



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner

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Director

Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan
Goals of Project

- Position the Town to proactively and equitably prepare for and protect against the impacts of climate change on public and private trees.
- To mitigate the impacts of climate change by strengthening the ecological functions and values provided by a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree canopy.
- Identify areas/communities that are under-served in terms of tree planting and/or are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Provide the Town with a thorough and accurate inventory of public and private trees (via LiDAR and/or a stem-by-stem analysis) which will allow for the development of metrics and maps and the comprehensive evaluation of needs across Brookline. This inventory shall be used as a comparative baseline to monitor Brookline's urban canopy for years to come.
- Conduct outreach and engage the community throughout the process. Educate the public on topics including (but not limited to) climate change, climate equity, urban heat island effect, and the functions and values of the urban canopy as it relates to climate.
- Conduct a risk analysis to examine the probability and the consequences of harm resulting from climate change, and determine the most efficient use of Town funds and identify realistic priorities for minimizing risk.
- Develop an Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan outlining current and historic conditions of the urban canopy, a review of climate projections, and specific short- and long-term goals and objectives.
- Produce a comprehensive action plan, informed by up-to-date climate projections and climate research, which will provide realistic, practical recommendations for the Town. These recommendations shall address:
 - How to maintain and extend the urban canopy, so as to increase and improve the urban forest's resiliency to climate change;
 - How to make effective and efficient use of the Parks and Open Space Division budget, staff, and time, in both short- and long-term management and planning of the urban canopy;
 - How to strategically adjust existing management practices and emergency response procedures based on best management practices in relation to projected climate impacts;
 - How to improve canopy density in areas/communities that are under-served and/or are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
 - Best practices for community outreach and engagement to support expansion and maintenance of the urban forest.