



October 20, 2016,  
For Immediate Release:

## **Morristown Business District Tree Rejuvenation Plan Announced**

MORRISTOWN, NJ - The Town of Morristown and the Morristown Shade Tree Commission, in coordination with Morristown DPW and the Morristown Partnership, has developed the Business District Tree Rejuvenation Plan. The plan aims to improve the health of existing trees, remove dead trees and replant new, sustainable tree species.

The Morristown Shade Tree Commission wrote in a statement to business owners, "After all, a shady street, clean air and beautiful sites for pedestrians to walk along, are of the utmost importance to a thriving business district."

Street trees planted in an urban environment face a great deal of stress and abuse. In Morristown, these negative factors are affecting our street trees and causing them to die. Contributing factors are age, environmental stress, the introduction of chemicals, and improper tree species selection. The Commission has devised a methodical approach to ensure the health, well-being and longevity of Morristown's street trees. The following plan will take place over the next two years.

### **Business District Tree Rejuvenation Plan**

1. Widen all tree wells to 4x6 or 4x8 wherever possible to give the tree more breathing/growing space.
2. Dead or dying trees will be removed.
3. Amend all tree wells:
  - Empty wells will be gutted and replaced with new soil. The soil will be according to specs that Richard Wolowicz, Town of Morristown Arborist, prepares (with the appropriate amount of organic material and food).
  - All wells will receive a treatment of BioChar (a soil enhancer that holds carbon and makes soil more fertile).
4. New trees will be planted ~ species chosen will be specific to streetscape living.

5. Tree wells will then be covered with water permeable aggregate and surrounded with fencing as per DOT specifications (tbd before 2017) to prevent compaction of soil, which suffocates the tree.

**Proposed Street Schedule**

South Street: Spring 2017  
Speedwell Avenue: Fall 2017  
Morris Street: Spring 2018  
Elm Street: Fall 2018

For more information on the details of the plan please email [shadetree@townofmorristown.org](mailto:shadetree@townofmorristown.org).

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