



New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign Provides Free Tree Seedlings to Toms River

(Toms River, NJ)- Free tree seedlings will be available to Toms River residents in April as part of the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign. This program helps communities replace trees damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The Township will receive 2,000 trees.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016, residents will be able to pick up tree seedlings at the Recreation Center, 1810 Warren Point Road or the Third Avenue parking lot in Ortley Beach. The Toms River Green Team and the Toms River Environmental Commission have volunteered to assist in the seedling distribution.

Seedlings, available on a first come, first served basis, also come with instructions on how to store, care for, and plant them. The guides help residents choose the right place on a property to plant a tree while keeping in mind the tree's full-grown size in the future. Residents should plant the seedlings within two days after pick-up in order to prevent the roots from drying out.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher stated, "Superstorm Sandy's winds left Toms River with many damaged and dead trees. Through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, our residents can replant those lost trees for free."

The goal of the Tree Recovery Campaign is to distribute over 500,000 tree seedlings to New Jersey residents over the course of the next five years. It is a joint effort between Toms River, New Jersey State Forest Service, New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Jersey, Arbor Day Foundation, Brothers International, BJ's Wholesale Club, Wyndham Vacation Resorts, and FedEx.

When properly planted and maintained, trees can be assets to a community. They improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood or business district, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.