

Weston Tree Advisory Group (TAG)

2021 Goals



Context

Weston is treasured by its residents for the semi-rural character that trees help provide. Weston is also notable for its extraordinary green heritage. As times change, and conditions threaten that heritage, thoughtful strategy, maintenance and replanting is needed, so that Weston's unique character is preserved.

The Tree Advisory Group's 2021 goals will focus TAG's core mission—promoting community tree health-- in response to ongoing pressures including the climate crisis and development.

We will accomplish our work of education, planting/stewardship and municipal support through collaboration with town boards, committees, community organizations and individuals.

The proposed projects and actions for next year and beyond, are intended to support our Tree Infrastructure as it faces current and future pressures of climate change. Fostering a healthier tree population will provide two main benefits to Weston:

- 1) Less risk of injury, road closures and power loss due to tree failure.
- 2) Increased ability to locally mitigate and manage the consequences of climate change and the increases in impervious surfaces such as street flooding, lower air quality, rising temperature and loss of habitat.

The goals are organized into two main sections: Community-facing and Town-facing.

COMMUNITY-FACING GOALS

- 1) Create an online information resource with a local emphasis about trees using the TAG page on the Town Website, including standards, best-practices, how-to's and external resources.**

Examples:

- a. Recommended native species list and resources
- b. Tree protections standards in construction sites
- c. How-to plant and mulch with proper techniques
- d. How and when to prune
- e. Where to plant (utility wires, etc.)
- f. Benefits of Native vs. non-Native planting
- g. Benefits of leaf litter
- h. Watering best-practices
- i. How to manage oriental bittersweet and other invasive vines
- j. How to help drought-stressed trees
- k. Tree benefits: Storm water management, cooling, wind barriers, Co2 capture, etc.
- l. Who to contact for tree issues, including diseases and pests.

- 2) Create an educational, living example of landscaping best-practices in the age of climate Crisis.**

- a. Revitalize Case Park by partnering with town and community groups, using the latest municipal planting and maintenance standards, including the use of drought tolerant plants and mulches; pollinator-friendly species, and low-irrigation (or water conservation) methods.
- b. Document planting and maintenance practices.
- c. Create an online planting guide for residents so that the plan can be adapted for personal use by Weston homeowners.

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- 3) Continue Arbor Day planting tradition by creating a multi-year planting plan and maintain Tree City USA status.
- 4) Explore the creation of a Tree Donation program and process.
- 5) Write quarterly articles in the Town Crier highlighting information from Goal 1.
- 6) Continue to partner with DCR on listing "State Champion" trees.
- 7) Participate in Annual Community Activities, as needed.

TOWN COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT-FACING GOALS

- 1) **Support Select Board Initiatives**
 - a. Public Tree Working Group
 - b. Private Tree Working Group
- 2) **Collaborate with Conservation Commission on Case Estates support.**

Examples:

 - a. GIS location of T. Wirth plantings and all heritage trees
 - b. Butternut Tree Preservation
 - c. Persimmon Tree Preservation
 - d. Establish a cross-functional team including community groups to improve the Case Estates: Examples: Overlook Planting plan, Legacy Trail clean up including: Rhododendron Garden and Holly Grove.
- 3) **Partner with DPW**
 - a. Support DPW's Tree Inventory follow-up
 - b. Tree inventory data analysis (personnel dependent)
 - c. Explore grant opportunities to develop "Ash Street Charette," as described by Tom Cullen
 - d. Database building (ex: size, type, location and cause of downed trees, GIS data maintenance and heritage tree tracking)
- 4) **Support town board, department and committee work that involve trees, as needed.**
- 5) **Continue to explore funding opportunities with local groups and organizations.**

OTHER:

1. Using [i-Tree Canopy](#), track changes to canopy by neighborhood over the last 10+ years.
2. Participate in the Multi-Town Gas Leak Tree sub group