



Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

# THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Urban & Community Forestry Program

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dcr  
Massachusetts



## Legacy Trees

### DCR Legacy Tree Program takes root

*"That's a big tree."* It's a phrase uttered over and over again by tree lovers and casual observers alike. Without any formal training, without any knowledge of tree species, chances are when a person sees a large tree, they take notice.

What is it that draws us to significant trees? Is it admiration of achievement? Is it respect for our elders? Is it that large, historic trees link us to our past? More than likely, it is a combination of all these things.



European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) Swampscott, MA

Photo: DCR



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have no historic connections, other than those arising from age, beauty or location, are also included in the text.” A growing interest in large and historic trees was taking shape.



The Waverly Oaks, Belmont MA circa 1900  
Photo: Library of Congress Photograph Division

By the 1940's however, it was being observed that the nation's large trees were being lost. In the September 1940 issue of *American Forest* an article was written entitled "Let's Find and Save the Biggest Trees" by Joseph L. Stearns. In it, Stearns lamented the loss of possibly the world's largest Tulip Poplar. He was hoping the story would prevent the loss of similar "largest" trees of other species. His call to action was that, "a few of our biggest specimens of each

tree species should be singled out, marked, plotted on maps and preserved... Then future generations would be able to see matured specimens of each tree species."

Taking up this call was the American Forestry Association. Known today as [American Forests](#), they stated that, "such a conservation activity, will have incalculable benefits, not only in stimulating greater tree appreciation, but in establishing a nation-wide laboratory for tree and forestry studies by future generations." The culmination of this was the [National Register of Big Trees](#), which documented the largest living tree of each species in the U.S.

Massachusetts trees continued to be documented over the years. In 1995, the Department of Environmental Management published an update to the Champion Tree list for all the New England states. In the introduction they stated that, "People always gravitate to the extraordinary. The biggest, the tallest, the broadest; these are things that can often trip the imagination and lead to life long journeys of exploration. Champion



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trees can do this for people. They attract your attention and engage your senses..." They published the list in hopes that, "this listing of arboreal greatness will spark a renewed search for Champions that remain elusive. Records are meant to be broken..." They also encouraged people to look for trees that, "express age, size, history, or remarkable beauty. These 'heritage' trees transcend champion status. They are distinctive and prominent, and have a most important quality: They can educate residents about the need to plant, care for and protect neighborhood trees."

Today, the [Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program](#) formally recognizes the largest and most interesting known tree of each species, trees of historical origins, and other trees of unique and significant importance growing within the state of Massachusetts.

Do you know of a big, unique, or significant tree? A tree that is compelling for its size, historical or cultural value, or botanical interest? If



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in Chelsea, MA

so, the DCR's Legacy Tree Program may be of interest to you.

The DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry is looking for nominations for big, unique, or significant trees all over Massachusetts. Once we process your nomination, a trained forester will visit the tree to photograph the tree and verify the measurements. Trees that are included on the roster of Legacy Trees have a historical or cultural value, botanical interest, or whose size falls within 25 percentage

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points of the current champion for the species. If the tree you nominated is large enough, Bureau staff or partners will determine if your Legacy Tree nomination is a state Champion Tree!

*Please note that the Legacy Tree Program does not afford any special or legal protection under the Commonwealth's Shade Tree Law, M.G.L. Chapter 87.*

To nominate a tree, simply fill out the [online nomination form](#). Nominators and landowners will be notified when a tree is included in the Legacy Tree Program or if their nomination is considered for the Champion Tree Registry. With permission, tree information will be posted on our website. If DCR determines your tree is a Champion Tree in Massachusetts, it will be forwarded to American Forests for consideration in the National Champion Tree Register.

The American Forests Champion Tree point system is used to determine if a tree is a Champion Tree. Trees of the same species are

compared by total points and the tree with the highest total points is the Champion.

The Champion Tree formula is: *Trunk Circumference (inches) + Height (feet) + ¼ Average Crown Spread (feet) = Total Points*

If you would like more information on measuring your trees, [click here](#).

There are big trees with stories to tell all over Massachusetts. Will you help to continue the tradition?

Think about participating the next time you look up and find yourself saying, "*that's a big tree!*"

Photo:

Dave Bresnahan , DCR



DCR Forester Nate Tobey measures a very big tree



# Forester Focus

A deeper look into today's Urban Forestry topics



## Celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day!

DCR U&CF staff were busy helping communities prepare for and celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day this spring! Events were held all across the state. Some highlights include:



DCR Forester Sarah Greenleaf plants trees with students from Churchill Green Daycare in Holyoke on Arbor Day 2022.



DCR staff Hannah Bergquist, Austin Gelinas and Jason Brown plant on Summer Street in Fitchburg on Earth Day 2022.



DCR Foresters Marc Ghen and Ahron Lerman plant at UMass Lowell campus on Arbor Day 2022.

More info on Earth Day and Arbor Day:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-earth-day>

<https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/>

Photos:

Rachel DeMatte, DCR



# CLIMATE RESILIENCY

## Baker-Polito Administration Awards Over \$8 Million in Green Communities Grants

**Lawrence** – During an event in April in the City of Lawrence, Governor Charlie Baker, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, and Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Commissioner Patrick Woodcock announced the awarding of \$8,291,629 in [Green Communities Competitive Grants](#) to 64 municipalities across the Commonwealth to fund clean energy projects. With today's announcement, DOER has awarded over \$153 million to Green Communities in Designation Grants and Competitive Grants since 2010. Funding for these grants is available through proceeds from carbon allowance auctions under the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) (RGGI).

"Ongoing collaboration with public sector leaders at the state and local level significantly contributes to our Administration's goal of a cleaner, more reliable, and equitable energy future," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The innovative and cost-effective projects receiving grants will increase energy efficiency and clean energy use in municipal buildings and vehicles across the Commonwealth, significantly helping our state achieve its long-term emissions reduction requirements."



“Massachusetts has created a nation-leading clean energy sector with forward-thinking policies and strong partnerships at both the state and local level,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “The Green Communities team and our many municipal partners across the state have played and will continue to play key roles as we work toward building a clean energy future for Massachusetts that is affordable, equitable, and reliable.”

Under the Green Communities Act, cities and towns must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community and receive funding. The grants provide financial support for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the designated communities’ clean energy goals. Two-hundred eighty Massachusetts cities and towns have currently earned the Green Communities designation which accounts for 87 percent of the



*Governor Baker joined EEA Secretary Theoharides, DOER Commissioner Woodcock, and state and local officials in the City of Lawrence to announce the awarding of over \$8 million in Green Communities Competitive Grant Funding*

Commonwealth’s population. These competitive grants are awarded to existing Green Communities that have successfully invested their initial designation grants and previous competitive grant awards. Grants are capped at \$200,000 per municipalities.

“These competitive grants will enable municipalities across the state to implement innovative and cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and lower municipal energy costs,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Meeting our ambitious long-term climate



goals will require the continued deployment of clean energy, but achieving those goals will not be possible without collaboration and partnerships at all levels of government, and Massachusetts has been a leader at that through our Green Communities program.”

“Towns and cities across the Commonwealth are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the development and implementation of practical and innovative policies,” said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. “This Green Communities funding will enable municipalities to implement those policies helping the Commonwealth achieve its long-term clean energy and climate goals.”

The grants announced today fund a range of projects from ventilation system upgrades to the installation of insulation and energy management systems at municipal buildings and facilities. Projects also include the installations of air-source heat pumps, hybrid police cruisers, and electric vehicle charging stations.



Representing total cost savings of over \$1.3 million annually and leveraging utility incentives of over \$1.6 million, once completed, these grant-supported projects are estimated to yield energy savings of over 43,000 MMBTus, which translates to the amount of energy consumed by 339 Massachusetts households. In greenhouse gas emissions terms, the projects are estimated to reduce emissions by 3,316 metric tons – roughly equal to taking nearly 700 cars off the road. For additional information on awarded projects and funding amounts, please visit DOER’s [Green Communities Division webpage](#).

To view press release, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-over-8-million-in-green-communities-grants>

## Species Spotlight

### American Hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*

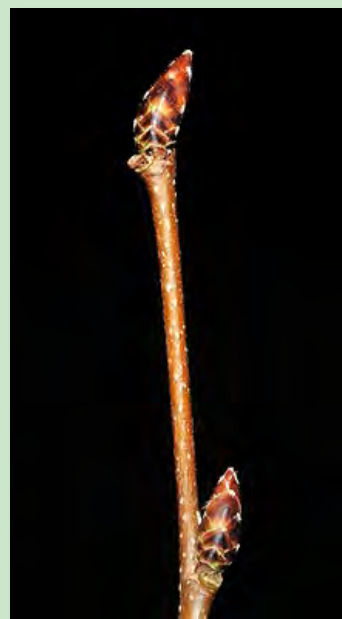
Like many trees, *Carpinus caroliniana* is known by many names: American hornbeam, blue beech, ironwood, and musclewood. We'll call it American hornbeam here. This member of the birch family is native to the eastern United States, Canada, and Mexico. In its native habitat,



American hornbeam grows in the understory of hardwood forests and along streams and rivers. As an understory tree, American hornbeam reaches heights of 20-30 feet, but can grow to 40 to 50 feet (and even higher). It can have one or more

trunks and develops a rounded or flat-topped crown.

Leaves of American hornbeam are alternate, simple, and range in size from 2.5 to 5 inches long and about half as wide. They are elliptical in shape, doubly saw-toothed, with a pointed tip. They are dark blue-green above and paler below, with hairy veins. In the fall, the leaves turn yellow, orange, and red. The buds are imbricate and



small—less than ¼-inch long, pointy, and reddish-brown. Sometimes the tip of the bud is downy. Twigs of American hornbeam are brown and thin, with a slight zigzag. Bark is smooth, gray, and fluted, giving it a

muscly appearance, hence the common name “musclewood.”

*(Continued on page 11)*



## Species Spotlight—Continued

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American hornbeam is monoecious—male and female flowers occur on the same plant.



Male flowers are 1 to 1.5 inches long, while female flowers are 2 to 4 inches long. The flowers are catkins and appear early in spring before the leaves. The fruit is a three-lobed, egg-shaped nutlet.

American hornbeam thrives in rich, moist, slightly acidic soils, but it is somewhat adaptable and can grow in full sun or shade. It can also tolerate periodic flooding. It is a great choice for naturalized plantings and shady locations.



The landscape can hold many different types of plants, but it's important to be aware of the particular benefits of native trees so that, if we have an appropriate location and planting objective, we might purposefully select a native tree. Native plants support native insects and wildlife which ultimately, support us.

Photos

Leaf, twig, fruit, bark, and form by John Seiler, Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.



Urban and Community Forestry

## U&CF Challenge Grants Awarded

***Fourteen projects were approved for DCR UCF Challenge grants for a total of \$252,443***

- Challenge Grants are an annual grant opportunity for municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts to improve and protect their urban forests. These 50/50 matching grants help develop, grow and sustain programs that plant, protect and maintain a community's public tree resources and develop partnerships with residents and community institutions. Awardees are:

Acton	Public Shade Tree Inventory Assessment and Management Plan
Amherst	Preserve Amherst History Museum Tree
Amherst	Amherst Tree Inventory and Management Plan Update
Holyoke	Holyoke Public Tree Inventory Expansion
Leominster	City of Leominster - Tree Inventory
Longmeadow	Tree Risk Assessment and Prioritized Management Plan
Milton	Milton Community Street Tree Reforestation Plan
Revere	Revere Public Tree Inventory and Urban Forest Management Plan
Sandwich	Urban Forest Climate Change Resiliency Plan
Swampscott	Preserving Swampscott's Veteran's Arboretum - Heritage Tree Care
Swampscott	Restoring the Veteran's Arboretum - Strategic Tree Planting
Watertown	Tree/Potential Planting Location Inventory
Westminster	Tree Health Survey Management Plan
Weston	Restoring Public Tree Canopy Health



## Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners Announced

- The annual Arbor Day Poster Contest is designed to increase students' understanding of the importance of a diverse urban and community forest and of the role trees play in their community and in the world around them. This year's theme is, "Be a cool community, plant trees!"



Artist name	School and location	Place
Emmeline B.	Molin Elementary School, Newburyport	1st Place
Aashika P.	Brookwood School, Manchester-By-The-Sea	2nd place
Paige M.	Old Hammondtown School, Mattapoisett	3rd place

- Your school can join next year! All 5th grade students in Massachusetts are invited to participate in this annual contest that combines art and science. For complete rules and instructions visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/annual-arbor-day-poster-contest>

- The 2023 contest theme will be announced late summer 2023. Contest deadline is March 15, 2023.

# UMassAmherst *News*

Over Spring Break 11 students traveled to North Carolina State to compete in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition (NCLC). The National Collegiate Landscape Competition is an annual three-day event which brings together the top landscape and horticulture students, top industry companies and dozens of the biggest industry manufacturers and suppliers. These top industry companies create and judge 31 different events that test students skills and knowledge.

The UMass NCLC Team was made up of students from Landscape Contracting, Arboriculture, Urban Forestry, Landscape Architecture and Horticultural Science and supervised by Michael Davidsohn from LARP and Kristina Bezanson from NRC.



Overall UMass placed 13th out of 43 Colleges and Universities.

The top scoring three students in each event were recognized Saturday morning.

**First Place** - 3D Exterior Design - Andrew Reilly (BSLA)

**First Place** - Hardscape Installation - Amanda Ramsdell & Joseph Contardo (both Landscape Contracting)

**First Place** - Tractor Loader Backhoe - Michael Zeleznik (Landscape Contracting)

**Second Place** - Arboriculture Techniques - Morgan Parent (Urban Forestry) & Ed Ortiz-Sanabria (Arboriculture)

**Second Place** - Landscape Maintenance Operations - Nicholas Commarano & Michael Zeleznik (both Landscape Contracting)

None of this would have been possible without the support of our alumni donations, corporate donations and of course the continued support of the Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals and the Massachusetts Arborist Association! Thank you all for supporting our students as they prepare to enter the Green Industry!

—Michael Davidsohn, UMass Senior Lecturer II, MCLP, NALP



# On The Horizon

June 8	<b>Webinar:</b> Forest Service's Urban Forest Connections 1:00-2:15pm (EST) <a href="https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/">https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/</a>
June 9	<b>Meeting:</b> Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, Western Chapter Summer Dinner Meeting <a href="https://masstreewardens.org/events/">https://masstreewardens.org/events/</a>
June 17-18	<b>Event:</b> New England ISA Tree Climbing Championship, Farm Pond Park—Framingham, MA <a href="https://www.newenglandisa.org/events/tree-climbing-championship">https://www.newenglandisa.org/events/tree-climbing-championship</a>
June 30	<b>Webinar:</b> 2nd Annual Urban Forestry Today 'Summer Tree Summit' Please register prior, this 2-hr broadcast will be \$15 USD <a href="http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org/">http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org/</a>
July 14	<b>Conference:</b> MA Nursery and Landscape Association — Down to Earth Summer Conference — Hopkinton, MA. <a href="https://www.mnla.com/">https://www.mnla.com/</a>
August 23-25	<b>Training:</b> ISA Tree Risk Assessment—Full Course, Biddeford, ME <a href="https://newenglandisa.org/">https://newenglandisa.org/</a>
September 3-10	<b>Event:</b> Tour des Trees, Des Moines, IA for Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) <a href="https://treefund.org/tourdestrees/general-information">https://treefund.org/tourdestrees/general-information</a>



Photo credit Christopher Jackson



## Tree City USA/Tree Campus Higher Education/Tree Line

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day! Congratulations to all our Recognition Award Winners!

***Massachusetts Tree City communities invested \$33.7 million in 86 towns and cities representing 3.3 million people, with over 19,000 hours of volunteer time.***



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