This year’s Arbor Day Activities involved 5 different major Tree Planting Projects which were:

1) Green Cities Cool Schools - was the first Arbor Day activity which lasted 5 days and was coordinated with the New Jersey Tree Foundation. Clifton received 100 beautiful 20 foot trees to be planted at schools, parks and other desired locations throughout the City. This program in partnership with DuPont is educating residents and students about the importance of urban forestry-stewardship while creating lush green corridors for school grounds. Trees planted at 25 schools and 3 parks were Maples, Ash, Cherries, and Zelkova. Clifton Public Works employees provided assistance to the NJ Tree Foundations’ planting crews by marking out the tree spots, unloading the trees, and providing equipment plus manpower at the time of planting.

2) Adopt-A-Tree for Private Property Program - Over 200 residents responded and requested trees to be planted in front of their properties. Trees will be purchased and planted by a private contractor with monies from a dedicated fund. Residents are responsible to care for the tree the first year with environmental affection and watering.

3) Regenerative Forestry for Public Lands - Once again the NJ Tree Foundation donated 400 (1’-2’) foot tall trees to supply the City of Clifton with an ongoing supply of trees for our Urban-forestry stewardship programs. These trees were planted at the Clifton Tree Farm and will be harvested and used on public lands to beautify our City with the objective to create Urban and Institutional “WOODLOTS” throughout the City’s schools and public lands.

4) Engineering/Forestry Coordination - Each year the City’s Engineering Department improves and coordinates proper urban forestry review of street and utility plans, sidewalk construction, and similar practices that impact the health of the city’s trees. Approximately 1,000 trees each year are being replanted through this program.

5) CSIP Tree Planting Grant - Clifton has applied for a $25,000 grant from the Community Stewardship Incentive Program. This grant will be used to plant trees on public lands which will promote energy conservation in residential areas. The City plans to work with the NJ Forest Service and Community Forestry Council with funding provided by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program.

Another event this year was the Clean and Grow campaign at Morris Canal Park. Jack Kuepfer, park coordinator led the program with volunteers to have a special Tree planting ceremony along with nature walks and various other activities.

For more information contact: adubois@cliftonnj.org or visit www.cliftonnj.org