



About Street Trees

Every year, the City of Cambridge adds around 300 trees to residential streets. Placement of the trees can provide many benefits to city residents:

- Trees lower street and sidewalk temperatures in summer months.
- Shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs and help cleanse the air of diesel and dust particles
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide, which helps ease the negative effects of greenhouse gasses.
- Tree roots help hold stormwater in soil.
- Tree-lined streets encourage motorists to drive slower.
- Tree leaves and roots filter particles from stormwater, improving water quality.
- Trees significantly enhance property values.

The City Arborist oversees the health and maintenance of these trees throughout the year.

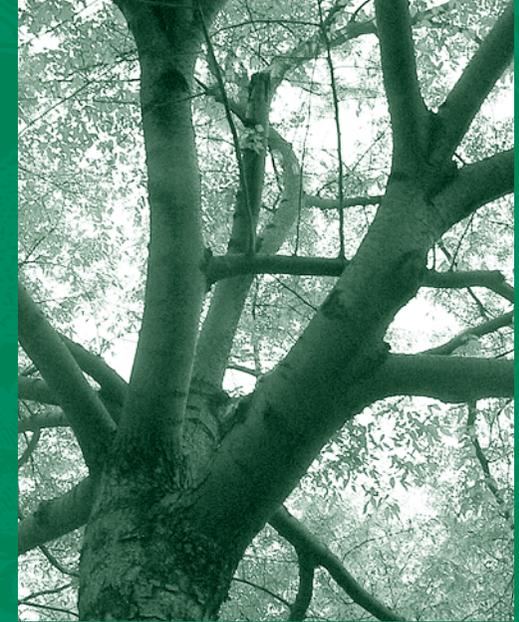
■ For more information on how to keep Cambridge green, call **617.349.4880**.

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Residential Street Tree Planting and Care

■ How the City's tree planting programs beautify, and how to care for your local trees...



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WORKS**

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.349.4800 / TTY 617.349.4805
www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks





Tree Planting Programs

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

Replacing Existing Trees

If a tree was removed from a well in front of your house, it can be replaced at no expense to you. Call **617.349.4051** and leave your name, address, and phone number. The City Arborist will contact you about a replacement.

Requesting a New Tree Planting

If you've never had a sidewalk tree in front of your house or building, you may be able to participate in the *Client Tree Program*. The cost for a new tree is \$140. Call **617.349.4051** and leave your name, address, ZIP code, and phone number. An application will be mailed to you.

Commemorative Tree Program

The *Commemorative Tree Program* is another option for people or organizations to honor a person, significant life event, or other idea. Your cost for a commemorative tree planting is \$200. For a brochure with more information on this program, call **617.349.4051**.

Plantings generally take place in spring, or in fall when necessary. All street trees depend on the help of residents for weeding and watering. For new street trees, weekly watering and weeding is critical for their survival. Read further in this brochure for tips on caring for new and existing trees.



Tree Pruning Cycles

In 1999, the Department of Public Works launched an ambitious, wide-scale street tree pruning program, with a goal of visiting every tree once every four years.

Pruning helps create better looking, safer and healthier trees. It also reduces obstructions of street signs and lighting, and reduces the threat posed by dead limbs. The program also allows for a regular, systemized update of the city's tree database and a streamlining of removal and replacement.

By the end of 2002, nearly 80% of the city's 15,000 public trees will have been pruned. In coming years, the second cycle of pruning will begin, with year-by-year progress through all 13 city neighborhoods. In 2006, the second cycle will be complete.



How to Care For Trees

Caring for Street Trees

As noted, city trees depend greatly on residents for weeding and watering; newly planted trees especially so. Place a hose running at a slow trickle until the ground is well-soaked. "Tree Gators" can also work well: nylon and plastic bladders that can be attached to your tree and filled with water. Client Tree or Commemorative Tree Program participants can get a tree gator from the Department of Public Works. Call **617.349.4051**. Replacement trees are also eligible.

Caring for Private Property Trees

A decision to plant trees includes a commitment to care for and maintain them:

- Hire an ISA or Mass. certified arborist for care
- Choose the best tree for your space, keeping in mind the mature size of the tree, aesthetic concerns, and landscaping needs
- Water – don't overwater – during growth season
- Fertilizer isn't tree food; don't over-fertilize.
- Apply 3-4 inches of organic mulch/compost mix 6 inches away from the base. Extend the mix to the length of the branches, or as far as practical.
- *Don't* rent a chainsaw and ladder to prune or remove your large shade trees yourself.
- *Don't* hire inexperienced, non-licensed arborists.
- *Don't* plant large species trees in confined areas or too close to buildings. Remember, they grow!
- *Don't* over-mulch.

■ For a list of local arboricultural firms, call the City Arborist at **617.349.6433**. Leave your mailing address or fax number.