



Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program Update

By David Bresnahan

Over the past 16 months, DCR Urban and Community Forestry has been collecting data on some of the state's largest, historically significant, and otherwise noteworthy specimen trees. The Legacy Tree Program launched in 2018 and got a boost in 2019 when Massachusetts used the program to help celebrate the centennial of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). In honor of NASF, Massachusetts set a goal of documenting 100 Legacy Trees for the NASF "Centennial Challenge."

The Legacy Tree Program depends on nomination submissions from the public. Trees can be nominated for size, aesthetics, age, unique botanical qualities, ecological, historic, and cultural values. Nominators are requested to provide basic tree measurements including trunk circumference



The tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) on Admiral's Hill in Chelsea stands 96 feet tall and has a maximum crown spread of 71.5 ft. It is at the site of the former historic U.S. Naval Hospital and is likely the tallest tree in Chelsea. Photo David Bresnahan, DCR

at breast height (4.5 feet from the ground), average crown spread and height or, if not possible, estimations of those attributes. Any additional information, such as year planted, historical anecdotes, and past protection efforts, if known, are useful and will be documented. Photos are also welcome. If a tree is the largest known of its species in Massachusetts, it will be added to the Massachusetts champion tree list.

Once nominations have been received, UCF staff will follow up to verify the tree. Trees are measured using a Nikon laser hypsometer/rangefinder, diameter/circumference tape, a field notebook, and digital camera. Staff uses the American Forests champion tree standard point system to record attributes and will snap a photo of submissions.

DCR Urban Forestry staff have measured over 120 trees so far – from Cape Cod to northern Berkshire County and many locations between. Submissions have been received from all Massachusetts counties so far with the exception of Nantucket. The majority of data collection occurs in winter months, after leaf off, so

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Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program Update

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submission of photos in different seasons is encouraged.

Tree measuring is, without a doubt, a team activity. Although the covid-19 pandemic has added challenges to all aspects of urban forestry, data collection for the Legacy Tree Program can be achieved successfully through social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitation of shared tools. Nominators will be contacted by email or by phone, to minimize person to person contact.

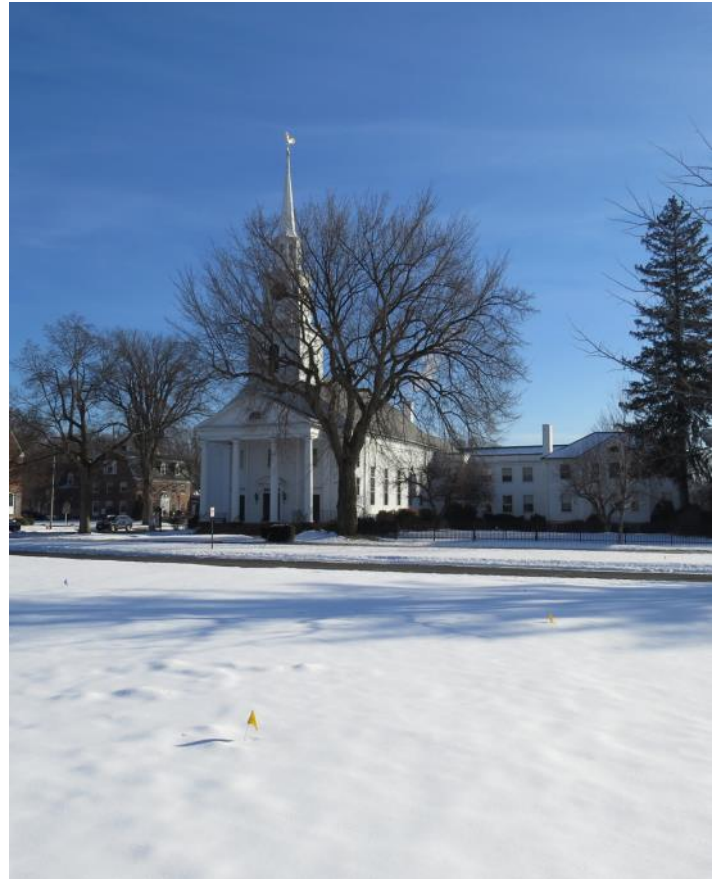
Online nomination forms and additional tree measuring resources can be following the link below:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program#-nominate-a-tree->

David Bresnahan is an Urban Forester with DCR's Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP), currently working in Lynn and Salem.



Collecting data below the canopy of a weeping European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula') in Barnstable that was difficult to measure.



A Legacy tree nomination of an American elm (*Ulmus americana*) in Longmeadow by tree warden David Marinelli. Photo: Sarah Greenleaf, DCR

Species Spotlight

Urban Tree of the Year—Giant Sequoia *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Society of Municipal Arborists Announces Giant Sequoia as 2021 Urban Tree of the Year

By Michelle Sutton

Each fall, members of the [Society of Municipal Arborists \(SMA\)](#) nominate and vote for the SMA Urban Tree of the Year. Tree species or cultivars of species native to the U.S. Midwest, South, and East have dominated the Urban Tree of the Year program in its 25-year history (see past winners [here](#)).

For 2021, SMAers in the western states of the U.S. must have gotten organized; their collective might pushed the majestic giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) over the finish line. (And yes, there are giant sequoias that have been planted and are thriving in New York State, including at Wave Hill in the Bronx, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and New York Botanical Garden, and on private properties on Long Island. We've also gotten reports of giant sequoia trees doing splendidly in southeastern Connecticut.)

Although giant sequoia is native to a small swath of western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, its hardiness (given most generously as Zone 6a to

9b, with some sources constraining that range) makes it suitable for use beyond its indigenous terrain and indeed, it's been planted in many western spaces, urban or otherwise.

Like most trees it prefers a loamy soil, even moisture, mid-range pH, adequate soil volume, freedom from soil compaction, and full sun. However, it can grow in less than these ideal conditions, and the

more well-established the tree, the better it will be able to ride out periods of drought. Full sun appears to be the least negotiable condition for giant sequoia.

Addressing the elephant in the room: how can a giant sequoia, in all its massive glory, be considered for urban

spaces? Gordon Matassa is the Urban Forestry Grant Project Coordinator in the Tree Services Division of the Oakland, California Department of Public Works. "If planted correctly in urban areas, this species can bridge the natural world to the cities that many of us call home," he says. "Giant sequoia is well-suited for climate-appropriate urban areas when given enough room to grow, such as when planted in city parks. We have several giant sequoias in our parks in Oakland, California, where they stand out as sentinels in the urban landscape."

Giant sequoias are numerous in Portland, Oregon; many of them were planted circa 1900. There are seven Portland Heritage Tree program giant sequoias in the City—some growing in parks, others in the City right-of-way or in residential front and side yards. The tallest of them is growing in Portland's Mt. Tabor Park; it's 200 ft (61 m) tall, with a 50 ft (15 m) canopy spread and a 25.3 ft (7.7 m) trunk circumference. (The genetic potential of giant sequoia's height, given ideal conditions, can exceed 250 ft/76 m.)

According to the Portland Parks and Recreation website, "Nearly 500 sequoias and redwoods have



Giant sequoia in Fort Collins, CO. Photo: Tara Constanzo



Map showing (in red) limited native distribution of giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of eastern CA. The green areas indicate the natural range of coast redwood (*S. sempervirens*). Map in public domain

Species Spotlight - Giant Sequoia



Giant sequoia cones and seeds. Photo: Tara Constanzo

been inventoried in the City, and 93% were rated as being in good or fair condition. These trees thrive in our urban forest, and as large-form evergreens, they provide us with enormous public health and environmental benefits. A mature giant sequoia in Portland can store over 6 tons of carbon and scrub pounds of pollutants from the air annually.”

The City of Eugene, Oregon is celebrating the early fulfillment of their goal of planting [2021 giant sequoias by 2021](#). According to SMA President and City of Eugene Urban Forestry Management Analyst Scott Altenhoff, giant sequoias grow extremely quickly but, unlike so many other fast-growing tree species that tend to be high-maintenance, giant sequoias tend to be very low-maintenance if planted in the right locations.



Foliage of giant sequoia. Photo: Tom DeGomez, University of Arizona, Bugwood.org

“They are extremely resistant to drought, high winds, snow/ice, and pests/pathogens,” Altenhoff says. “In most cases, they just don’t require structural or maintenance pruning. When it comes to providing ecosystem services, giant sequoias are veritable workhorses. They are true champions when it comes to cleaning the air, providing shade, intercepting rainfall, sequestering carbon, attenuating noise, and

instilling people with a sense of beauty and grandeur. It would be hard to find a species of urban tree here in the Pacific Northwest with greater net benefits for humans.” Through the “2021 by 2021” initiative, the City of Eugene planted giant sequoia in shared public areas such as parks and street medians, as well as on the grounds of schools, local businesses, and homes. Eugene originally conceived the effort to commemorate the City’s hosting of the 2021 World Athletics Championships, which have now been rescheduled for 2022.



The fire-resistant bark of giant sequoia. Photo: Tom DeGomez, University of Arizona, Bugwood.org

Giant Sequoias outside Their Natural Range ... and Most Notably, in Surrey, British Columbia

Redwood Park in Surrey, BC is reputed to have the largest stand of redwoods north of California, along with a collection of notable evergreens and other species from around the globe. How did this come to be?

Surrey homesteader and eventual postmaster and provincial Justice of the Peace David Brown had deaf twin sons, David and Peter. When they turned 21, David Brown gave them each 16 ha (40 ac) of land, on which the younger Browns promptly planted redwood seeds they had collected in California.

David and Peter lived on the property all their lives, eventually building and living in a tree house on stilts. The original tree house burned down but it has been reconstructed and contributes to the immense appeal of this natural attraction in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

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Species Spotlight - Giant Sequoia

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For reasons of Brown Family history; tree and canopy density, maturity, and diversity; a biodiverse understory of herbaceous species; and striking views from its hilltop position, Redwood Park has been listed since 2005 on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

We have a few giant sequoias in Massachusetts. There are some in the Arnold Arboretum and one in Fall River. Do you know of others in Massachusetts? Let us know! - Mollie Freilicher



Recreated treehouse of Peter and David Brown, who lived in Redwood Park (Surrey, British Columbia, Canada) from 1893 until 1958. Photo: Illustratedjc, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

2021 DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest The Trees Out Our Window



Fifth grade classes from schools across the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest by having fifth-grade students create posters highlighting this year's theme, **The Trees Out Our Window**, and then hosting a school poster contest. The winning poster from each school can be submitted to DCR. Home-schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

The Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

For complete rules and guidelines, go to the [Arbor Day Poster Contest page](#) on the DCR website.

From the Woods

A Fond Farewell to My Friend Fraxinus

By Tom Ryan

It is with a heavy heart that I sit to write this article, as this serves as a kind of obi-tree-ary for ash. As I write this from my district in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts, I am looking out my window at healthy ash trees (specifically white ash [*Fraxinus americana*]) and feel a pang of impending loss as I realize that this will not be a sight to see for much longer. The invasive insect emerald ash borer (EAB) has taken hold and is now widespread throughout my district. Ash trees of the genus *Fraxinus* are heading towards the same destiny as the American elm and chestnut trees — unforeseen casualties of global commerce.

Woodpeckers are serving to sound the warning of the presence of EAB by feeding on the larvae within the ash bark. The birds' feeding activity exfoliates the outer bark of the ash trees resulting in the bark having a patchy blond appearance. The [DCR Forest Health Program](#) is a good resource for more information on the emerald ash borer in Massachusetts, including identification, current distribution, history of presence in Massachusetts, and what can be done to help slow the spread as well as some promising efforts to establish biocontrol.

If you are a forestland owner or one charged with the care of trees (foresters, arborists, loggers, tree wardens, park supervisors, road bosses, etc.) be aware that ash trees effectively have an expiration date that is coming soon. It is still not too late to plan a sanitation/salvage harvest or develop a hazard tree mitigation plan. Of particular concern in my area is the high number of ash trees that are along our public roads. When these trees succumb to EAB they will present a challenge to town tree wardens and road bosses tasked with removal of these hazard trees; this is no small effort or expense. From a market perspective, it is good to note that prices for ash stumpage have remained relatively stable. Here is a link to trends reported



Blond patches of bark on ash and an area where bark has been cut away to reveal an EAB gallery.

for ash in the [Southern New England Stumpage Price Survey](#). So far ash prices have defied my basic understanding of economics. One would think that the ash markets would be flooded and subsequently drive prices down; but so far this has not been the case. An exception being that I am hearing some stumpage buyers are hesitant to purchase ash timber on a lump sum basis for fear that they may not be able to harvest the ash in time. The availability of loggers is a factor and the fact that ash trees become exceptionally dangerous to fell and degrade in value once killed by EAB. Standing dead ash are subject to decomposition fungi and native wood boring insects that translates to aesthetic and structural lumber defects.

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A Fond Farewell to My Friend Fraxinus

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Here are some examples to highlight proactive ash management:

[Beartown State Forest](#)

This forestry project is designed to treat ash and failing softwood plantations in or near infrastructure and along public roads, with the “primary goal of the treatment [being] public safety and protection of roads, buildings, and private property from hazardous trees. The secondary goal is to offset the costs of hazardous tree removal to the town of Monterey and DCR with a salvage timber sale before tree mortality occurs on the site.”

[Bidwell House Museum](#)

This forestry project is being planned since EAB was recently detected on the property. A selective sanitation harvest will be used to harvest ash to provide for the safety of hikers along the trail network as well as generate revenue (hopefully) that can be reinvested back into this 501c3 non-profit.

[DCR Community Wood Bank Program](#)

This program “enables rural communities to recycle surplus trees into firewood [and help] to address energy insecurity.” This is a great example of thinking outside of the box and turning “one man’s trash, into another’s treasure.” Our rural communities generate a lot of wood waste from the normal course of keeping roads and utility lines clear; this can often result in a significant disposal cost for towns. With proper effort and handling this wood waste is turned into seasoned firewood that can be made available to folks in the community in need of heating assistance.

It will take time, likely decades or more, for researchers to find an effective EAB control to take hold and strike a balance. Hopefully, some day we can walk through a New England forest under a canopy containing chestnut, elm, and

ash. Until then, in my view, the harvesting of ash is a means to celebrate and honor this exceptional tree. Ash wood is prized for its strength, versatility, and shock absorbing properties; ash firewood is easy to split and in a

pinch can be burned green; black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) found in wetlands and swamps, is coveted for basketry. While the more common white ash is used for tool handles and sports equipment (think leaf rakes and baseball bats) and is prized for furniture and flooring. Consumers of wood products (I am speaking to you) can make a conscious choice to support [native lumber producers](#) and community woodworkers (like the [Berkshire Woodworkers Guild](#)) by purchasing products made from local wood, including ash. I am hopeful that Massachusetts consumers will come around to appreciate local wood producers as much as they have grown to support local farmers. In the spirit of the “farm to table” food movement, let us not forget about the origins of that table.

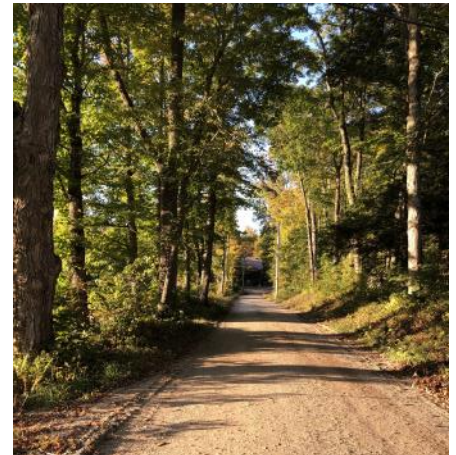
Resources

[DCR Service Forestry Program](#)

[Timber Harvester Licensing Program](#)

[DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant](#)

Tom Ryan is a DCR Service Forester and lives with his family on a small farm in Berkshire County d.b.a Lucky Duck Farm that is currently enrolled in the Ch. 61A tax program. His farm produces eggs, poultry, vegetables, and firewood (and roughly three gallons of maple syrup each spring that his wife and daughters won't let him share with anyone).



A rural road lined with trees, including a handful of ash.

Growing on Trees

Celebrating Arbor Day in 2021

Once again, Arbor Day will look different this year. Last year, some communities managed to hold Arbor Day events (sometimes in October!), while many communities were not able to organize an observance. With about 12 months of pandemic life under our belts, hopefully we're able to celebrate safely this year. Looking for ideas?

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Some Arbor Day celebrations in MA in 2020:

- Distributing tree seedlings
- Holding a socially distanced tree planting for a limited group of volunteers
- Planting 1-2 trees using municipal staff (or holding an otherwise 'limited' in-house planting)
- Virtual program with schools using Zoom or another virtual platform
- Identifying shade trees with sidewalk chalk ([Lowell](#))
- Conduct a virtual tree tour ([Northeastern](#)).

Ideas based on suggestions from the Arbor Day Foundation

- Have elementary schools participate in the [DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest](#) (Deadline is March 15)
- Hold a poetry contest for kids and adults and publish the winners in the local paper.
- Host a Tree ID Challenge encouraging citizens to send in a photo of themselves with a tree they identified using the "What Tree is That?" guide in exchange for a piece of "swag."
- Host an interactive "Ask the Arborist" Q&A session allowing homeowners to ask tree care questions virtually.

- Hold a virtual presentation by a tree expert to inform your community about recommended tree choices.
- Invite local youth to submit a tree-related question to your tree warden via email and answer the questions via video posted on your community's website or social media.
- Partner with local restaurants to give away free tree seedlings with takeout orders.
- Develop and roll out your tree program's Facebook and/or Instagram pages.
- Sponsor one or more teachers in your community to attend an [online Project Learning Tree professional development workshop](#).

Are you a Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education, or Tree Line USA?

Stay up to date with COVID-related changes to requirements for these programs. Check out the information published in the [February 2021 Citizen Forester](#).

Scenes from Arbor Day 2020



[Lowell's Arbor Day](#) pop up with Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust—identifying trees in different neighborhoods with sidewalk chalk. Residents could participate by identifying trees in their neighborhoods and posting with specific hashtags on social media.



The Town of Wilmington, a first-time Tree City USA, held a drive-up seedling giveaway with tree seedlings purchased from Mass. Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association.

Growing on Trees

42nd Annual UMass Community Tree Conference

March 2, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

New Technologies – The Cutting Edge of Tree Care

Speakers include: Dr. Brian Kane, UMass-Amherst; Richard Herfurth, Bartlett Tree Experts & Melissa LeVangie Ingersoll, Shelter Tree; Greg Beck, Bartlett Tree Experts; Felicia Hubacz, MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation; Dr. David Bloniarz, UMass-Amherst & US Forest Service; Nasko Apostolov and Ryan Suttle, UMass-Amherst; Nick Brazee & Tawny Simisky, UMass Extension; and Kristina Bezanson, UMass Amherst.

Find out more at [UMass Extension](https://umassextension.org).

UMass Invasive Plant Cert.

March 1, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A2: State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management

March 8, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A3: The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification

March 22, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

B: Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program

Find out more at [UMass Extension](https://umassextension.org).

NESAF Annual Meeting

March 22-24, 2021

Annual meeting of the New England Society of American Foresters

Find out more and register at nesaf.org.

Call for Presentations

Society of American Foresters 2021

November 3-7, 2021 | Sacramento, CA

Deadline to submit a proposal: March 31, 2021

Find out more at eforester.org.

Ecological Landscape Alliance Conference & Eco Marketplace

March 3-4, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join ELA on March 3 & 4, 2021 for the 27th Conference & Eco-Marketplace – all online. We'll energize your practice and prepare you for spring with two full days of research and field-tested expertise, as well as innovative case studies on a wide range of topics.

Find out more at ecolandscaping.org.

Forest to Cities

March 17, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Local Wood Webinar Series.

Free, registration required. [Find out more and register.](#)

Native Plant Trust

Self-paced courses available from May 1-September 30:

- Plant Form & Function
- Plant Ecology
- Plant Families
- Plants 101 & 102 and more

Live, virtual classes:

- Sponge Landscape – April 2
- Decolonizing Botany – April 28
- Roots of Black Botany – July 20
- Managing Yards for Plant Biodiversity – July 24

Check out the full schedule at nativeplanttrust.org

Street Tree Essentials

April 1, 5, 8, 2021 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (ET)
Online class from BayState Roads

This course will cover how to plan, select, care for, and protect street trees. Registration fee: \$25 for public sector staff. Find out more at [BayState Roads](https://baystateroads.org).

Growing on Trees

Seedling Sales

Giving away tree seedlings is one way to safely celebrate Arbor Day this year. Here are some sources for seedlings:

Mass Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association

Each spring, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) sells seedlings to support the MTWFA Scholarship Fund. Many municipalities and organizations use these seedlings in their Arbor Day or Earth Day celebrations. Arbor Day is a great opportunity to advertise the message of trees—by supplying the gift of seedlings for both children and adults, and by encouraging them to plant and care for trees. Some species available this year: balsam fir, white spruce, Douglas fir, persimmon, sweetgum, chokecherry, and more. The deadline to order trees is April 16. To find out more about the program, go to <https://masstreewardens.org/arbor-day-seedling-program/>.

The MTWFA sells seedlings to fund its scholarship program and to promote Arbor Day and tree planting. Seedling purchasers include municipalities, garden clubs, private firms, arborists, and other interested individuals and organizations. Seedling proceeds support [annual scholarships](#) for college arboriculture students.

Conservation District Seedling Sales

Looking to purchase fewer seedlings? Some conservation districts hold seedling sales to support programming.

Worcester County Conservation District

Order deadline March 31.

<https://worcesterconservation.org/>

Middlesex Conservation District Spring Plant Sale

Order Deadline March 31

<https://middlesexconservation.org/>

Connect with Us!

It's now easier to get to the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Website

Try out our new shortened URL –

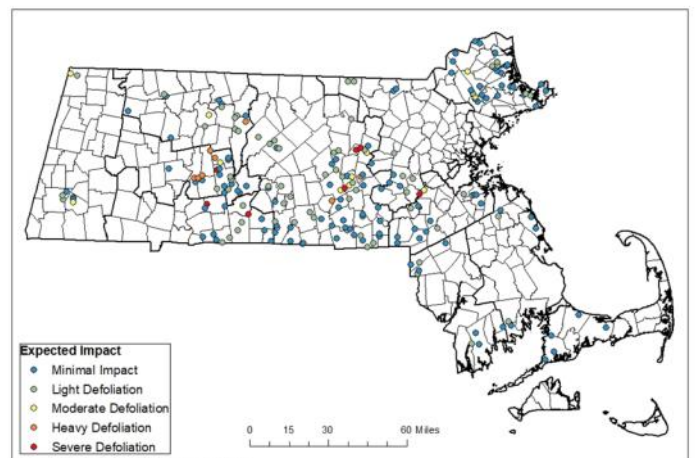
www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf

Also, did you know DCR has an Instagram and that every Friday is #forestryfriday? Find out more by checking out [@massdcr](#) on Instagram

Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey

The DCR Forest Health Program has completed its gypsy moth egg mass survey for 2021. Despite somewhat restricted efforts this year, the program surveyed 215 sites across the state. Egg mass quantities were drastically reduced from past years, though some areas may experience moderate to severe defoliation. Find out more at the [DCR Forest Health Gypsy Moth webpage](#).

Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey Results 2020
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Forest Health Program



Map Created by E. Peterson, DCR Forest Health 2/18/2021

Growing on Trees

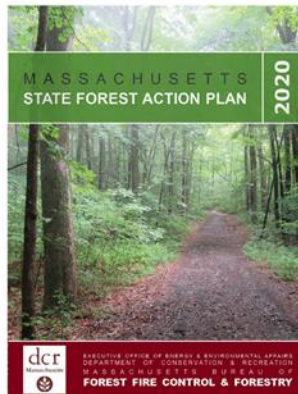
Forest Action Plan

At the end of 2020, Massachusetts submitted its 2020-2030 Forest Action Plan to the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest Action Plans are an in-depth assessment of conditions and trends related to trees and forests in every state.

They are a requirement of the Farm Bill and are required for states to receive federal forestry funding. In addition to analyzing conditions and trends, they also include an assessment of threats to trees and forestland, identify priority areas, and include strategies for addressing those threats and for meeting goals.

The Massachusetts plan was the result of three years of effort by a team from the various DCR forestry programs as well as input from a variety of stakeholders. The Forest Action Plan is a great tool for grant writers, non-profit agencies, private landowners, forest managers, students, and others interested in learning about trees in Massachusetts.



In Massachusetts, there are 10 goals the plan supports:

- Goal 1 Increase resistance and resilience of trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change
- Goal 2 Manage forest ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Goal 3 Support and enhance forest economy
- Goal 4 Maintain and increase urban tree canopy
- Goal 5 Enhance the connection between forests and people
- Goal 6 Increase land base of conserved forests (keep forests as forests)
- Goal 7 Advocate for a legal and institutional framework pertinent to the conservation and management of trees and forests
- Goal 8 Maintain and enhance soil, water, and air resources
- Goal 9 Support the role and use of prescribed fire in the landscape
- Goal 10 Cultivate and support partnerships with forestry and conservation stakeholders

Find out more about the plan and read it for yourself on the [DCR website](#).

Weather and Climate

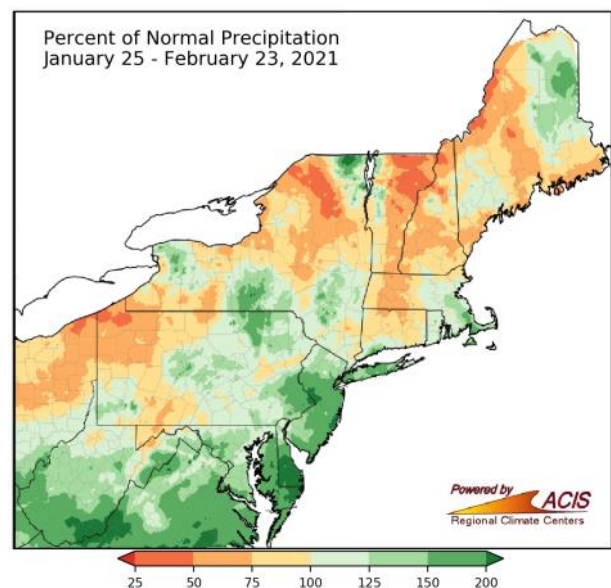
Over the last month, parts of Massachusetts have received less than normal precipitation, though no part of the state is currently in a drought status. On average, temperatures have been warmer than usual from November to January 2021. By the first half of February, temperatures dropped and most of Massachusetts was [colder than usual](#), with the exception of southeastern Massachusetts.

Find out More

The Northeast Regional Climate Center
www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional/drought/drought.html

The U.S. Drought Portal
www.drought.gov/drought/states/massachusetts

National Climate Report
www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/



THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Gleanings

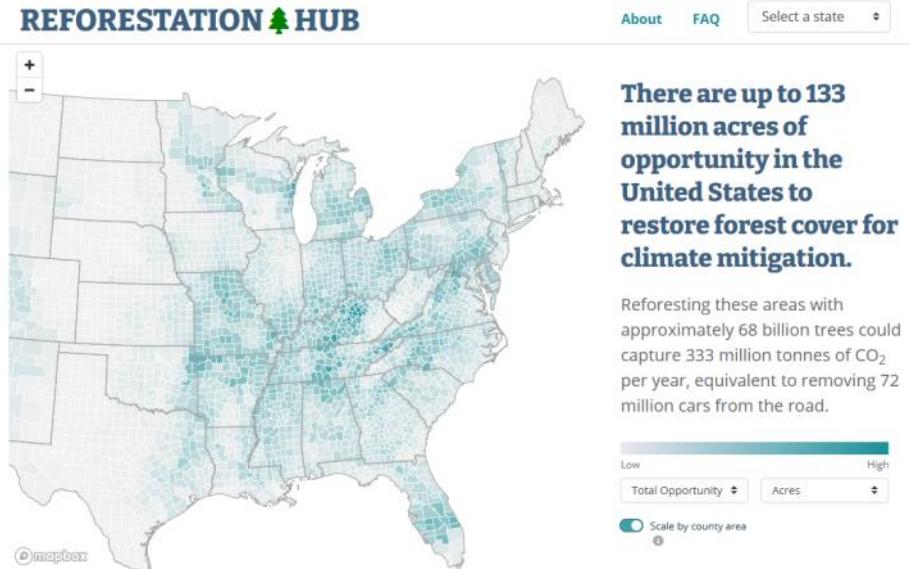
Reforestation Hub

Adapted from reforestationhub.org

American Forests and The Nature Conservancy have created a map of where trees could be planted in the United States to help mitigate the effects of climate change. The map shows county-level estimates of the potential area of new forests (“area of opportunity” in units of acres) and how much carbon those areas could capture (in units of metric ton of carbon dioxide per year). They focused on finding lower cost and more feasible options for restoring forest cover, which included lands already in a natural land use, more marginal agricultural lands, or areas where trees have the potential to provide high additional co-benefits beyond carbon capture, such as flood mitigation or urban cooling.

The area of opportunity is an estimate of how much area could be available for reforestation and includes places where $\geq 25\%$ tree cover historically occurred, but that currently lack forest cover. *Areas of opportunity exclude native grasslands, fast highways and urban cores, but do include more open urban landscapes.* They also do not include wetlands or productive croplands, except when the latter are directly next to streams, or within floodplains or migratory pathways for animals.

Check out the map: <https://www.reforestationhub.org/>



'As If You Were There' Worcester 360°

Check out the virtual field tour the USDA Northeast Climate Hub created in Worcester. The USDA Climate Hub partnered with several institutions, including DCR, to explore Worcester’s urban forest through the lens of climate change and the Asian longhorned beetle. Field tours are a powerful teacher because they are an ideal way to see how farm and forestry practices work in the real world. These virtual tours use innovative 360° photography and videos offer an interactive experience.

Visit from any device for virtual learning and discovery. Leave your field boots behind and prepare to experience adaptation actions as if you were there.

Check out [Worcester’s 360 tour](#) or travel virtually to more than 20 other sites, including the Yale-Myers Forest Orchard in Eastford, CT, the Cornell Biochar and compost facility in Ithaca, NY, or the University of the District of Columbia urban farm.

Find out more on the [USDA Climate Hub website](#).



Gleanings

'Slow Streets' Disrupted City Planning. What Comes Next?

By Laura Bliss

January 6, 2021—When she first heard that “slow streets” might be coming to Durham, North Carolina, alarm bells went off for Aidil Ortiz. It was late May, and by that point, dozens of other world cities had restricted vehicle access to miles of residential streets. With Covid-19 placing a premium on safe outdoor space, the goal was to encourage socially distant walking, biking and play.

But Ortiz was familiar with how good intentions by city planners can miss the mark. As a program manager at the Durham social justice nonprofit [SpiritHouse](#) who also sits on the city’s pedestrian and bicycling commission, she’d seen how Durham officials failed to engage communities of color during the planning for the [Durham Belt Line Trail](#), a project to turn an abandoned rail bed into a multi-use trail, in 2018. Concerned that the [High Line-esque park could trigger gentrification and displacement](#), she helped press the city to adopt [formal standards](#) for gathering feedback from under-represented groups before transforming the infrastructure that outlined their lives. Read the full story at [Bloomberg CityLab](#).



Slow street barricade in Baltimore. Photo: David Dudley/Bloomberg CityLab

Headlines in Brief

Massachusetts

[Mayor Walsh Announces Firms Selected to Develop Boston's First Urban Forest Plan](#)

[Springfield Steps Up Free Tree-Planting Program in Mason Square](#)

[First Conservation Memorial Forest in Massachusetts To Open in The Berkshires](#)

[It's Winter and the Hunt is on for Invasive Pests at the Arnold Arboretum](#)

[Newton Tree-Planting Initiative Stems from COVID Tragedy](#)

[A Second Life: Local Sculptor Is Hired by Boston College to Create Lasting Artwork from an Ailing Oak Tree](#)

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[When There's No Heat: 'You Need Wood, You Get Wood'](#)

[Narragansett Students Offset Paper Usage with Tree Planting](#)

[Achoo! Climate Change Lengthening Pollen Season in U.S., Study Shows](#)

[NYS Launches Innovative Effort to Combat Spotted Lanternfly](#)

[NASA Satellites Help Quantify Forest Impacts on The Global Carbon Budget](#)

[Biologists Uncover Forests' Unexpected Role in Climate Change](#)

[Save The Trees: Never-Ending Construction in Cities Threatens the Urban Forest](#)

[Rome's Villa Borghese Welcomes Clone of 17th-Century Tree](#)

[They Can Capture More Carbon Than They Emit. So Why Aren't Wooden Buildings Mainstream?](#)

[Scholars Reveal the Changing Nature of US Cities](#)

[Historically Redlined Neighborhoods Are More Likely to Lack Greenspace Today](#)

[Maine Delegation Presses Federal Agency to Protect Rural Forest Economy](#)

[Get to Know Idaho: The Wendell Eagle Tree](#)

[Invasive Insects and Diseases are Killing our Forests](#) (Opinion)

[Asian Long-Horned Beetle Recently Declared Eradicated from Southern Ontario](#)

[Climate Impacts Drive East-West Divide in Forest Seed Production](#)

[Due to Climate Change, Miami Beach Moving Away from Palm Trees to Create More Shade](#)

On the Horizon

Mar 2 UMass Community Tree Conference

Mar 3-4 [ELA Virtual Conference and Eco-Marketplace](#)

Mar 8 [UMass Invasive Plant Certification Webinar](#)

Mar 9 Webinar: [Invasive Woody Plant Management \(part 2\)](#), 2pm, US EPA

Mar 15 Webinar: [Urban Forest Connections](#), 1pm

Mar 15 [Deadline for DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest](#)

Mar 17 Webinar: [Forest to Cities](#), 2pm

Mar 22 [UMass Invasive Plant Certification Webinar](#)

Mar 22-24 [NESAF Annual Winter Meeting](#)

Apr 9 [Native Plants and the Future of Public Spaces Symposium](#) 1pm

Apr 13 Webinar: [IPM for Spotted Lanternfly](#), 2pm

Apr 20 Webinar: [Planning for the Next Three Letter Urban Tree Canopy Changer](#), 1pm

Apr 30 Arbor Day in Massachusetts

May 4 Webinar: [IPM After the Storm](#), 2pm

May 11 Webinar: [LiDAR Based Urban Tree Inventory](#), 1pm

The New England Chapter-ISA maintains a calendar with many online opportunities. Check it out here: <https://newenglandisa.org/events>

The Citizen Forester is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

Bureau of Forestry

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www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Jim Montgomery, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), contact [Mollie Freilicher](#).

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