Front Yard Tree Program Pilot Update

- Program developed by DPW, Tree Committee, Select Board, State MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Grant Process
- Program goals:
  - Restore diminishing Town canopy (loss estimated 1-2% annually)
  - Provide opportunity for residents to obtain and care for a free tree within their front yard
  - Promote Tree Values – aesthetics, habitat/biodiversity, flood mitigation, heat reduction, carbon goals

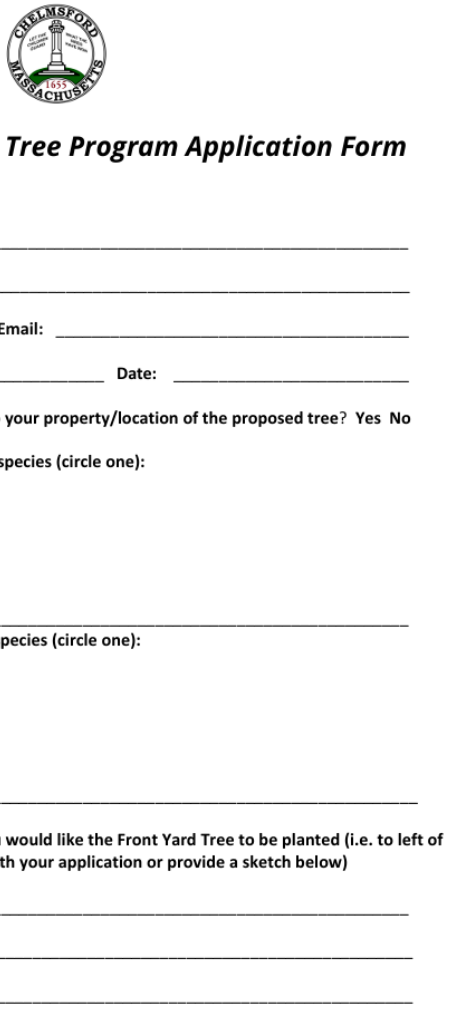


Chelmsford TREE Committee

Front Yard Tree Program Pilot Update

- $50,000 MVP Grant Budget
- Program launched February 2026, requesting applications
- Residents selected from list of 12 native tree species
- 78 applications received, 62 locations accepted
- Project procured March 2026, Cassidy Landscaping awarded Contract

Chelmsford
TREE Committee



Chelmsford Front Yard Tree Program Application Form

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell: _____ **Email:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Do you have overhead utility wires adjacent to your property/location of the proposed tree? Yes No

If Yes, select new tree from the following tree species (circle one):
Flowering Dogwood
Eastern Redbud
American Hophornbeam
Hawthorn – Winter King
Crab Apple – Spring Snow
Serviceberry

_____

If No, select new tree from the following tree species (circle one):
White Oak
Tupelo
Sugar Maple
Tulip Tree
Sycamore
Linden Silver

_____

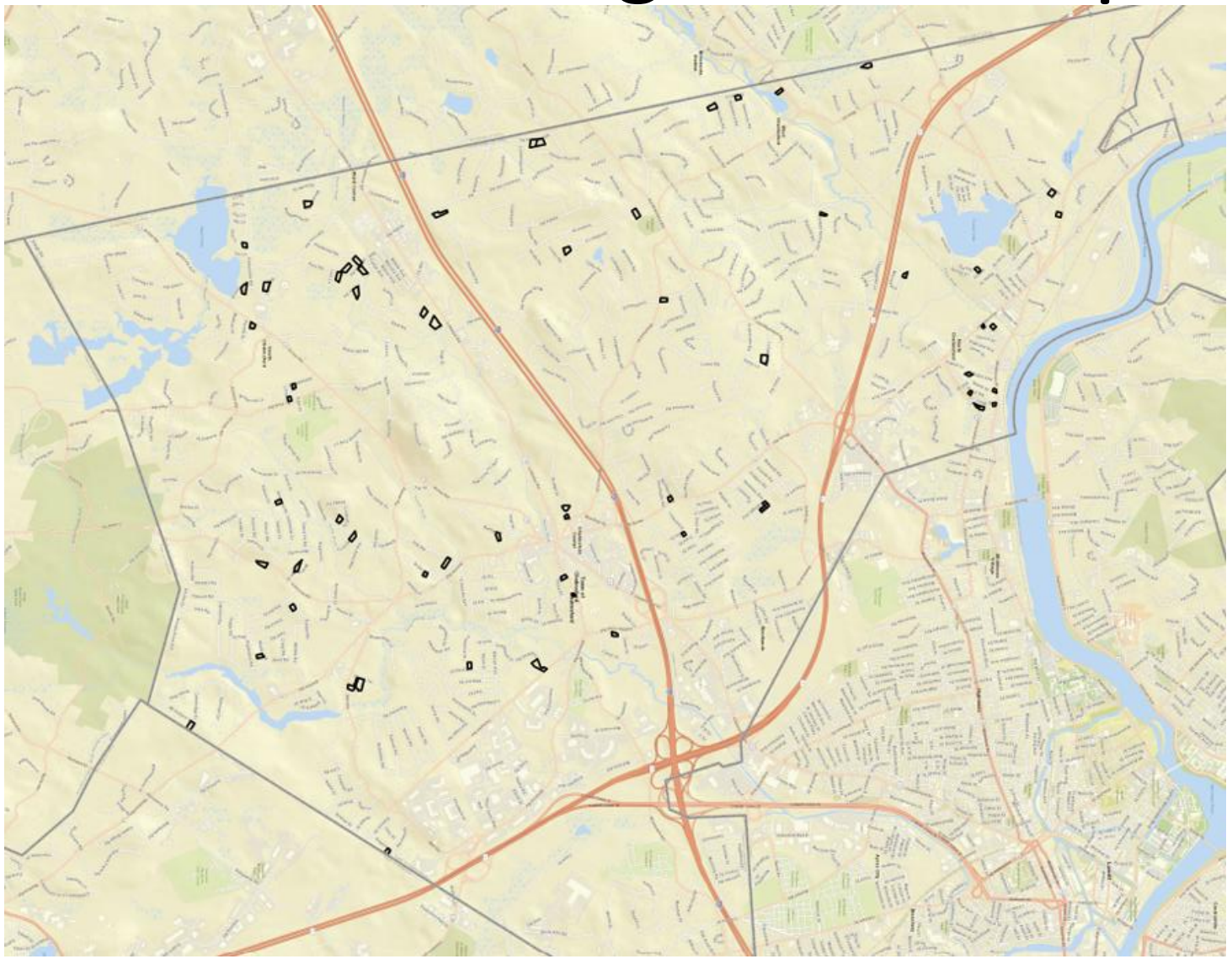
Please include a brief description of where you would like the Front Yard Tree to be planted (i.e. to left of driveway, etc. You may also submit a photo with your application or provide a sketch below)

_____

_____

_____

Front Yard Tree Program Pilot Update



Chelmsford TREE Committee







Front Yard Tree Program Pilot Update

- Trees planted May 7-12
- Tree Care Kits provided to each resident
- Overall project feedback:

Success!





CHELMSFORD DPW

TREE CARE GUIDE

CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREE

WATERING AND MULCHING

Watering Schedule:

Between May 1st and October 30th, water at the base of your tree 15-20 gallons of water weekly. New trees need a lot of water, even more than water from sprinklers or rainfall. A 5 gallon bucket has been provided as part of your watering care package and can be used as a measurement (3-4 buckets full).

During extreme hot weather events (above 90 °F), increase amount of water to twice a week as needed. Continue this watering program for at least 2 years.

Monitoring Soil Moisture

A soil moisture meter has been provided as part of the watering care package. Stick this at least 4 inches into the ground near the base of the tree to check the moisture of the soil and see if the watering volume or frequency needs to be adjusted.

MULCHING AND FERTILIZER

Proper mulching helps retain moisture in the soil and protects tree roots from damage caused by lawn equipment and foot traffic. Following these guidelines will help your new tree establish a healthy root system.

Best Practice: Check your mulch depth periodically and replenish as needed. Depth of mulch should be 2-4", too much mulch can harm the tree. Keep mulch away from direct contact with the tree trunk to prevent rot and pest problems.

Chelmsford TREE Committee

Front Yard Tree Program Next Steps

- Chelmsford Telemedia news piece soon to be available summarizing program – May 2026
- Pending funding availability, continue program Fall 2026 or Spring 2027
- Potential to request for next round of applications summer 2026.
- Currently 15 applicants in queue for Fall
- Size of next programs TBD
- Subscribe to Town Manager's Newsletter or DPW Facebook for more information about next round of program

