

Borough of Glen Ridge, Essex County, New Jersey

BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE AWARDED PRETIGIOUS 2021 NJ URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL AWARD

Borough's tree-lined streets one of its greatest assets

For Immediate Release

Nov. 3, 2021: The Borough of Glen Ridge's Shade Tree Commission, under the leadership of Elizabeth Baker, was awarded the 2021 NJ Urban & Community Forestry Achievement Award by the New Jersey Forest Service, the New Jersey Community Forestry Council, and the New Jersey Tree Foundation during the Shade Tree Federation Awards Banquet on October 20, 2021, in Cherry Hill, NJ.

The New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Achievement Award recognizes those nominees whose outstanding efforts have greatly contributed to the field of urban and community forestry. Achievements in urban and community forestry include improving the environment in New Jersey's communities through wise management of the trees and forest resources and the development of a self-sustaining local urban and community forestry program and enhancing the beauty of New Jersey's cities and towns with programs and projects for trees and forests.

"Glen Ridge's community forest is one of the Borough's greatest assets," said **Borough of Glen Ridge Mayor Stuart Patrick**. "All of our community benefits from the work of the Shade Tree Commission to preserve and maintain our trees and on behalf of myself and the Council I thank them for their work."

"The nearly 3,700 trees that line our streets serve many important functions including cleaning the air we breathe, shading our streets, cooling our homes, slowing stormwater run-off and adding to property values, among other benefits," said **Elizabeth Baker, Chair of the Shade Tree Commission**. "The trees have gone from a pleasant Borough wide amenity to an environmental imperative in this time of climate change and our team on the Commission has stepped up to meet this challenge."

The Shade Tree Commission maintains an informative and interactive webpage, with an online tree inspection request portal, tree resource booklet, shade tree index, and educational information on proper mulching and tree care for the Borough's street trees, and the importance of trees from an environmental and community perspective.

"Congratulations to our Shade Tree Commission on this award," said **Michael Zichelli, Glen Ridge Borough Administrator**, who accepted the award on behalf of the Commission. "Not only does the Commission preserve our past, but they also are looking to the future by addressing the impacts of climate change and increasing extreme weather events by having an active maintenance pruning program and carefully choosing species for future conditions to ensure our shade trees are here to provide benefits for the next generation."

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Glen Ridge Borough Shade Tree Commission

<https://www.glenridgenj.org/shadetree.htm>

Mission Statement

The public shade trees of Glen Ridge are our heritage and responsibility. The Shade Tree Commission is charged with developing a flexible strategic plan, practical goals and defined steps to ensure that shade trees are planted, maintained and monitored over time. This commitment to healthy trees represents a long-term investment in the beauty, biodiversity and historic character of Glen Ridge.

