

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS

Public Works has a variety of programs available for residents interested in adding trees to public spaces around their buildings and homes.

## **Replace Existing Trees**

You can request a replacement tree if one was removed from an existing well in front of your property, at no expense 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.

## **Request a New Tree Planting**

If there is no tree well at your property and you would like a tree planted, you may be able to have a well installed for \$140.

## **Commemorative Tree Program**

Have a tree planted to honor a person, significant life event, or other idea. The cost for this tree is \$200.

## **Why We Plant Smaller Diameter Trees**

- Research has shown smaller caliper (diameter) trees tend to become established more quickly when given proper care
- Our existing narrow sidewalks and tree wells limit the size of root ball that can be planted
- The smaller trees cost less, allowing us to install more trees per year.



## **Contact Information**

David Lefcourt, City Arborist  
617-349-6433  
cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov

## **To request a new tree, tree inspection, pruning or other tree related issue**

617-349-4885  
cambridgetree@cambridgema.gov

## **More useful information**

[www.cambridgema.gov/tree](http://www.cambridgema.gov/tree)

CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC  
**THE  
WORKS**

*This publication was co-sponsored by the  
Committee on Public Planting and the  
City of Cambridge (April 2011)*

Cambridge Department of Public Works  
147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617.349.4800/ TDD 617.349.4805  
theworks@cambridgema.gov  
[www.cambridgema.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks)



Printed on recycled paper.

City of Cambridge Department of Public Works

## **Working Together**

**A healthy urban forest  
needs help from all of us**

## **Trees help us ...**

*lower sidewalk temperatures in summer,  
reduce home cooling costs, and improve air  
quality. Trees contribute to our lives every day.*

## **... and we can help trees**

*Residents and business owners in  
Cambridge have the power to help care  
for street trees. Here's how you can help.*

## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE URBAN FORESTRY FACTS



- The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Cambridge as a Tree City for the past 18 years
- There are over 50 tree species and cultivars planted and maintained throughout the city
- Approximately 17,000 trees are maintained by the DPW's Urban Forestry Division
- The most common species in the city are Norway maple, Pin oak, Red maple, Littleleaf Linden and Honeylocust
- Trees are pruned at least once every 6 years

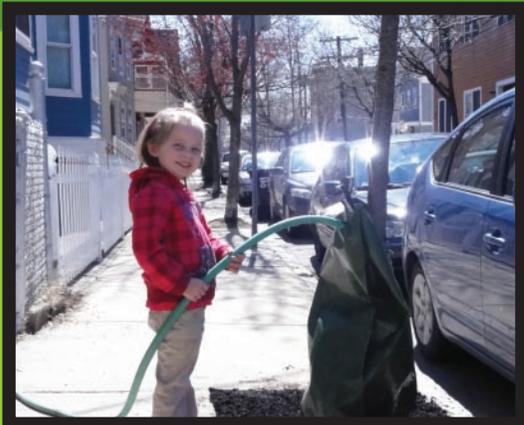
## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Committee on Public Planting

The committee typically meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the DPW to discuss tree planting opportunities as well as other tree related issues.

### Junior Forester Program

The program is geared toward 5-13 year-olds interested in adopting and caring for trees in their neighborhood in conjunction with learning about trees and tree care.



## How You CAN HELP

If you have a newly-planted tree or young tree in front of your home or business, the DPW encourages you to do the following:

### Water

Water Your Tree Between May 15th - October 15th. If your tree has a green gator bag attached to the trunk, fill the bag once a week. If you would like a gator bag, please contact the DPW. Without a gator bag, use a gallon milk jug or equivalent, and water the tree with 15-20 gallons of water at least once per week.



Lift the label and fill the bag once per week.

### Weed

Keep the tree well weed-free. Weeds can compete by consuming valuable resources that a young tree needs to become established.

### Protect

- Don't place raised edges around a tree well. They may create a poor environment for the tree to thrive and present a trip hazard.
- Do not curb your dog in a tree well. Dog urine can be harmful to young trees.
- Do not fertilize your young tree. Most fertilizers promote canopy growth instead of tree root growth.
- Do not lock your bikes to trees. A small wound on the trunk could lead to a lifetime of problems for the tree.

Add 2-3" of mulch to the tree well, making sure mulch does not touch the trunk.

Keep the tree well weed free.



### Mulch

Every spring, mulch the tree well with 2-3 inches of shredded bark or wood chips, keeping mulch away from the trunk.

### Be Alert

**Asian Longhorned Beetles (ALB) threaten our urban forest.** ALBs have a distinctive appearance; adults are shiny black with irregular white spots, with bodies  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

long and antennae that are one to two times their body length. Preferred host trees are

maples, elms, and willows.

Signs of infestation include round boring holes  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or larger (about the size of a pinky finger). **Contact City Arborist if you find a beetle or have questions.**

ALB Photo: Bob Childs



***"Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent."***

—The Arbor Day Foundation