WHY TREES ARE SO IMPORTANT

$ RAISE HOUSE VALUE
Trees increase property value. A house on a tree-lined street can be worth up to 25% more than a house on a street with smaller or no trees.

SAVE ENERGY
A home shaded by three trees can cut energy bills by 50% in the summer and reduce heating cost by 30%.

CLEAN AIR
Trees remove pollutants including dust, pollen, and smoke from the air, improving air quality.

WATER ABSORPTION
A mature tree can absorb 1,000 gallons of rainfall in a year. That water may otherwise flood streets and basements.

CLEAN WATER
Tree roots trap the pollutants in run-off, reducing the amount of oil, fertilizers, and sediment that returns to the ground water and rivers.

SAFER COMMUNITIES
Trees in cities have been shown to lower crime rates.

MORE BUSINESS
People are attracted to business districts with trees and tend to shop longer when trees are present.

The goal of the City's Shade Tree Advisory Committee is to beautify the community by encouraging the planting of trees in Hackensack, especially curbside trees. Each year an area of the city is evaluated for a designated tree planting of a variety of 20 trees.

Since the Committee's inception in 1989, it has worked to plant over 500 trees in Hackensack. As an honored Tree City USA participant, Hackensack celebrates National Arbor Day each year.

Committee members are appointed by the Mayor & Council for a three-year term. If you are interested in serving on the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, please complete a Citizen Leadership Form which can be found under “Volunteer Info” on hackensack.org

120 East Broadway
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
201-646-3950

photos by committee member
Eric McCormack
ADDRESSING SIDEWALK CONFLICTS

Have you received a notice directing you to repair your sidewalk?

Here are some cost-effective, tree-friendly solutions:

- Design the sidewalk in a curve to go around the tree roots.
- Shave the lifted part of the sidewalk to make it even with the lower part.
- Patch the lifted area with concrete.
- Install brick pavers, tree grates, or barrier fabric around tree roots.

HACKENSACK CITY ORDINANCE

When repairing or replacing a sidewalk, be sure to inform your sidewalk contractor that it is a violation of Hackensack City ordinance to cut tree roots without the express permission of the city manager. Cutting the roots of a tree can cause a tree to become unstable and will likely only be a short-term solution.

City of Hackensack Code: Chapter 162-2

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, public utility or other entity to:

(1) Cut, remove, deface or attach wires, ropes or signs to any shade tree of the City of Hackensack without first having obtained permission from the City Manager of the City of Hackensack.

(2) Climb upon any shade tree within the city.

(3) Excavate in or around a shade tree in such a manner as to damage a main root of a shade tree without first having obtained permission from the City Manager of the City of Hackensack.

(4) Close in or obstruct any open space provided in a sidewalk or street area for the base of a shade tree to permit the access of water to the roots of the tree, trim the limbs of any shade tree or remove any supporting posts, braces or wire harnesses, without first having obtained permission of the City Manager of the City of Hackensack.

(5) Pile any cement, mortar, petroleum by-product or other caustic substance without six feet of the base of a shade tree.

(6) Interfere with employees of the City of Hackensack or any of its agents engaged in the planting, cultivating, pruning, spraying or removal of any shade tree.

(7) Plant a shade tree without first having obtained permission from the City Manager of the City of Hackensack.

B. The foregoing regulatory provisions notwithstanding, the maintenance of a shade tree shall be the sole responsibility of the owner of the property adjacent to such public right-of-way or easement.

[Added 5-7-1990 by No. 10-90]

CARING FOR TREES

THE VALUE OF MULCH

A tree’s best friend, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawnmower damage, and adds an aesthetic touch to a yard or street. Remove any grass within the mulch area, and area from 3 to 10 feet in diameter, depending on tree size. Pour wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches within the circle, but not touching the trunk.

Do not form a “volcano” around the tree trunk.

MAKING A PROPER PRUNING CUT

Large Limbs:

A: Make a partial cut from beneath.

B: Make a second cut from above several inches out and allow the limb to fall.

C: Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar.

Small Branches:

Make a sharp clean cut, just beyond a lateral bud or other branch.