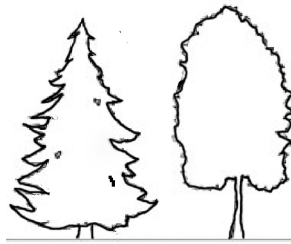




BENEFITS FROM TREES

Trees improve the environment around our homes.

1. Trees convert sunlight into chemical energy, removing carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas contributing to climate change) from the air and releasing oxygen that we need to breathe.
2. Trees are natural air conditioners, cooling the air as excess water vapor evaporates from their leaves (transpiration) and shading us on hot, sunny days.
3. Trees are excellent sound absorbers, reducing the sound as well as the sight of traffic along our busy streets.
4. Trees reduce the energy used for heating and cooling our homes.
 - **Evergreen trees** on the northeast side of a house buffer cold winter winds.
 - **Deciduous trees** on the south and west sides of a house provide shade in summer, but let in sunlight in winter.
5. Tree roots help prevent erosion in heavy rains, especially on slopes.
6. Trees, both alive and dead, provide refuge and habitat for birds and other wildlife.
7. Trees are pleasant to be near. The sound of a breeze through their leaves is soothing to us.



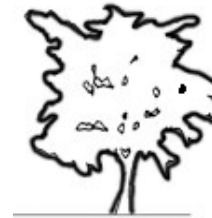
NEEDHAM'S TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

To submit a tree planting request to the Forestry Department, please use our preferred request form on the Town website: www.needhamma.gov/treerequestform

Tree Planting Request Forms are also available at the front desk on the 2nd floor of the Public Service Administration Bldg (PSAB) at 500 Dedham Ave. The Parks and Forestry Division can be reached at 781-455-7550, ext. 316.

Needham's Forestry Department practices the following procedures before installing a set-back and/or berm tree planting:

1. The Town will determine if there is sufficient space for a tree.
2. You may request that a tree be planted in your front yard instead of in the berm to avoid harm to the tree from reduced space and water for roots, collisions with vehicles, widening of roads, pruning for wires, and snowplowing and salting.
3. Trees available vary from year to year. Possibilities include:
 - **Shade trees** - native maples, London Plane Tree, Thornless Honeylocust, Bur Oak, Katsura, Japanese Zelkova, and Ginkgo.
 - **Smaller flowering trees** - Crabapple, Tree Lilac, Kousa Dogwood, Cherry, Redbud, Korean Mountain Ash, Plum, and Serviceberry.
4. A tree planted on private property will be cared for by the Town for one year after which it becomes the homeowner's responsibility. The first 2 to 3 years are critical (see p. 4).



CARING FOR A NEW TREE

The homeowner's responsibility is to give good care to the tree after it is planted.

1. For the first 2 to 3 weeks, every few days depending on rainfall, water the tree slowly and deeply so that water penetrates about 12 inches.
2. During the next 2 to 3 years, water deeply during dry periods (i.e. less than one inch of rainfall during a week).
3. Plant groundcover plants or add mulch (see #4 below) around the tree to protect the young bark, especially from lawnmowers and weed whackers. Bark contains living cells necessary for the tree's nourishment.
4. Adding **mulch** prevents weed growth, helps keep the soil cool and moist, and, if it is partially decayed compost, adds nutrients.
 - **Use no more than 2 to 3 inches. More is not better** and can prevent the roots from getting enough air and water.
 - **Do not let the mulch touch the trunk** to prevent "girdling" roots from forming from the trunk that tend to grow horizontally, encircling and strangling the trunk.
 - Possible mulches are partially decomposed compost (homemade or from the RTS), pine needles, autumn leaves, ground-up bark, and wood chips.



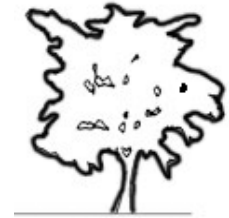
CARING FOR EXISTING TREES

Think twice before removing a mature tree, which is irreplaceable and may add thousands of dollars to the value of your property.

1. Plant groundcover plants or add mulch around the tree to protect bark. See CARING FOR A NEW TREE – Pg. 4, #3 & #4.
2. Prune properly to remove damaged or rubbing branches. You can learn more at extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/pruning-trees-and-shrubs.
3. Carefully read the labels of herbicides applied to lawns to kill broad-leaved weeds (e.g. dandelions, plantain). Such herbicides, improperly applied, may weaken broad-leaved trees when herbicide drifts in the wind or is absorbed by the root systems, which extend well beyond the drip line of a tree.
Instead, produce a healthy lawn that can out-compete most weeds by:
 - hand weeding
 - mowing high (about 3 inches)
 - leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decay and enrich the soil.
4. Watch out for invasive plants that compete with trees and other desirable plants (e.g. oriental bittersweet which can climb a tree and smother it, Japanese knotweed, and burning bush). See this website for information:
www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants

5. Watch out for introduced insect pests that may do serious harm to your trees. At massnrc.org/pests, read about some current pest problems. Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is a new threat to native maples, birch, and other kinds of trees. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is attacking native ash trees. The long-term solution is the introduction of their specific, natural insect predators to affected areas; that is how the gypsy moth has been controlled and how the winter moth is starting to be controlled.
6. If you decide that the pest problem is very serious, use the least toxic treatment to avoid killing beneficial insects, especially bees.
7. If your tree needs professional care for pruning or spraying, hire a knowledgeable state-certified arborist.
8. Before a construction project, consult with an arborist about protecting your trees. Ask your contractor to avoid tree removal and root damage during construction. Root injury due to cutting and to soil compaction is the cause of the decline and death of many trees.
9. TO PLANT YOUR OWN TREE, choose the right tree for your location and read the planting instructions at extension.umass.edu/landscape. Under Quick Links, click on “Fact Sheets” and then open “Guidelines for Planting Trees and Shrubs”.
Note that it is important not to plant too deeply; plant at the same level that the tree was originally growing, erring by planting slightly above the original level, rather than deeper than the original level.

KEEP NEEDHAM GREEN WITH TREES



- **Did you know that the Town of Needham plants FREE TREES along our streets and in our yards?**

See p. 3 for information about the Town’s free tree planting program.
- **Learn how to take care of the trees already growing in your yard.**

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