

4/19/2021

## Village of Mamaroneck Tree Committee 27 April 2021 Agenda

\*Approval of the March Minutes (attachment 1)

\*Comments from Residents (*Please limit in-person comments to 3 minutes*)

\*Correspondence

Stuart Ave -- Grounds Maintenance at Guion Creek (attachment 2)

\*Old Business

305 Fourth St. – Request to remove large, healthy tree. Response by BWS. (attachment 3)

Tree Maintenance -- *Please provide street numbers when reporting tree-related issues*

404 & 407 Creek – pruning request for broken and poorly pruned limbs

Palmer Court @ Painter Terrace – crooked tree (attachment 4)

Palmer Terrace hanging limbs (attachment 5)

Trees For Removal

HIP near Firemen's Memorial (discussed with Barry) Bradford Pear growing within the limbs of healthy evergreen (attachment 6)

300 Boston Post Road – dead tree (marked) (attachment 7)

Palmer @ Rockland – two dead trees for removal

325 Prospect – Dead tree for removal (attachment 8)

Florence Park tree – Tony inspected April 12, one tree needs to be removed, others to be pruned (attachment 9)

New Trees

Fall 2020 Planting

21 small, bareroot trees delivered April 20

Question whether using 4 stakes instead of 2 might prevent leaning, example at 321-325 Stanley (attachment 10)

Westchester County may plant new trees on County property – follow up to letter

MetroNorth Trees Replacement – status of petition by residents

Tree Inventory –Marlene to follow up, recommend community service credit

Guided Tree Walk

May 16 (rain date May 23), 1:00 pm, The Parkway

Need to contact Jason Pinto

Clean Up/ Green Up

May 1 (rain date May 2)

Booth to be staffed by Ellen and Wendy, supplies from Gail  
Coordinate with Mandy on CFTE

Essential Workers Living Tribute in HIP

HIP along Rushmore  
Recommended white oaks, tupelo, sweet gum  
Hardscape – considering backless benches, central compass

\*New Business

Proposed educational webinar – suggest inviting Douglas Tallamy, author of *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees and Bringing Nature Home*. NYT discussion  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/31/realestate/oak-trees-why-you-should-plant.html>

Westchester Tree Canopy Initiative (attachments 11, 12,13)

Town of Mamaroneck Tree Canopy Restoration Project  
CUNY Professor Andy Reinman, Tree Canopy Mapping  
VOM @ 23.4% canopy

\*Other Business (*this time is for committee members to add any items not otherwise included in the agenda*)

\*Calendar Notes

Next regular meeting *Tuesday, May \_\_, 2021, 7:30 p.m.*  
VOM Clean Up, Green Up Day, *Saturday, May 1, rain date May 2, 9:30 a.m.*  
Guided Tree Walk *Sunday, May 16, rain date May 23, 1:00 pm*

## March 23rd 2021 MINUTES

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON March 23, 2021 AT 7:30 PM

#### PRESENT:

Nora Lucas, trustee  
Gail Koller, co-chair  
Beverley Sherrid, co-chair  
Wendy Zoland  
Marlene Star  
Sean Gormley  
Ellen Axelrod  
Joe Colombo

1. Call to Order: 7:38PM
2. Approval of February Minutes
3. Comment from Resident
  - a. Linda Meehan commented regarding the tree stump removal from 704 Shore Acres Drive. 5 elms that were sick were removed and the stumps were taken out. Linda said they did an amazing job and they were a very nice group of guys.
  - b. Kate Weingarten requested clean up and removal of dead trees at the Guion Bird Sanctuary. There are invasive bittersweet vines on the trees.
4. **Old Business:**
  - a. 305 Fourth Street - (November business) Resident requested removal of large, healthy tree and

replacement with small, flowering tree. Request has been made several times; tree has been healthy; Tony will inspect since we do not take out healthy trees. Wendy suggested that we should inspect it every year.

- b. 404 & 407 Creek Road– Two trees a Cherry and an Elm were pruned incorrectly by the residents. A pruning request was made to Jerry and Tony for broken and poorly pruned limbs.
- c. Harbor Island Park, “HIP” near Firemen’s Memorial (discussed with Barry) Bradford Pear growing within the limbs of healthy evergreen needs to come out.
- d. Florence Park Tree is wrapped with yellow tape. No pink dots on it, and the tree looks healthy. It would really benefit from some pruning. Beverley reached out to Jeff, Tony and Jerry on this.
- e. Were Violations issued for 717 The Parkway tree topped by residents and 625 Brook on N. Barry, two trees topped.
- f. New Tree Plantings – Full planting will happen in the Spring. 21 small trees held over from Fall list are on order. Jerry is researching trees that were not in stock. Beverley provided new sites to Jerry. Jerry’s comment regarding the plantings: “Planting bareroot trees is a big step for us and everyone on this email is to be congratulated. We **reduced the cost** of street trees by at least **65% while at the same time increased** survival rate and locations where we could plant. That is a BIG deal.”
- g. Resident New Tree Requests were received and reviewed. Sean has an inventory of some that he will send to the committee.
- h. Water Treatment Plantings Request – Dan Sarnoff requested a county map of the underground architecture to ensure appropriate locations for trees.

Beverley followed up with a request to George Latimer and will also follow up with a phone call.

- i. Metro-North Trees Removed along Bishop and Hoyt  
Wendy will reach out to Amy Biscignani to see if she would be willing to start a petition. We have been trying for years to get them to approve planting replacement trees on Bishop. The trees would be planted by the Village on Metro-North property. Arborvitae was suggested since they grow narrowly, not too high and they provide a nice, year-round foliage. It was suggested that one of the Bishop Street residents can start a petition with community signatures to show their support.
- j. Tree Donation Fund - Jeff Ahne, foreman of parks, reached out regarding donating trees. He would like a standardized donation process.
- k. Guidelines for Proposing Significant Trees is a work in progress. Joe investigated the process with other municipalities on this. (Scarsdale and Rye).
- l. Tree inventory - Local high school students are not doing senior internships due to COVID. Marlene will call schools to suggest volunteering for the inventory for community service credit. Gail suggested to put a request on the nextdoor app for community assistance.
- m. Guided Tree Walk - Jocelyn Kleinman of Sheldrake Environmental Center will oversee the walk. Gurion Bird Sanctuary was suggested. The dates recommended were May 16<sup>th</sup> and a rain date of May 23<sup>rd</sup> both Sundays at 1PM.

## 5. **New Business**

- a. Essential Workers Tribute - Proposal by Arts Council to create a living tribute for the Village of Mamaroneck, "VOM" essential workers during the pandemic. Beverley recommended that it be located on Rushmore side of HIP. Request was for 10-12 trees in a circle. Sample

photos were submitted. White Oaks were suggested since they can take the salt and help with flooding. Nora will work with Arts Council and Recreation and Parks Commission on this request.

- b. Tree City recertification application is incomplete – We need to send signature page from George Profous, Senior Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- c. Clean Up Green Up Day Event – May 1<sup>st</sup> and rain date May 2nd. Discussed having a Tree Committee booth to educate community on how trees are beneficial to the environment. Wendy and Ellen volunteered. Beverley to find out if we can have a table. Gail will order supplies.

**6. Other Business:**

- a. 858 Palmer Ave – Young elm branch is broken and tree is split and needs to be removed. Picture was shared.
  - b. Jeff Ahn needs to be reminded by May the need for water bags for new trees planted over the past two years.
7. Next regular meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30PM
8. ADJOURNED 8:47 PM

**Attachment 2  
Tree Committee 19 April 2021**

**From:** kate weingarten <[kate@kategw.com](mailto:kate@kategw.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 20, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Nora Lucas <[nlucas@vomny.org](mailto:nlucas@vomny.org)>  
**Subject:** Guion bird sanctuary, among others

Dear Nora,  
I see you are liaison to tree committee.  
I have observed that many trees on this village owned property are covered in ivy and that there are unsightly limbs and trees on the ground.  
I have emailed the mayor about this twice but DPW has done nothing.  
Could tree committee look at this place and others owned by village and make a recommendation?  
I don't suggest that it be totally cleaned up, but some remediation would be good, I think.  
Kate Weingarten  
646 354 0641

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**Jerry Barberio** 12:05 PM (20 minutes ago)

to **Jeff**, Nora, Kate, Beverly, Gail

Jeff after 234 Stanley today we will take a ride.

Nora, I'll get back to you in a day or so on what I see.

Please keep in mind, this area does benefit from fallen trees and large limbs because it creates habitat, but I do understand Ms. Weingarten's point.

We will take care of it. JB

JB

**Jerry Barberio**

**Attachment 3 -- 305 Fourth Street Request**

**Village Tree on Rose Lane @ 305 Fourth St.**

**Beverley Sherrid** <mrssherrid@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 12, 3:22 PM (7 days ago)

to pschun17, Jerry, Tony, Gail

Dear Mr. Chung,

Thank you for your email to the Village about the large street tree outside your house. The Village has inspected it and finds that it is healthy and safe, so it will not need to be replaced. We'll continue to check up on it going forward.

Sincerely yours,  
Beverley Sherrid  
Co-Chair, VOM Tree Committee











TOY BOX



325





## Restoring Mamaroneck’s Tree Canopy

Trees are crucial to human survival and have a direct impact on our health and resilience as a community. The Nature Conservancy’s scientific studies show that trees are vital for oxygen production, carbon sequestration, air and water purification, storm water and flood risk mitigation, heat reduction on summer days, protection against erosion, and enhancement of our health and sense of well-being.

And yet the Town of Mamaroneck’s Tree Canopy is facing significant challenges. According to Town records, our tree canopy—the layer of leaves and branches that covers the ground when viewed from above—is shrinking. As a forward-thinking community seeking to secure a resilient future, we must recognize the value of what we are losing, reverse the decline in tree coverage and increase tree canopy wherever possible.

### Understanding the Value of Trees

We all share in the benefits provided by trees, even as we marvel at their beauty. Trees are problem solvers. These dedicated custodians of our habitat constitute our first line of defense against many of the severe environmental challenges impacting us locally and globally.

- Trees lower summer energy usage by as much as 30%; their shade reduces outdoor air temperature in paved and built-up areas. The USDA Forest Service states that trees also reduce heating demand by buffering the force of cold winds on buildings.
- Trees stabilize soil and mitigate flooding and erosion by slowing down storm water drainage by up to 60%, compared to asphalt. A medium-sized tree can absorb up to 2,380 gallons of rainfall per year (USDA).
- Trees protect our watershed by filtering water and removing pollutants that drain into Long Island Sound—including nitrogen-laden lawn chemicals that cause the algal blooms that deplete oxygen and kill marine life.
- Trees reduce air pollution concentrations (US EPA). The larger the canopy, the more pollutants are captured, thus reducing asthma and heart disease, which are aggravated by even small amounts of pollutants (American Heart Association).
- Trees, the “lungs of the earth,” provide us with sustaining oxygen. Through photosynthesis, trees help reduce global warming by pulling CO<sub>2</sub> from the air. The carbon becomes part of the tree, and the oxygen is released to the atmosphere. When trees are cut down, the stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere, hastening climate change.

### A Disappearing Tree Canopy in our Town

The Town recently celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Tree City designation by the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation, reconfirmed annually, signifies that the Town values our trees, holds annual Arbor Day Tree Planting programs, has a certified Arborist on staff, reports annually on tree plantings and removals, and follows sound practices in protecting and caring for trees. To truly value what trees do for our community, we need to do more: preserve and improve our tree canopy while raising public awareness of how critical trees are to maintaining our quality of life.



We are losing trees not only to aging and disease, but also to increasingly intense storms. Residents are removing trees out of fear of storm-related damage, even when trees are healthy. Trees are often removed, sometimes unnecessarily, for home re-construction or additions. *An old-growth tree takes an hour to cut down, but over one hundred years to replace.*

In recent years, on public property alone, the Town lost or removed over three times as many trees as it planted:

- 2017: 14 trees planted; 41 trees removed;
- 2018: 18 trees planted; 73 trees removed;
- 2019: 24 trees planted; 75 trees removed.

*In 2020, as a result of storm Isaias, the Town of Mamaroneck lost over 100 trees, but only one tree was planted.*

### **The Town of Mamaroneck must act to reverse this decline.**

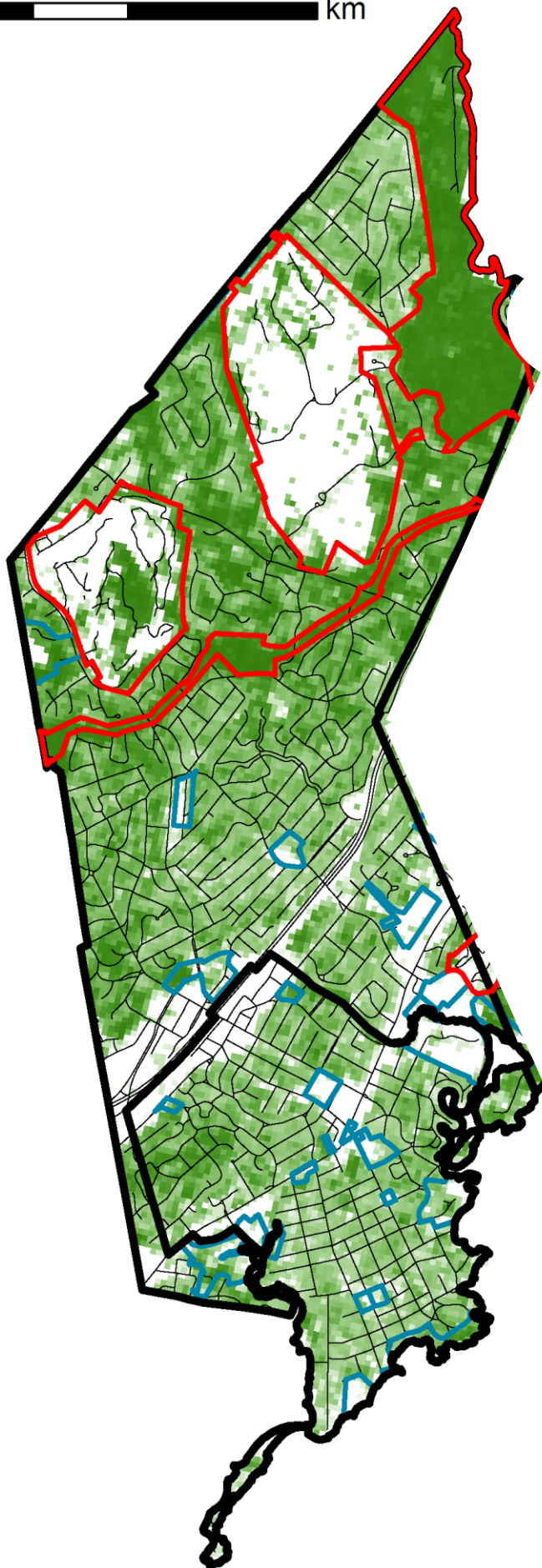
Our tree canopy is as much a part of Town infrastructure as our roads. Preserving and expanding this public health resource requires public-sector leadership and partnership with our private sector: residents, Houses of Worship, clubs, retail and commercial areas. The Collaborative recommends the following actions, which have brought major improvements to other Westchester municipalities:

- **Promote the qualities and advantages of being a Tree City.**  
Encourage homeowners, retailers, Houses of Worship and clubs to replace any trees that they wish to remove, and to expand their tree canopy wherever possible.
- **Increase tree planting on public lands, along street rights-of-way, and on private property.**  
Implement a program to return the Town’s tree canopy to at least the 45% coverage estimated in 2011, or expand our tree cover beyond the 50% coverage maintained by the Village of Scarsdale through their municipal program, which plants over 100 trees per year.
- **Reduce tree removals through improved regulation.**  
Improve regulations that discourage the clear-cutting of a property when a house is sold, and make current tree protections applicable across all properties in the Town, in line with provisions recently updated in Scarsdale.
- **Educate and inform the public through outreach.**  
The Collaborative will assist the Town Board by undertaking a community outreach and education campaign to promote the value of trees, improving public awareness of the important advantages of being a Tree City.

Our Town Government, together with our residents, must restore and increase our Tree Canopy through a comprehensive, multi-year tree-planting program. With increased community awareness and support, this program will help the Town remain beautiful, healthy and resilient for generations to come.

0 0.5 1 2 km

**Town of Mamaroneck  
Tree Canopy 2016**



**Westchester County  
2016\*\* Tree Canopy %**


Pound Ridge	76.1%
New Castle	69.0%
Cortlandt	65.0%
Bedford	63.8%
Briarcliff Manor	58.3%
Irvington	57.9%
Hastings on Hudson	54.2%
Ossining	54.0%
Mt Pleasant	53.6%


**Westchester Cty Avg 52.8%**


Scarsdale 50.0%

Town of Mamaroneck 44.1%

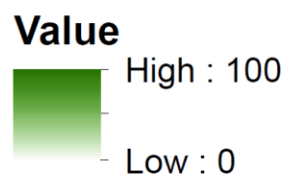
*The Town ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 43  
Westchester County municipalities  
in Tree Canopy %*

 Excluded Open Spaces

 Open Spaces

 Streets

**2016 Tree Canopy (%)**



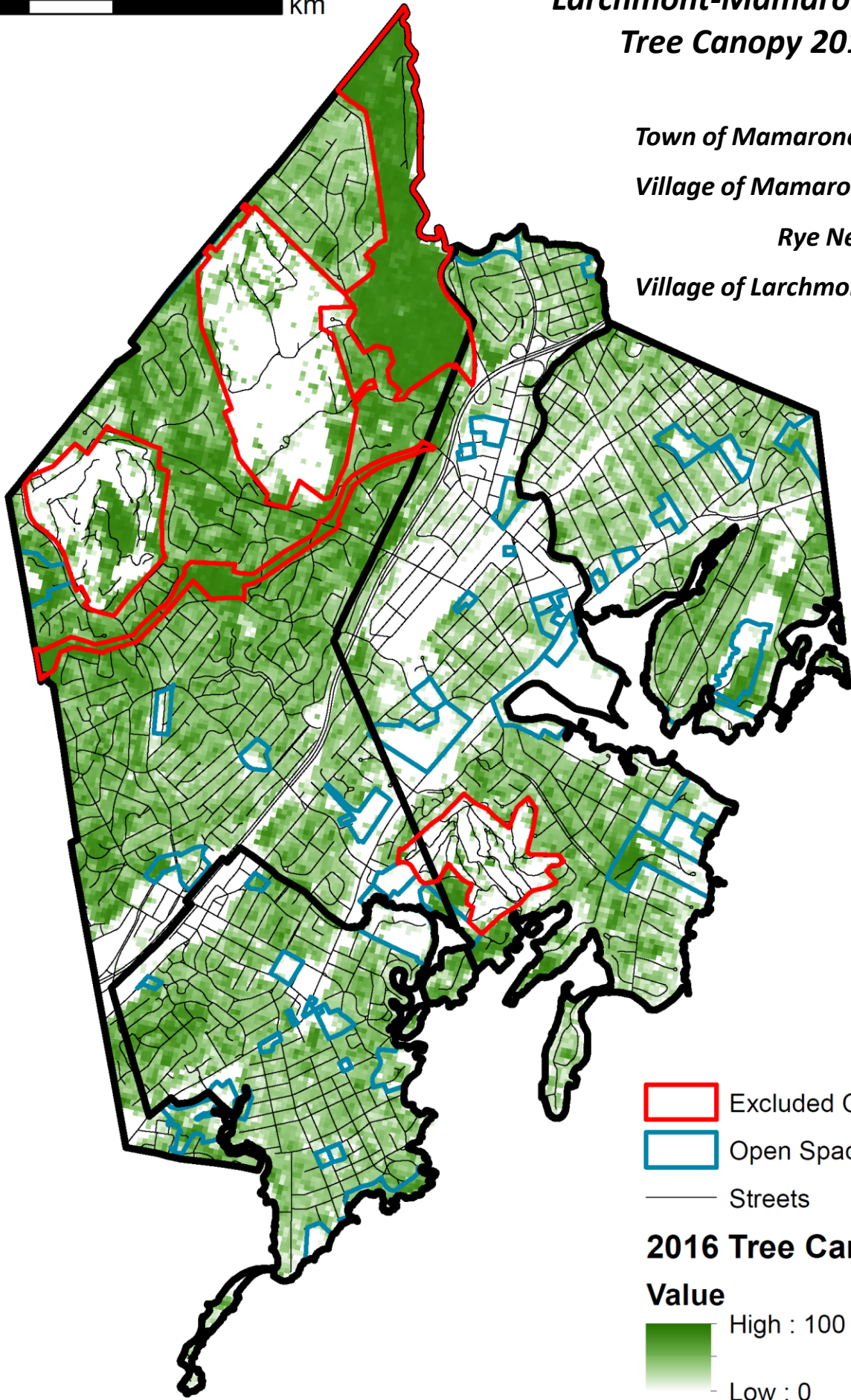
\*\* Note: 2016 data is the most recent available, data courtesy CUNY Professor Reinmann


0 0.5 1 2 km


# Larchmont-Mamaroneck Tree Canopy 2016\*\*




<i>Town of Mamaroneck</i>	<b>44.1%</b>
<i>Village of Mamaroneck</i>	<b>23.4%</b>
<i>Rye Neck</i>	<b>28.9%</b>
<i>Village of Larchmont</i>	<b>31.8%</b>




 Excluded Open Spaces

 Open Spaces

 Streets

## 2016 Tree Canopy (%)

Value

 High : 100

 Low : 0

\*\* Note: 2016 data is the most recent available, data courtesy CUNY Professor Reinmann