



Head of the Harbor

500 North Country Road St. James, New York 11780 HeadoftheHarborNY.gov

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Contact: Judy Ogden 516-523-6720 (mobile)
Trustee and Highway Commissioner of Village of Head of the Harbor

VILLAGE OF HEAD OF THE HARBOR IS AWARDED A \$50,000 URBAN FORESTRY GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR A TREE INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Funding Supports Community Tree Projects to Help Protect Air Quality, Water Quality and Natural Resources

Mayor Douglas A. Dahlgard is excited to announce that Head-of-the-Harbor Village, a Tree City USA-designated community, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the DEC to begin a Phase I Inventory and Management Plan for trees on Village property. This will include trees in the right-of-way along the 20 miles of Village roads and cul-de-sacs, as well as the Village Hall complex.

Trees are an essential part of the Village of Head of the Harbor. They are the backbone of the forest and ecosystems providing essential habitat and food sources for wildlife in a landscape increasingly fragmented by development. Trees on streets are now recognized as more than just pleasant features. Trees reduce runoff into drains and waterways by slowing falling rain, allowing it to absorb into the ground and be taken up by the trees. This is a crucial component to protecting our natural resources, Stony Brook Harbor and the Nissequogue River. This inventory and management plan will provide a blueprint to guide maintenance of existing trees and determine locations for future plantings in the Village.

This summer you can expect to find arborists along Village roads, measuring and collecting data for the tree inventory. The inventory will supply information on tree quantities, location, condition, size and maintenance requirements. This crucial information will be collected and maintained in a database that will inform management decisions. A sustainable management plan will be developed, to be followed over the next few years. Work will be completed in-house with the Village Highway Department or outsourced to qualified contractors, addressing the most serious and hazardous problems first. By developing this pro-active program, the Village hopes it will be able to mitigate severe storm damage (fewer downed trees and less power outages) while improving the overall health of trees in the forest.

The Village thanks the Department of Environmental Conservation and Governor Andrew Cuomo for investing in our community through the state's Environmental Protection Fund.