



2024 Annual Report

Reporting on our Progress and Milestones

JOHN KENNEDY AND TRISH GALLAGHER **AUGUST 2025**





STC Mission

We seek to preserve and enhance Abington’s urban forest and the essential ecosystem services that trees uniquely provide.

Urban Forests are systems of trees, other vegetation, and water within any urban area. They are dynamic green infrastructure that provide environmental, economic, and social benefits (which collectively are called ecosystem services).
Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests report (2011)

STC Members

Appointed STC

- Trish Gallagher, co-chair
- John Kennedy, co-chair
- Travis D’Onofrio
- Robin Eisman
- Anna Nicholaides

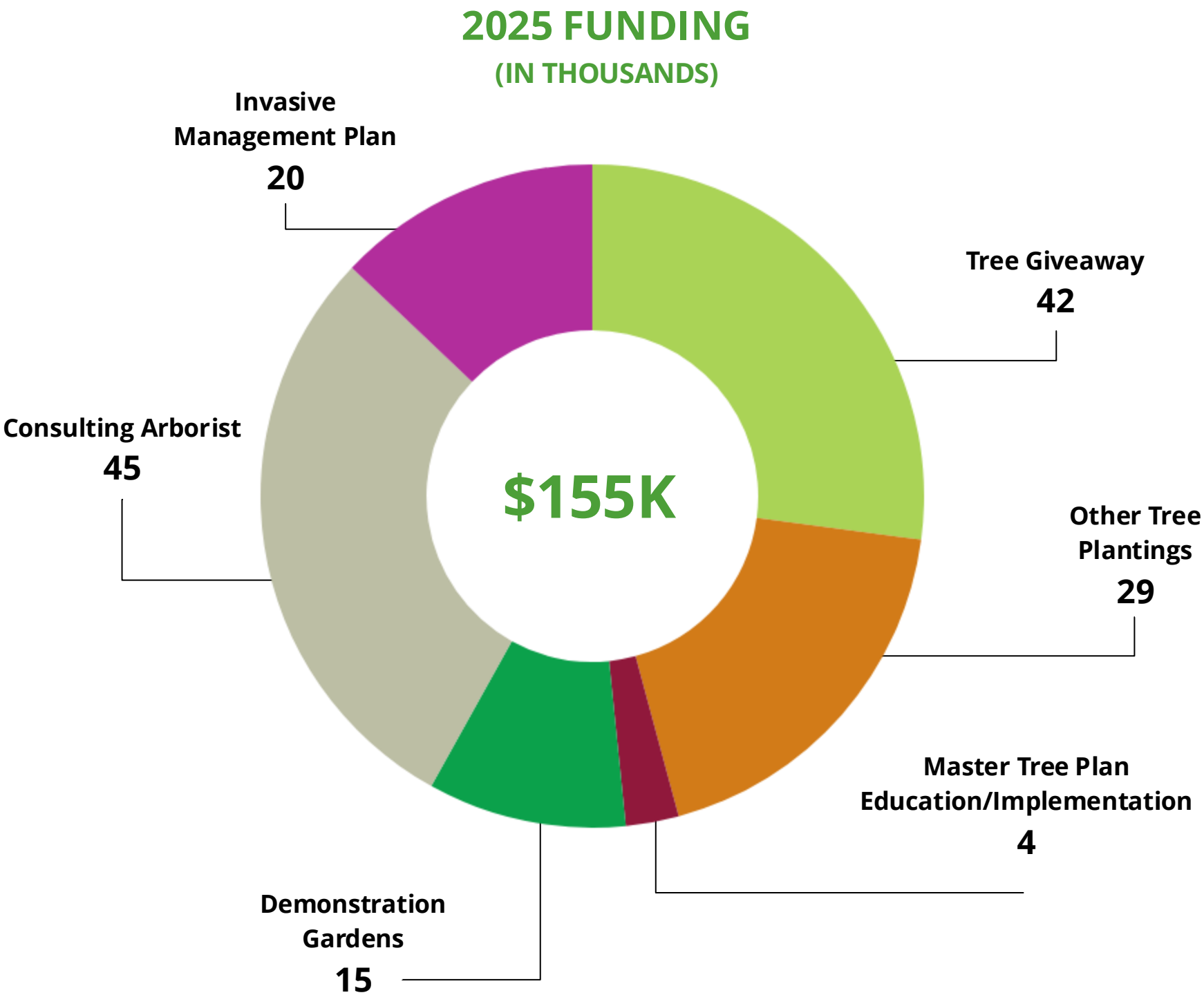
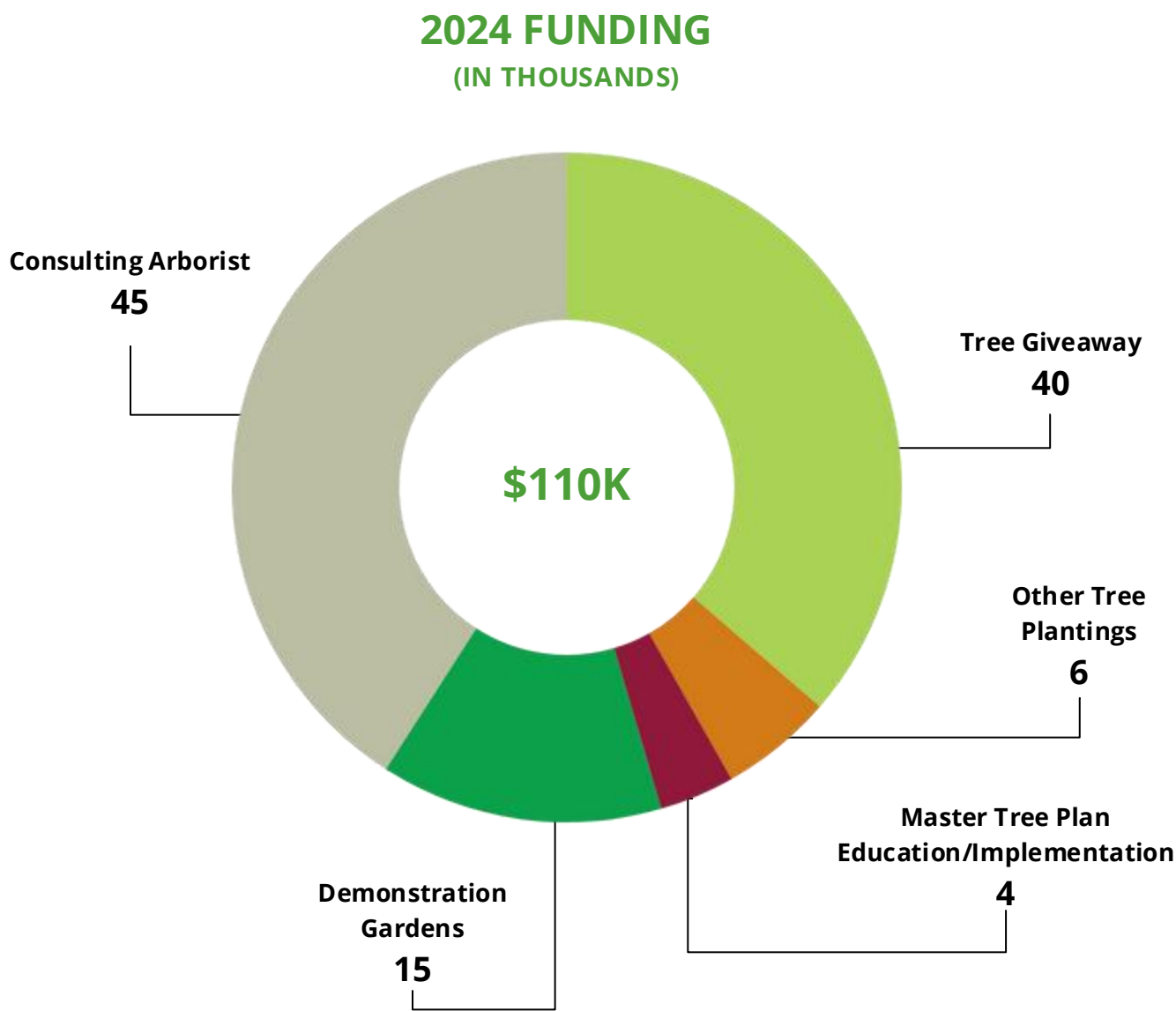
Associates

- Tanya Borman-Voit
- Andrew Christy
- Kristin Gaenssle
- Kathy Helmsley
- Donna Rohner
- Nicole Tomlinson

2024-25 Progress



Funding



New Activities and Pilot Projects

- Township Hired Consulting Arborist in August 2024
- Proposed Tree Preservation, Protection, and Removal Ordinance
- Development of a Invasives Plant Management Plan for Township Parks
- **Pilot (with EAC)** – Native Plant Gardens for Park Stewardship
- **Pilot** – Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps for Stewardship



2024-25 Progress

Ongoing Activities and Initiatives



CERTIFICATIONS:

- Tree City USA (17 years)
- Tree City Growth Award

OUTREACH AND STEWARDSHIP:

- NUMEROUS events at township parks & natural areas
- 1,620 volunteer hours of community service in 2024

ADVISORY:

- PROVIDE Field support to township staff
- Review of land development applications

GRANTS (11-YEAR TOTAL \$486K):

- TC ENERGY GRANT FOR TREE GIVEAWAY – \$12.2K
- ARDSLEY Wildlife Sanctuary Phase II restoration
 - DCNR \$230K, Montco 2040 151K, Twp match \$68K

TREE PLANTINGS AND FREE TREE GIVEAWAY

- 100 TREES PLANTED IN TOWNSHIP PARKS, SCHOOLS AND NATURAL AREAS
- 2024 and 2025 (to date): 900 trees have been distributed to 529 Abington households. In Fall 2025, an additional 300 trees will be given away to Township residents

2024-25 Progress

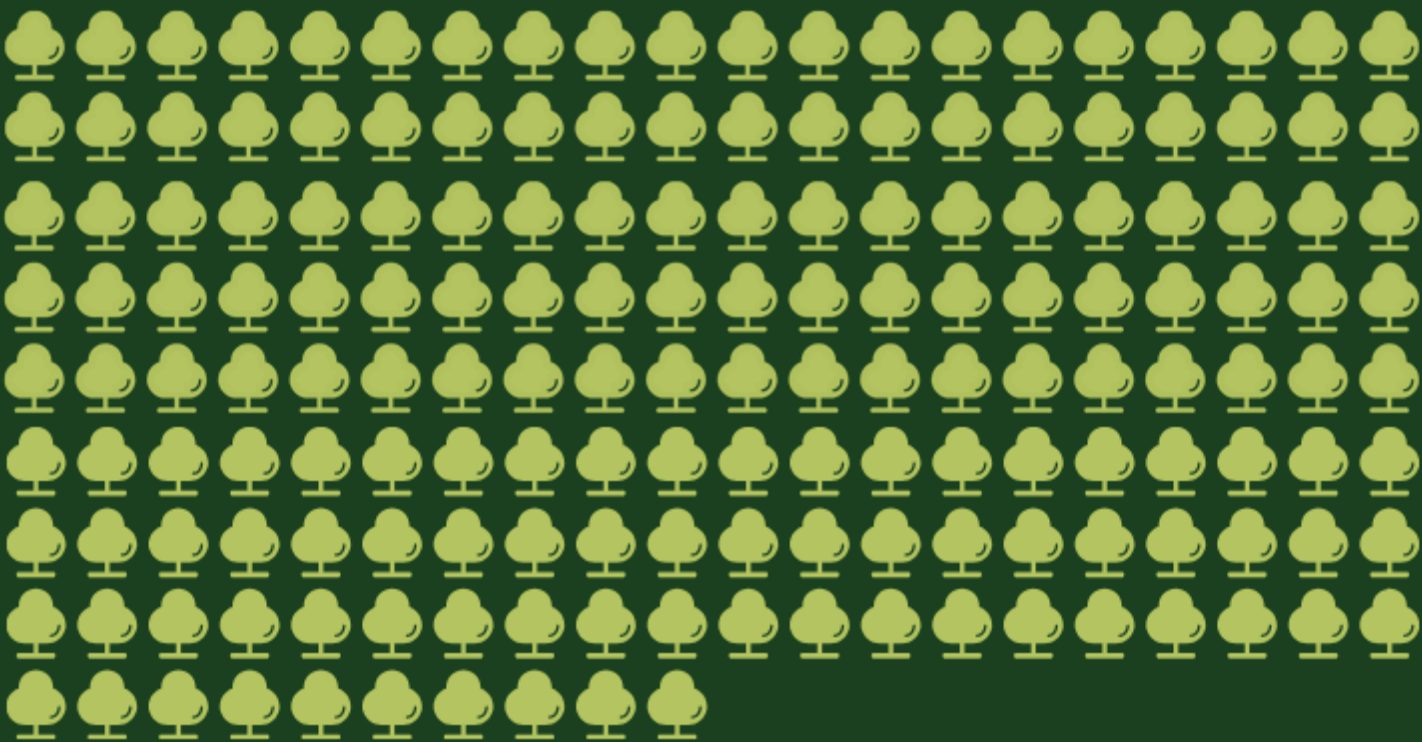
Free Tree Giveaways

- Our **biannual free native tree giveaways** for township residents continue to be our most popular event.
- **The STC has given away 2,000 trees** to since 2022. In October 2025, another 300 trees will be distributed.



Native Tree Giveaways

2022-2024: 1,700 trees



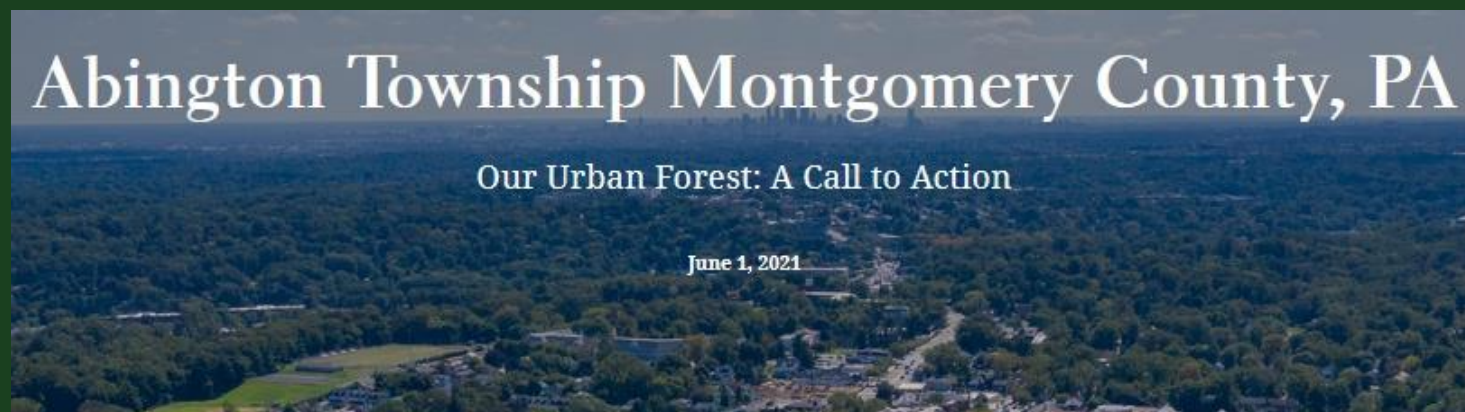
2025: 600 trees



Renewed Call to Action: Protect and Grow Our Urban Forest

FAST FACTS

- Abington's tree canopy is in decline. Between 2004–2017 we **lost over 420 acres of tree canopy, or 1 in 8 trees.** And canopy decline continues.
- Abington's tree canopy is inequitably distributed. We have **as little as 1 tree per person in ward 5** to as many as 7 trees per person in ward 1.



WHY IT MATTERS:

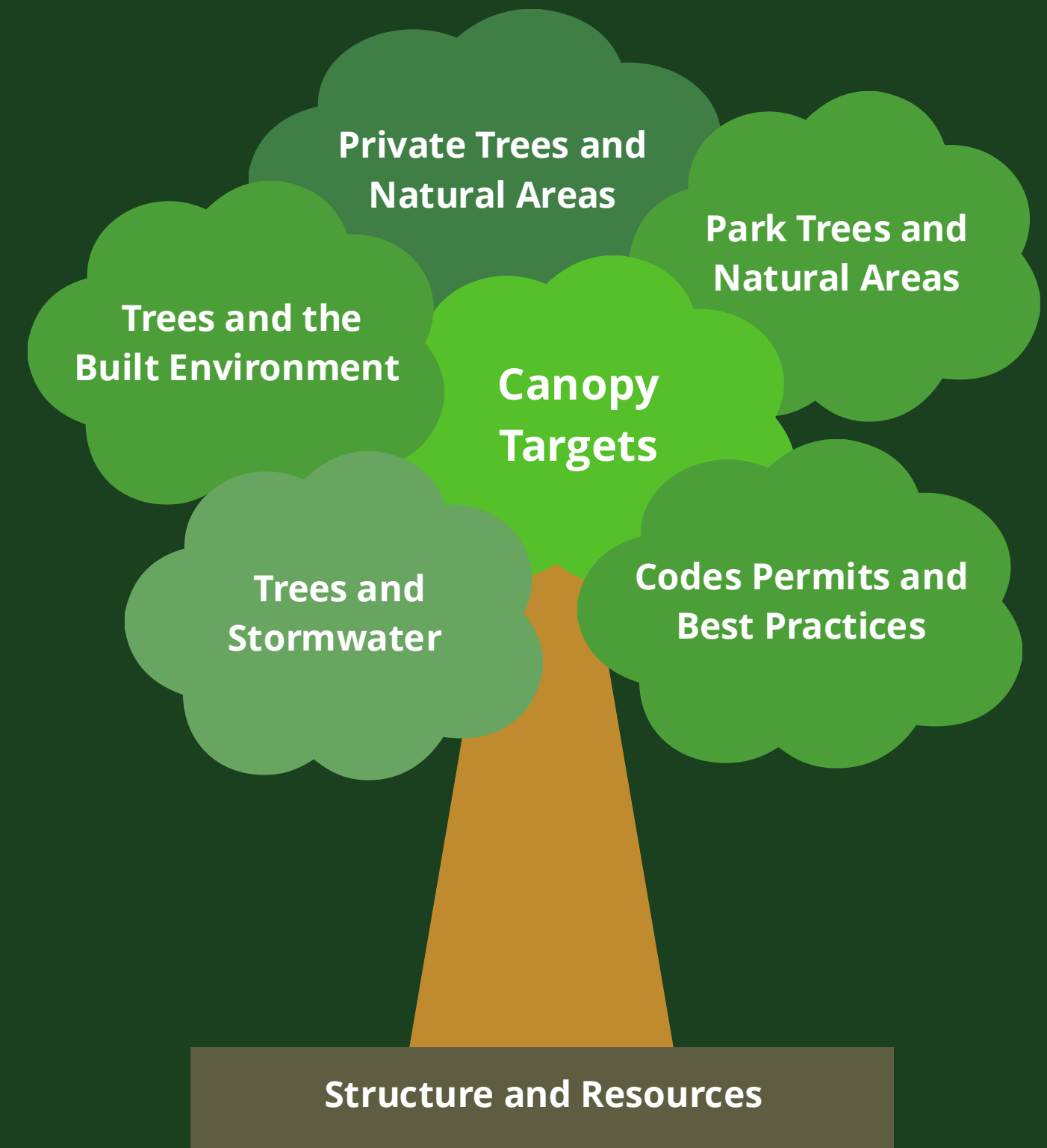
- Trees are a vital part of Abington's infrastructure and provide numerous ecosystem services, including reducing stormwater runoff and flooding and improving water quality.
- Trees cool neighborhoods, reducing the urban heat island effect and saving energy costs.
- Trees make Abington a more desirable place to live, and they increase the property values of neighborhoods with more trees.

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

Priorities

Master Tree Action Plan (MTAP)

- The Master Tree Action Plan (MTAP) helps protect our urban forest and the ecosystem services it provides.
- Implementation Actions:
 - Free Tree Giveaways
 - Park Plantings
 - Native Plant Gardens for park stewardship
 - Hiring consulting arborist
 - Proposed Tree Preservation, Protection, and Removal Ordinance
 - Invasive Plants Management Plan



Proposed Tree Preservation, Protection and Replacement Ordinance

WHY DO WE NEED PROTECTIONS FOR OUR TREES?

- Our tree canopy is vanishing at an alarming rate. Our current tree preservation, protection, and replacement guidelines are outdated and contain gaps.
- The proposed ordinance will adopt best practices from other municipalities that reflect current national standards. It will help protect and grow our urban forest during future land development and streamline review of development plans.



Summary

- In collaboration with township staff and volunteers, the stc has made significant progress in stewarding and growing our urban forest.
- We are **actively seeking volunteers** to join us!



Abington Shade Tree Commission
www.abingtonpa.gov/stc
stc@abingtonpa.gov

2024 Stats

