



Town of Brookline
Tree Planting Committee
Front Yard Tree Planting Program

Background and Purpose

Since the 1930s, the Town of Brookline has partnered with citizens to plant shade trees on private property in close proximity to the sidewalk. Today, the Front Yard Tree Planting Program provides the Town and residents an opportunity to expand the diversity of tree species in our public realm by planting trees in situations with optimal growing conditions and the benefit from stewardship by homeowners. Over 11,000 street trees provide beauty and environmental benefits town-wide. Private land generally provides a more conducive environment for tree growth than the public way, as private property is less susceptible to urban stressors such as de-icing salt, foot traffic, and pet waste.

Participants in the Front Yard Tree Planting Program work with the Tree Warden, Forestry crew and the Tree Planting Committee to select, plant and maintain street trees planted within 20 feet of the public right of way on private property. Trees in the program must be completely visible from the public sidewalk. To participate in the program, the attached application and agreement needs to be completed and returned to: **Tom Brady, Tree Warden, Parks and Open Space Division of Public Works, Town Hall, 333 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02445.** *Please note that if the property in question is a multi-family home, owners of all units must sign the below application and agreement. For condominium buildings, the condominium association or building owner must sign the below application.*

Once you have submitted the application, the Tree Warden and members of the Tree Planting Committee will meet with you to help you select a tree from the Town's existing tree inventory that will be well suited to the environmental conditions of your property. Each year, the Town has several varieties of shade trees available for planting through the Front Yard Tree Planting Program. Each year, the planting schedule is dependent on seasonal conditions, crew schedule, utility conflicts, and plant availability.

In addition to the Front Yard Tree Planting Program Application & Agreement, please complete a small sketch diagram of your property. It should include the following:

- house footprint (layout position of your house in relation to the street and sidewalk from above)
- location of above ground and below ground power lines and gas or water lines (as known)
- existing trees, shrubs, garden beds, fences, or walls
- existing driveway and walkways
- existing street trees or neighboring trees including approximate size and height
- proposed location of Back of Sidewalk tree

Diagram may be drawn by hand or computer generated - it only needs to be a sketch but please be as accurate as possible. The Tree Planting Committee and/or Town staff is happy to answer any questions.

Please e-mail: Katie Weatherseed, Conservation Assistant kweatherseed@brooklinema.gov



**Town of Brookline
Tree Planting Committee**

Front Yard Tree Planting Program Application & Agreement

(Please print)

I /We _____, owner of the property situated at _____, Brookline, Massachusetts, hereby give permission to officers and employees of Brookline, or their duly authorized representatives, to enter upon said property for the purpose of planting a tree or trees thereon, within twenty feet of the adjoining public way, without cost to me.

I/We agree to hold said Town of Brookline, its officers or employees, harmless from all claims, liability, loss or damage to person or property arising from the said planting of said tree or trees. In giving this consent, I/We recognize that any tree planted on my/our property under this agreement shall be, for a period of five years from date of planting, a public shade tree as defined by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 87, Section 7 or any amendments or additions thereto.

Moreover, for the same period of five years from date of planting, I/we agree to provide water as requested by the Town, with other maintenance performed by the Town upon my request.

In Witness whereof, I/we hereunto set my/our hand(s) and Seal(s) this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Witness (*notary not needed*): _____

Telephone # home/or cell: _____ Email: _____

Information below to be completed by Tree Warden)

Block/Lot _____

Tree Identification Number _____

Date Planted _____



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Property sketch diagram:

(please use separate sheet as needed)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a property sketch diagram. It occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.