and interested citizens.

Central to all four basic elements of the Plan are the education, outreach and continued training of Borough staff and volunteers. The Borough will continue to face challenges from environmental conditions and funding of the tree enhancement and protection programs. The Community Forestry Management Plan, as proposed, provides the framework to addresses these challenges. The environmental ethics and long-standing stewardship of the Borough and its residents is a critical strength; however, limited budgets and coastal resiliency planning efforts are anticipated to require that the Borough seek supplementary funds to aid in the implementation of the Plan, namely through CSIP grants.

10. Community Stewardship Incentive Program

In recognition that the CORE Training and continued education requirements will be met in Year 2 and in anticipation of the approval of the CFMP, the Borough anticipates that it will be eligible to apply for Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) grants helpful in implementing this Management Plan. The 15 CSIP practices are addressed below in terms of their location in the CFMP along with a brief summary of the goals and objectives relating to each practice. Implementation of specific CSIPs is dependent upon adequate funding.

CSIP #1 Training

Training is one of the foundation components of the CFMP update, as identified in Sections 2, C. "Goals and Objectives," pages 3 through 6. Training of the Shade Tree Committee and Borough personnel is proposed to efficiently: (a) implement the CFMP through the review, adoption and integration of the Plan into Borough activities, policies and programs (Goal 1, A-D); (b) provide training to the Shade Tree Committee (Goal 1, E); (c) develop and seek support to train Borough personnel in caring for municipal tree resources and in responding to inquiries or reports from the public concerning tree-related issues (Goal 3, C and Goal 5, B); (d) incorporate coordinating Borough tree planting, care and management in the CFMP in addition to a training component (Goal 3, B and Goal 6, B) and (e) expand training, both CORE and advanced training, for Borough personnel and volunteers (Goal 6, A).

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline (Section 9, B) include:

2016 – Tasks – 4, 21, 23

2017– Tasks – 2, 6, 17, 20

2018 Tasks – 1, 4, 19

2019 – Tasks – 1, 3, 16

2020 – Tasks – 1, 3, 16

In summary, training will be accomplished in the Borough through the Tree Inventory and Assessment component of the Plan that will be conducted by a qualified consultant who will train the Borough personnel and volunteers regarding its importance and use. The Tree Hazard Identification and Management aspects of the Plan will be implemented through the above-mentioned training of Borough personnel and volunteers. The Tree Maintenance and Care component of the Plan will be accomplished through the training of the Borough personnel using established standards. The Tree Planting training portion of the Plan will include selection and

planting of trees and shrubs that are appropriate to the barrier island conditions and Borough tree planting goals. Finally, efforts will be made to engage more Borough personnel and volunteers to attend state-wide training programs to comply with the CFMP requirements.

CSIP #2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment

The Borough has established a base of municipal Ordinances for zoning and land use purposes, but has yet to develop ordinances specific to the management of its community tree and other natural resources. It is anticipated that through the development and implementation of this plan that the governing body may consider the need for such ordinances along with incorporating appropriate elements of the CFMP and DVMP into the Borough Master Plan (Goal 1, H, Goal 3, F, Goal 4, E and Goal 5, C).

Borough Council adoption of the CFMP (Goal 1, Objectives A, B and C) in consultation with Borough Departments, programs and the public is a key element to establishing forestry policy in the municipality. Included in its approval is the authorization of the Shade Tree Committee along with the Public Works Department to oversee the Borough's tree resources based upon review of the Borough organizational management for tree resources. The intent of the Borough is to utilize the immediately available institutions to aid in the implementation of the Plan. The Borough will evaluate the role of these groups and determine how their roles and responsibilities should be evolved over the life of the Plan.

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 7

2017 – Tasks – 1, 12, 18

2018 – Tasks – 12, 17

2019 – Tasks – 6, 10, 14

2020 – Tasks – 6, 10, 14

In summary, the Borough proposes incorporation of appropriate components of the CFMP and DVMP into their Ordinances and Master Plan. As such, the Borough will establish the regulatory, management and oversight framework to protect its tree resources.

CSIP #3 Public Education and Awareness

The education and outreach components are foundation elements of this Plan. Community education is incorporated within many of the Plan Goals and Objectives. The public will be informed

of the value of their tree resources and how the Borough intends to protect, preserve and enhance these resources. Through the Plan review and adoption, Borough officials, personnel and the public will be made aware of the Borough 's tree resources and the provisions of the Plan (Goal 1, B, C and E, Goal 4, A, B, C, D, G, H, I and J, and Goal 6, C, D and E).

Community events, programs at the school and volunteer activities will be utilized as opportunities to inform and educate the public of the Plan (Goal 4, D, and Goal 6, D and E). Educational/outreach will be directed toward residents, visitors and professional landscapers working within the Borough (Goal 3, C, and Goal 6, C) using the Borough website and communications (Goal 4, C) associated with activities such as the Green Fair and Arbor Day programs. A guide to trees suitable for use in the coastal environment; and a guide for care and maintenance of trees will also be provided (Goal 3, A and C, and Goal 6, B).

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 24

2017 – Tasks – 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22

2018 – Tasks – 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20

2019 – Tasks – 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18

2020 – Tasks – 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17

In summary, the Public Education and Awareness Program provides insights and experiences concerning the value, protection and care of its trees to the residents and the large visitor population. A diversity of venues and materials, as well as various outreach channels, are included in the Plan.

CSIP #4 Arbor Day

Celebration of Arbor Day typically occurs within the Borough school. With the heightened awareness of tree resources and a renewed interest by the Borough with the CFMP and desire to maintain "Tree City USA" designation, it is anticipated that a variety of outreach and educational activities will be evaluated for expanding Arbor Day recognition as resources are available.

The specific component of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B includes:

2016 – Tasks – 13, 15, 16, 17, 24

2017 – Tasks – 9, 10, 11, 13, 22

2018 – Tasks – 9, 10, 11, 13, 20

2019 – Tasks – 7, 8, 9, 11, 17

2020 – Tasks – 7, 8, 9, 11, 17

In summary, the Borough will explore the utilization of the national focus on trees during the celebration of Arbor Day to provide a venue to consider tree value, protection and care. Associated with this effort will be the on-line content and School Enrichment programs.

CSIP #5 Tree Inventory

The Borough has positioned itself to conduct a meaningful Tree Inventory. The principal focus of Goal 2 (A, B, C, D) is to inventory the community tree resources. A preliminary inventory of naturally occurring forests and park/streetscape tree resources clearly indicates the need for a tree inventory database system and a standardized mapping system.

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 8, 9, 10

2017 – Tasks – 4, 7

2018 – Tasks – 2, 5

2019 – Tasks – 2, 4

2020 – Tasks – 2, 4

The Tree Inventory is the critical component of the Plan to assess and manage the tree resources of the Borough. In order that the tree resources are accurately monitored and that a program/system is in place to identify the tree hazards and invasive species, to program tree maintenance and care, and to improve the tree planting plan, a database system and mapping is essential. The Plan incorporates the development of this system and mapping.

CSIP #6 Hazard Tree Assessment

The inventory database and mapping will aid in the tree hazard assessment that will be methodically conducted. The focus of this assessment is to identify hazardous trees occurring in close proximity to “targets” or areas of risk, in addition to invasive trees (Goal 2, A, B, C, D, E). In the interim, the organizational structure within the Borough, principally through the Borough Administrator, in addition to the Shade Tree Committee, will report hazardous tree conditions to the Public Works Department (Goal 3, D, E). This Department will take corrective actions to address the hazardous tree conditions.

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 10, 12

2017 – Tasks – 4, 7, 8, 23

2018 – Tasks – 2, 5, 6, 21

2019 – Tasks – 2, 4, 5

2020 – Tasks – 2, 4, 5

In summary, the Borough recognizes its responsibility of assessing hazardous trees or stands of trees and taking corrective actions in a timely manner by training Borough personnel. The organizational structure for reporting and addressing tree problems is an important part of the Plan – the existing process will be reviewed and revised as need. Further, the Dune Vegetation Management Plan provides prescribed practices and management techniques in concert with the CFMP.

CSIP #7 Storm Damage Assessment

The storm damage assessment is treated concurrently with CSIP# 5 and #6. The tree inventory provides the database and mapping to monitor the tree resources (Goal 2, A, B, C, D). The adoption of the Plan, including the Borough organizational structure and Shade Tree Committee, has positioned the Borough to respond to storm damage. The inventory and assessments described above serve as proactive management approaches to pre-storm contingency planning Goal 7, A, B). Because of the intensity of the coastal storms and exposure of the Borough, all Borough tree resources are at risk. The Public Works Department is experienced in addressing these challenges. The Plan provides the opportunity to evaluate the policies and procedures used by the Borough (Goal 1, D and Goal 3, F, G).

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 9, 21

2017 – Tasks – 4, 17, 23

2018 – Tasks – 21, 22

2019 – Tasks – 2

2020 – Tasks – 2

The Borough, exposed to severe coastal storms, has evolved a strategic approach to protecting the community from storm damage to the maximum extent possible. The adoption and adequate implementation for funding of this Plan provides the Borough with the opportunity to

factor trees into the storm damage assessment, especially in terms of the tree inventory, tree hazard identification and tree management and care.

CSIP #8 Tree Maintenance and Removals

Tree maintenance and removal is an important component of the Plan to project the need for additional Borough programs and services to routinely care for the trees in the community. As the streetscape and park trees are enhanced, the maintenance program will require evaluation and refinement. The development of this Plan will address these on-going needs (Goal 1, G; Goal 2, C, Goal 3, B, C, D, E, G, Goal 5, B, D, Goal 7, B).

The specific component of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B includes:

2016 – Tasks – 6, 10, 12, 22

2017 – Tasks – 3, 6, 7, 8, 17, 19

2018 – Tasks – 5, 15, 18, 22

2019 – Tasks – 4, 5, 15

2020 – Tasks – 4, 5, 15

Recognizing the value of trees in the Borough, their maintenance and care is essential to protect this investment for the residents, visitors and inhabitants of this natural feature. The Tree Inventory and Assessment in the Plan provides the database system and maps to organize, prioritize and monitor the maintenance and care of the tree resources.

CSIP #9 Insect and Disease Management

To protect the tree resources in the Inventory, the Borough will initiate a program that entails the replacement of damaged and diseased trees with adapted species. The Shade Tree Committee and Public Works Department are expected, through training and networking, to remain current regarding emerging tree insect and disease issues. The continued training and tree hazard assessment (Goal 1, E, Goal 2, B, C, D, Goal 4, A, C, Goal 5, B, Goal 6, A, B, C and Goal 7, D) will aid in early detection of pests and disease. Only properly trained and state-certified pesticide applicators will be contracted to control pests and disease.

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 4, 11, 21, 23

2017 – Tasks – 2, 5, 17, 20, 23

2018 – Tasks – 1, 19, 21, 22

2019 – Tasks – 1, 16

2020 – Tasks – 1, 16

It is recognized that the Borough must be proactive in addressing insects and diseases that impact the community's tree resources by focusing attention on tree inventory and hazardous tree assessment along with the need for additional training.

CSIP #10 Wildfire Protection

The Borough recognizes the potential risks associated with wildfire in its public open spaces containing concentration of woody vegetation; however, these areas are limited in Stone Harbor. Proactively, the Borough has established a Dune Vegetation Management Plan to address ecological integrity of the barrier island due to invasive species, public safety considerations and management practices for stewardship. Wildfires can result from an accidental occurrence, such as a discarded cigarette or naturally from lightning. In either case, the fire, fueled by excessive tinder often associated with invasive species or dead/dying vegetation, can spread to and destroy the forest ecosystem, other sensitive habitats and residences or obscure visibility. The Public Works Department will respond to these issues in coordination with the Police and Emergency Management Departments.

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 22

2017 – Tasks – 3, 4, 6, 7, 19, 23

2018 – Tasks – 2, 4, 5, 18, 21, 22

2019 – Tasks – 2, 4, 5

2020 – Tasks – 2, 4, 5

The presence of combustible material with the stands of woody vegetation and high exposure to anthropogenic sources of fire warrants continuing efforts to address wildfire fire issues. An assessment by the Borough's Emergency Management staff will determine whether it is warranted to consult with the NJ Forest Fire Service for wildfire planning, preparedness, emergency operation and rehabilitation.

CSIP #11 Tree Planting

The planting of trees in the Borough has been almost as important as preserving the natural stands of trees and planted streetscapes. The Borough has continued to enhance the tree

resources of the community through its planting efforts. The number of trees in the streetscapes focuses attention on the need to plant appropriate trees in the community. The Plan strategies to encourage the community to supplement the community forest with an emphasis on the use of native species (Goal 3, A, B, E, Goal 4, A, C, J, and Goal 6, B, C).

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 6, 1, 22

2017 – Tasks – 3, 5, 8, 16, 19, 21

2018 – Tasks – 3, 6, 7, 8, 18

2019 – Tasks – 5, 6, 15

2020 – Tasks – 5, 6, 15

Tree planting is another foundation element to enhancing the tree resources of the Borough. The Tree Inventory and Assessment is important to the tree planting component of the Plan because it focuses limited resources on where and which trees should be planted. The environment, which can be severe and droughty, necessitates careful plant selection. A list of recommended plants (trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants) should be incorporated in Borough Ordinances (Goal 3, A, B, G and Goal 6, B). The Borough will need to allocate resources and engage community support to enhance the streetscapes to expand the benefits of trees to the Borough.

CSIP #12 Tree Recycling

The tree resources of the Borough, at present, have not warranted a tree recycling program. The Borough will continue to utilize the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority's program to recycle trees to mulch. As such, no components of the Plan focus specifically on recycling at this time. The priority during this planning period is to establish strong tree resources in the Borough.

CSIP #13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program

The sidewalks require regular inspection and maintenance to ensure safe pedestrian access through the Borough. Sidewalk inspections shall be included in tree inventory efforts (Goal 2, A, B, C) utilizing criteria to be established (e.g. sidewalk heaving and breaking, overhanging trees and trees growing into power lines, etc).

The specific components of the Yearly Implementation Timeline Section 9, B include:

2016 – Tasks – 8, 9, 13, 19, 21

2017 – Tasks – 4, 9, 15, 17, 23

2018 – Tasks – 2, 3, 7, 9, 21

2019 – Tasks – 2, 6, 7, 13

2020 – Tasks – 2, 7

These Plan criteria will be developed early in the Plan implementation process, funding available.

CSIP #14 Storm Water Management

The storm water associated with inundation in the Borough is primarily a result of astronomical high tides and storms. Flooding storm water under these conditions generally has a high salinity only diluted by precipitation. After significant storm events, an inventory of trees in public areas will be conducted (Goal 2, B and Goal 7, A, B) focusing not only on tree damage, but also on the impact of excessive salt loading in the soils on tree health.

CSIP #15 Other

None.

11. Selected References

Bingmaps. Aerial Imagery courtesy of the USGS. 2010.

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United States Department of Interior, Geological Survey. 1998. Topographic Quad Maps (Stone Harbor Quad 175 & Avalon Quad 176). Washington D.C.

APPENDIX A

Figures

- Figure 1: Borough of Stone Harbor USGS Topographic Map**
- Figure 2: Borough of Stone Harbor Aerial with Land Cover Overlay**
- Figure 3: Borough of Stone Harbor Forestry Base Map**



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FIGURE 1: USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF STONE HARBOR QUADS #175 - STONE HARBOR NJ & #176 - AVALON NJ
SOURCE: GIS DATA PROVIDED BY THE NJDEP & US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

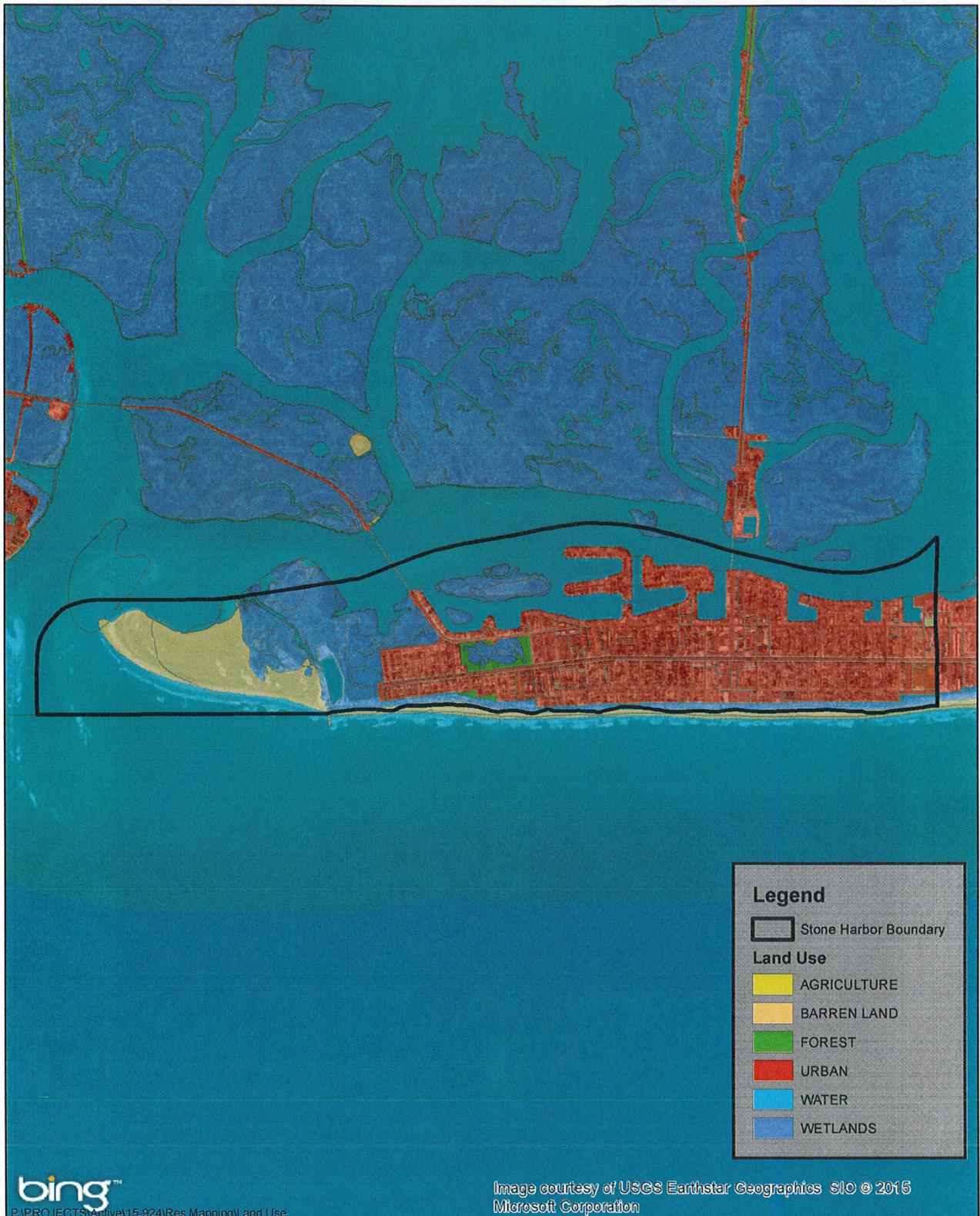


DATE:
12-28-15

DRAWN BY:
ACB

1 inch = 3,000 feet





Legend

- Stone Harbor Boundary
- Land Use**
- AGRICULTURE
- BARREN LAND
- FOREST
- URBAN
- WATER
- WETLANDS

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Image courtesy of USGS Earthstar Geographics SIO © 2015
 Microsoft Corporation

<p>FIGURE 2: BING MAPS AERIAL OVERVIEW OF STONE HARBOR WITH LAND COVER OVERLAY</p> <p>SOURCE: GIS DATA PROVIDED BY THE NJDEP AT http://njgdn.nj.gov/ & THE CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT</p>		DATE: 12-28-15	DRAWN BY: ACB	
		1 inch = 3,000 feet		



DATE: 2-4-16
DRAWN BY: ACB
1 inch = 1,000 feet

FIGURE 3: BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR FORESTRY BASE MAP WITH PRELIMINARY STREET TREE INVENTORY AND NATURALLY VEGETATED AREAS INCLUDING BOROUGH PUBLIC FACILITIES
SOURCE: GIS DATA PROVIDED BY BIG, THE NJDEP AT <http://njgdn.nj.gov/> & THE CAPE MAY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX A

Figures

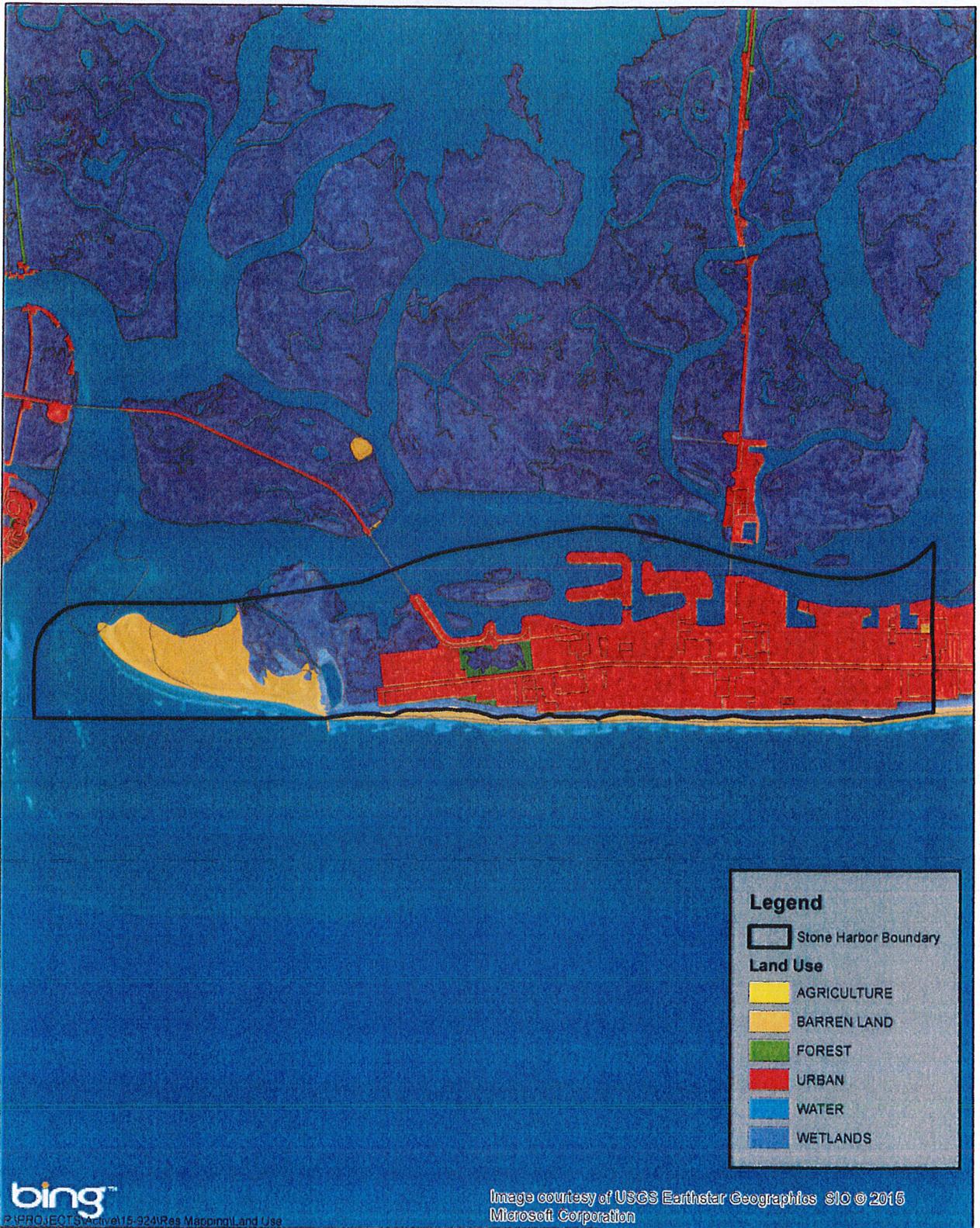
- Figure 1: Borough of Stone Harbor USGS Topographic Map
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		1 inch = 3,000 feet		



Legend

- Stone Harbor Boundary
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