

City of Newburyport Tree Plan

Consistent with the goal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for every Massachusetts town or city to have healthy community trees and forests that contribute to economic stability, environmental quality and social welfare. Newburyport seeks to be a model for urban public street tree planning. As a consequence the Tree Warden is required to develop a City Tree Plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal and disposition of Public Trees within the City of Newburyport in consultation with the Tree Commission. The plan is submitted year to the Mayor and City Council via the Director of Public Services

To accomplish this, the City has developed a Tree Plan which consists of four distinct, but interrelated, components:

Street Tree Ordinance: promulgated to plant, maintain, plan, protect and preserve Public Trees, believing that the presence of trees contributes to the distinct character of the City; improves air quality; creates habitats for wildlife, including various rare and protected species; reduces noise; provides privacy; protects soil from erosion; provides glare and heat protection; provides an aesthetic appeal that enhances property values; and provides natural privacy to neighbors as well as civic pride and enjoyment. The ordinance is designed to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the regulation of tree planting, maintenance and removal of trees, shrubs and other plants on public property and trees on private property that a strategic plan that outlines the paths we will take, the results we hope to reach and the actions we will take to reach them.

Listings of Trees Acceptable (recommended) for Planting, and a listing of Invasive Species (prohibited): developed by the Tree Warden, in consultation with the Tree Commission, to develop and maintain within the Tree Regulations an up-to-date list of trees acceptable (“approved”) and unacceptable (“prohibited”) for planting under appropriate circumstances in the City of Newburyport.

Regulations for the Protection of Public Trees: developed to implement the Street Tree Ordinance supported by the **Overview Guide for the Protection of Public Trees** and a **Check List** as a quick guide for review in planning a safe construction site near trees. Please see the **Guide for the Protection of Public Trees** for more complete information in each category.

Street Tree Inventory: an initial inventory of the City’s street trees was completed as of August 2014. The inventory includes location, species, size, condition as well as numerous other data points. Periodically a subset of the street tree population is completed to support specific projects. In August of 2015 an inventory of all the trees planted by the Tree Commission was completed. The goal of the inventory was to help the Department of Public Services/Tree Warden and the Tree Commission manage the street tree population. For additional information relative to the inventories, contact the Tree Commission.