



TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE

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MAINE'S FINEST RESORT

April 16, 2015

Press Release

Project Canopy Planning Grant Awarded to the Town of Kennebunkport

The Town of Kennebunkport has been awarded a \$4,919 Community Forestry Assistance Grant by Project Canopy to develop a GIS based mobile tree inventory application. The Town of Kennebunkport will match the grant award amount on a 50/50 basis.

The Kennebunkport Public Works Department will be working with the Town Tree Warden, the Town Arborist and the Shade Tree Committee to update and maintain the inventory of Town trees. Tom Burns of GIS Mapping and Analysis is developing a tablet based application that our Town Arborist, Tree Warden and Public Works personnel can use to inventory town trees. The application being developed will automatically update to our GIS Tree Inventory Database and be available for use on our town website as part of our GIS mapping information. .

The Tree Warden gets calls on a regular basis regarding trees in town; she will be able to field review shade tree information on a mobile device and determine maintenance requirements for the tree, based on its variety, current condition and its history. The Town Arborist is continually observing, noting changes, damage and infections; he will be able to update the tree inventory in the field.

Having this information available on a mobile basis will greatly enhance the town's ability to manage its community forest through its Shade Tree Program. It will enable quick, informative responses to questions and concerns of residents and property owners. Over all the community will be better served, Town trees will be better tended, healthier, more beautiful and the public access to the system will make them much more aware and take a greater interest in our trees.

Project Canopy is a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine. Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program.

Michael Claus,
Town of Kennebunkport Public Works Director