Within this webpage, there is a page that describes the Master Tree Plan, as well as the results of the urban tree canopy assessment. There are pages that show the distribution of the tree canopy across the township, along with overlays that show tree canopy with heat index and by watershed, zoning, ward and population. The report also describes open space and trees on residential properties.

The master tree plan was funded by a Tree Vitalize Community Forestry Management grant. The amount of the grant was about $20,000, but there was a lot of matching time from shade tree commission members and township staff. Currently, this program is not funding new plans, but the program will be funded again at some point in the future.

As part of the grant, Abington Shade Tree Commission worked with Jason Henning of Davey Resource Group and the U.S. Forest Service. Jason did the LIDAR survey and overlays using ARC-GIS. The township already had a license for ARCGIS, so the maps are hosted through the township account. The Shade Tree Commission also field verified a percentage of trees that were already in our tree inventory. The focus on the field verification was on street trees maintained by the township and in essence updated the original inventory that was done by Davey in 2014. Additionally, Dr. Rita Stevens field verified a block of trees adjacent to Hallowell Park in order to show a representative data point based on a physical inventory for a neighborhood with R-4 zoning.

In developing the Master Tree Plan, the Shade Tree Commission also consulted Abington’s Environmental Advisory Committee, Comprehensive Plan Development Team, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Engineering and Code Enforcement. Additionally, the shade tree commission requested input from community partners PHS Tree Tenders, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, the TTF Watershed Partnership and Wissahickon Trails. We also networked in detail with the Society of Municipal Arborists to benchmark representative communities.

Here’s a link to the Abington Township webpage “Our Urban Forest: A Call to Action” dated June 2021.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ed7e547aeaed454ea5dd44c4b1be08c0>