



Contact: Sheri Hensley, Public Information Officer
(201) 777-2420 office, (201) 615-8378 cell
sheri.hensley@njmeadowlands.gov

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NJMC'S GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM EXPANDS ITS ROLE TO ASSIST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Geographic Information System Department is expanding its role of providing digital mapping technology throughout the Meadowlands District. The latest group to take advantage of GIS assistance is the Rutherford Shade Tree Committee. The group is undertaking an initiative called the Rutherford Tree Inventory Project, with the assistance of the NJMC's GIS Department. The plan is to compile a detailed tree inventory database of all public trees within the Borough of Rutherford using GPS.

“The NJMC's GIS system continues to assist Meadowlands Municipalities in a variety of ways,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “This valuable mapping technology has allowed first responders to access critical right to know information while responding to emergency situations, including fires, helping to increase the safety and security of residents. Projects like the Rutherford Tree Inventory will only further increase the quality of life of our neighbors.”

The data collected for the tree project will be organized with the intent to follow the mission of the committee, which is to preserve and protect the historic trees of Rutherford, and to maintain and enhance the canopy cover of Borough of Trees.

The data gathered through this project will be used to evaluate the health of the current tree stock and help avoid possible dangers in the future due to inclement weather, maintain the current stock of trees and evaluate the need to increase the tree population. The data will be gathered by a group of trained Rutherford Boy Scouts under the supervision of RSTC members starting this summer. Some of the information that will be gathered includes tree species, condition, DBH and age. The work will entail collecting the data for some 25,000 trees throughout the Borough of Rutherford.

The GIS department will create an historical database for each Borough's tree base on a unique tree ID that will be critical to relate each tree with any associated documentation created by the RSTC. The tree ID is delineated by municipal code; block and a unique sequential number value in order to make the ease of recalling specific trees at later times much simpler (see enclosure for further reference). The GIS department will explore the

possibility of creating an interactive GIS application where historical data about the trees will be served on-line.

Since its inception seven years ago, GIS has provided municipal officials and first responders with utility locations, roads, fire hydrants, block and lot information, stormwater outfalls, right-to-know and other valuable data. The NJMC recently allocated funds to upgrade the system to network with Google mapping functions and allow municipalities to create their own unique maps.

The NJMC has allocated \$25,000 for each of the 14 municipalities to come online with GIS, as well as \$25,000 to provide each municipality with a tablet PC. Currently, 13 of the 14 Meadowlands municipalities have received the hardware, software and training to use the digital mapping technology, which includes lot information, building locations and footprints, sewer line locations, fire hydrant locations, flood hazard areas, right-to-know data and hazardous material locations. The City of Jersey City is expected to come online this year.

Attached Photo information:

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Geographic Information System Department assists members of the Rutherford Shade Tree Commission. On April 10, Specialist Alex Marti and Stephen Daniele meet with Steven Steve Savitsky (Rutherford Shade Tree Committee Chairman) and John Tagliabue (Vice-chairman) to initiate the Rutherford Tree Inventory Program. The GIS digital mapping technology will be used to compile a detailed tree inventory database of all public trees within the Borough of Rutherford using GPS.