

## **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study**

**Municipality:** Town of Concord

**Project Title:** Tree Reforestation and Resilience

**Award Year (FY):** FY19

**Grant Award:** \$ 130,740

**Match:** \$ 71,188

**Match Source:** In-kind and Public Works Budget

**One or Two Year Project:** 1-year, but extended to 2-years due to pandemic

**Municipal Department Leading Project:** Concord Public Works

**Project Website URL:** [concordma.gov/trees](http://concordma.gov/trees)

### **Community Overview:**

The Town of Concord, MA, with a population approaching 18,000, is an historic community located about 20 miles northwest of Boston. Concord is known for its revolutionary, literary, abolitionist, and agricultural history. It is home to the Minute Man National Historical Park, Walden Pond State Reservation, and many other notable historic sites. Concord also has a long history of sustainability, including a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2050 and a commitment to climate resilience.

### **Project Description and Goals:**

The goal of this project was to make Concord more prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change like increased heat, flooding, and intense storms by improving Concord's tree canopy. A strong and resilient tree canopy will protect our community from power outages and extreme temperatures, improve stormwater management, and help to reduce GHG emissions.

The project involved planting new street trees and public shade trees above and beyond the typical annual planting and community engagement around the importance of the tree canopy for climate resilience. The project exceeded our goals for employing nature-based solutions (we planted more trees than planned) and engaging the community (we launched more community engagement activities than planned). We did have to extend the timeline for this project due to the pandemic.

### **Results and Deliverables:**

With the support from this grant, Concord exceeded its goals.

- ✓ 159 new public trees planted throughout the community
- ✓ Released a new Tree Planting Guide to help residents understand how to select tree species most suited to our climate, best practices for planting, and tips for ensuring the continued health of their trees

- ✓ Partnered with Concord Free Public Library to distribute Concord Tree Guide with 150 native tree seedlings in celebration of Arbor Day and launched virtual tree planting program

Links to project deliverables can be found at [concordma.gov/trees](http://concordma.gov/trees).

### Lessons Learned:

Engaging the community without in-person meetings proved very challenging. We were able to get creative with virtual programming and using social media. We had originally planned to also complete a feasibility study for a tree nursery, but the proposals for this far exceeded our expected budget. Thanks to MVP for allowing us to adjust our scope so that we could focus on additional tree planting and community engagement.

### Partners and Other Support:

This project was a collaboration between my town departments and divisions including Concord Public Works and the Sustainability Division. The Concord Tree Guide was developed thanks to the support of the Friends of Concord Trees. Davey Tree was the contractor involved in tree planting. Thanks to the Concord Free Public Library for partnering and supporting a tree seedling giveaway.

### Project Photos:

