

# Watertown's Tree Program Annual & Long-Term Objectives 2019

The Forestry division of the Public Works department has developed tree planting and pruning programs to make such services available for residents interested in adding or pruning trees in public spaces around their buildings and homes. The following are policies and aspirations of those and similar initiatives.

## **Annual Updates**

The Forestry division will give the Town Council's committee on Public Works an update of these annual and long-term objectives, at a publicly held meeting, in either January or February each year.

## **New Tree Plantings**

The goal of the Town is to plant over 2,500 trees over the next 10 years, or at least 250 trees each year over each of the next 10 years. The forestry division will plant as many trees as is possible, within its budgetary capabilities, as determined by the Town's Tree Warden. It is expected that any difference between the number of trees planted by the forestry division and the aforementioned goal, will be met by non-municipal organizations and persons.

## **Tracking of New Tree Plantings**

The forestry division will track the number of trees planted by the division and work with the community to track those planted by non-municipal organizations and persons. Such tracking will be kept in a constantly evolving database updated and kept by the forestry division for this purpose.

## **Tracking of New Tree Plantings and the Effect on Town Canopy Levels**

The forestry division will track how the number of trees planted by the division and by non-municipal organizations and persons effect the overall Town tree canopy levels. Such tracking will be kept in a constantly evolving database updated and kept by the forestry division for this purpose.

## **Tracking of Health of New Tree Plantings**

The forestry division will track of the overall health of trees planted by the division. Such tracking will be kept in a constantly evolving database updated and kept by the forestry division for this purpose.

## **New Tree Pruning**

The goal of the Town is to prune over 1,000 trees over the next 10 years, or at least 100 trees each year over the next 10 years. The forestry division will prune as many trees as is possible, within its budgetary capabilities, as determined by the Town's Tree Warden.

### **Tracking of New Tree Pruning**

The forestry division will track the number of trees pruned. Such tracking will be kept in a constantly evolving database updated and kept by the forestry division for this purpose.

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### **Tracking of New Tree Planting and Pruning Requests**

The forestry division will track the number of requests made by residents to plant or prune trees. This includes any requests that are denied. Such tracking will be kept in a constantly evolving database updated and kept by the forestry division for this purpose.

### **Update on Tree Planting or Pruning Related Initiatives**

The forestry division will update the committee on any other initiatives it that involve the planting or pruning of trees in Town.

All of the aforementioned information shall be made available to the Town Council at any time upon request.

## **Watertown's Tree Planting Program**

The Forestry division of the Public Works department has a tree planting program available for residents interested in adding trees to public spaces around their buildings and homes. Below are the different types of tree plantings the town provides.

### **Replace Existing Trees**

To request a tree planting, call the Public Works Department directly at 617-972-6420, or email Christopher Hayward, Tree Warden at [chayward@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:chayward@watertown-ma.gov) If a tree was removed from an existing tree pit or planting strip and you would like a replacement, there is no expense to you. Leave your name, address, and phone number and you will be contacted about the replacement.

### **Request a New Tree Planting**

If you wish to have a tree planted where no tree pit or planting strip currently exists, you have a couple of options. The City will come and inspect the area you wanted planted and determine if it is suitable for installing a tree well or if not, you have the option of a Back of Sidewalk planting. For an application and information call 617-972-6420 or email Christopher Hayward,

Tree Warden at [chayward@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:chayward@watertown-ma.gov) and leave your name and address and an application will be mailed to you.

### **Back of Sidewalk Program**

If there is no space for a tree well on your sidewalk, you can request a tree be planted on your private property. The Back of Sidewalk tree planting program was designed to improve our urban forest through public/private tree planting partnerships. The term, "Back of Sidewalk" refers to the edge of the sidewalk where public way meets private properties. In the case of this program, the City will plant trees along the back of sidewalk, (up to 20 feet off the public way) on private property of interested, eligible owners.

This program provides the city a means of planting trees where in the past either the sidewalk was too narrow or overhead utilities were in the way. This program will allow the city to plant trees in more desirable growing conditions, making it likely they will survive and thrive. A typical sidewalk tree faces harsher conditions along the curb (such as oil or salt from roadway runoff). Soil conditions at the back of sidewalk are generally more suitable for plant growth. The improved environment, larger rooting area, and lack of overhead competition will help ensure a healthier tree canopy in Watertown.

Pedestrians benefit by this program when sidewalks widths are maintained. The narrow nature of sidewalks in Watertown make it difficult to find appropriate places to plant new trees. A growing tree not only crowds the sidewalk, but its root system.

### **Planting Process**

When trees are requested for planting on Town property, the Tree Warden will schedule an inspection of the site within 30 days. Based on this inspection, a determination will be made as to whether this is a suitable location for a new tree. You will be notified within 15 days of inspection as to whether or not the location is suitable for a new tree, and will discuss possible appropriate tree species.

If the site is not suitable for a new tree, the Tree Warden will let you know if there are options available and will give you more information. If the site is suitable the Department will add the location to the next available tree planting list, typically within one year from the inspection date and there will be no charge for the tree.