



TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS

50 WOODLAND AVENUE
PO BOX 7603
CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY 07961-7603
FAX NO. (973) 605-8363
WWW.MORRISTWP.COM

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

(973) 326-7360

JULY 2018

GREEN STRIP FORESTRY SAFETY PROJECT Burnham Park

The Township of Morris Department of Public Works has inspected and evaluated the safety concerns of the “Green Strip” property between East and West Lake Boulevards. During our inspection we noticed a number of hazards and trees which need to be eliminated in the Green Strip. We have tagged over 46 trees for take down. The trees range in size from small saplings to trees with over 40” Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). This count does not include the trees which have already fallen or the Ash trees previously marked by the Parks Department. This plan is a safety plan and not an environmental plan. The objectives of the project are:

OBJECTIVE:

- To develop a safety plan for Block 3804 Lot 1, also known as the “Green Strip”
- To remove perimeter hazards
- Assess interior hazards and address as appropriate
- Provide an esthetically pleasing view while utilizing native foliage and introducing new foliage to stabilize banks and slopes.
- Maintain a trail connecting the Green Strip to Jones Woods Trail.
- Bi-Annually inspect and maintain interior and exterior to control growth and remove diseased and fallen trees, and control vegetation growth
- Enlist the support of local volunteers and groups to aid in the maintenance and upkeep of the trails.

IMMEDIATE PLAN:

Beginning August 2018, the Department of Public Works shall commence to eliminate the tree hazards located around the perimeter of the property. The brush and vegetation removal will occur as needed to allow our crews safe access to the trees. The lower area wetland portion will not be disturbed with the exception of removing any immediate hazards.

We plan to initially begin work on the East Lake Blvd side near Midland Ave., as this seems to be the best entrance to access the interior of his property.

Trees which have fallen previously may be cut up and removed to provide greater access to the trees marked for takedown. Removal of trees and tree parts that have previously fallen will be determined by accessibility and the need for habitat and ground cover. Due to size and location some trees may be left on the floor for removal by a private contractor crew (see Short Term Plan).

Disposal of tree part and brush will be a major concern and we will make every attempt not to dispose of anything which may be used for other purposes such as firewood or ground cover. Small piles of firewood and woodchips may be stockpiled and made available for residents to use, however residents must load the firewood and woodchips and use their own vehicles. The piles of firewood and wood chips will not be left for more than a few days. We will use the chips to provide a more stabilized floor surface for crews and equipment to work. Additionally wood chips may be used for ground cover, where appropriate.

SHORT TERM PLAN - 2019 & 2020:

Our tree crews do not climb trees for pruning or takedown and current terrain is not suitable for our tree truck to traverse. To remove all the larger trees marked for takedown will require expert tree men with climbing and rigging capabilities. Removal of the taller trees will require a climber or specialized equipment for use on the rough terrain. The trees should not be cut down from the base, they will need to come down in manageable sections as not to damage other trees as the trees are taken down. We do not want to damage the other trees especially those which are still healthy.

The west side of the property adjacent to West Lake Blvd. has a significant slope concerns and the Township Engineer will provide guidance on keeping the slope stable prior to any tree removal in this area. The stability of this land may be compromised if too many of the trees and stumps are removed. Significant or sudden rain storms may cause wash outs creating a dangerous condition for the road. We may need to bring in fill dirt to ensure proper stabilization has been achieved and shall remain in place. As to not compromise the slopes integrity or soil stabilization, a 2-3 foot high stump will remain for any trees designated for take down in the sloped portions on the west side.

The Green Strip trail will be addressed. The trails borders will need to be lined by low maintenance vegetation such as native ground covers. This vegetation grows well in low light areas and will slow down the germination of other seeds dropped on the floor also protects the soil from erosion and water loss. This can be particularly useful on steep slopes. It acts as an insulating cover for the soil, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

The majority of this work will be done in winter months when the ground is hard and foliage has fallen from the trees.

LONG TERM PLAN:

Maintenance is always a difficult issue with any area such as this piece of land to remain is an aesthetically pleasing state. We'll need to develop a funding source to assist with tree and vegetation maintenance. The Parks and DPW will perform bi-annual inspections to ensure all diseased and fallen trees are removed in an expedient manner, and vegetation is kept under control and does not become overgrown.

We will also consider the installation of a wood planking style guardrail (similar to guardrail on Kahdena Rd.) along the West Lake Blvd side of the property. This guardrail will serve as a safety device and prevent the illegal dumping on the property.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Financial funding
- Manpower availability
- Weather conditions



**“GREEN STRIP”
FORESTRY
SAFETY PROJECT**

**TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS
IN BURNHAM PARK**

JULY 2018



LET'S BLAZE A TRAIL!

- THE TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS WORKING WITH THE BURNHAM PARK ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE WORKING HAND IN HAND TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE **GREEN STRIP**.
- THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS ARE SET TO ENGAGE ON TO REMOVAL OF HAZARDS AND MAKE THE TRAILS SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS



PROJECT STEPS

STEP1

IDENTIFY FOREST HAZARDS ON THE INTERIOR AND PERIMETER OF BLOCK 3804 LOT 1 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "GREEN STRIP". PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF BANK STABILIZATION AND WETLAND BUFFERS.

STEP2

INITIATE REMOVAL OF ALL ACCESSIBLE HAZARDS AND SELECTED FALLEN TREES. THIS SHALL BE ACHIEVED USING PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT. PRIVATE CONTRACTORS MAY BE USED TO ASSIST THE PROCESS

STEP3

THE TOWNSHIP AND CONTRACTORS REMOVE SELECTED TREES AND HAZARDS AS NOT TO DAMAGE THE SURROUNDING FOLIAGE AND TREES, LEAVING A THE PROPERTY IN AN IMPROVED AND SAFE PARK SITE

STEP4

MAINTAIN THE PROPERTY WITH BI ANNUAL INSPECTIONS. REMOVING HAZARDS AND FALLEN TREES IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Lead On Task	Delivery Date				
IDENTIFY HAZARDS ASSESSMENT OF SLOPES AND WETLAND BUFFERS	ENGINEERING PUBLIC WORKS	JULY 2018				
REMOVAL OF PERIMETER HAZARDS	PARKS – RECREATION PUBLIC WORKS		SEPT. 2018			
PRIORITIZE TREE REMOVAL OF INTERIOR HAZARDS	CONTRACTORS ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS			FALL OF 2018		
REMOVAL OF INTERIOR HAZARDS	CONTRACTORS PARKS – RECREATION PUBLIC WORKS				WINTER 2018 TO 2019	
MAINTAINING PROPERTY	PARKS - RECREATION PUBLIC WORKS	BI ANNUAL INSPECTIONS		BI ANNUAL INSPECTIONS		

PROJECT SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- LOCALIZED WORKFORCE WHO CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AS MANY EMPLOYEES ARE RESIDENTS.
- STRONG COMMUNITY BASE OF SUPPORT.

ADVANTAGES

- THE LOCAL WORKFORCE IS AVAILABLE TO WORK AS TIME PERMITS OR WHEN DOWNTIME ON OTHER PROJECTS OCCUR.

WEAKNESSES

- LARGER TREES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES WILL NEED TO BE REMOVED BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS IN TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS LOOKS FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE COMMUNITY!