

## New Trees Planted in Pavilion Circle

If you have been to Pavilion Circle Park recently, you may have noticed three new, **native** trees that were recently planted across from the Red Store. Several trees in the Park suffered damage over the winter and had to be removed for safety reasons. Three Willow Oaks were planted the last week of April to replace the damaged trees. The cost of the trees was covered by a recent, and very generous, Civic Club donation.



According to the National Wildlife Federation, “FOR GARDENERS WHOSE GOAL IS TO HELP WILDLIFE, planting an oak tree is a no-brainer.” In fact, “Native oaks are the most valuable tree for wildlife in 84 percent of the counties in the United States in which they occur,” says [Doug Tallamy](#), a University of Delaware entomologist and author of the 2021 book *The Nature of Oaks*.

Like other oak species, the Willow Oak has remarkable value for wildlife. Twenty-nine New Jersey bird species are fed by Willow Oaks. It serves as a larval host for several butterflies\* and moths, as well as the Northern Walkingstick \*\*. Squirrels relish the acorns, as do chipmunks, deer, fox, white-footed mice, and raccoons.

The Cape May Point Environmental Commission wants to remind our residents of the value of native plants vs. non-native:

1. Native trees, shrubs, and vines are the key to offering critical food and cover to our wildlife.
2. Native vegetation will thrive with the least amount of care.
3. Non-native ornamentals require a great deal of care (watering, chemicals for insect pests, fertilizing) and tend not to thrive as readily as native vegetation.
4. Many non-native ornamentals have no food value to our wildlife.

To learn more about native trees and plants, please visit the Our Environment page on the Borough of Cape May Point website.



\*White M hairstreak



\*\* Northern Walkingstick