



December 1, 2006

Dear Municipal Leader:

As part of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' **TreeVitalize Municipalities Program**, incentive grants are being offered to encourage municipalities to cross boundaries and work together to include tree cover in their planning and budgeting. The Municipal Forestry Incentive Grants described here represent a total of \$100,000 in grant funding, with up to \$25,000 to be awarded in each of the four southeastern PA counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery. **Applications must be submitted by January 15, 2007.**

TreeVitalize Municipalities is a program designed to help communities overcome obstacles to restoring and managing their tree canopy. A major goal of the program is for municipal leaders to recognize the importance of integrating green infrastructure (tree) improvements as part of their economic and community enhancement and revitalization efforts. The Municipal Forestry Incentive Grants are designed to help municipalities achieve this goal.

In addition to the Incentive Grant Program, free technical assistance is also available from the TreeVitalize Municipalities partnering organizations: The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Penn State School of Forest Resources Cooperative Extension, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and Pennsylvania Environmental Council. If you have technical questions related to municipal forestry, please feel free to contact any of us for assistance. Municipalities listed as "older communities with low tree coverage" according to the TreeVitalize Program are also eligible to receive a set of ortho-digital aerial photography from DVRPC, by contacting Patty Elkis (see below).


When submitting a grant application, please be sure to also fill out the enclosed survey form. This provides invaluable information to help us improve municipal forestry efforts in the region.

We look forward to reviewing your application. Awards will be announced in February, 2007. If you have any questions about the grant application, please contact Michael Leff at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (see below).

Sincerely,



Michael Leff
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
215-988-8795, mleff@pennhort.org



Dr. Bill Elmendorf and Julianne Schieffer
Penn State School of Forest Resources Cooperative Extension
814-863-7941, wfe@psu.edu
and 610-489-4315, jxs51@psu.edu



Patty Elkins
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
215-238-2838, pelkis@dvrpc.org



Jeanne Barrett Ortiz
The Pennsylvania Environmental Council - EAC Network
215-592-7020 x103, jortiz@pecpa.org