



TOWN of BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

Tree Planting Committee
Hugh Mattison
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Front Yard Tree Planting Program

Background and Purpose

Since the 1930s, the Town of Brookline has partnered with citizens to plant shade trees on private property in close proximity to the sidewalk. Today, the Front Yard Tree Planting Program provides the Town and residents an opportunity to expand the diversity of tree species in our public realm by planting trees in situations with optimal growing conditions and the benefit from stewardship by homeowners. Over 11,000 street trees provide beauty and environmental benefits town-wide. Private land generally provides a more conducive environment for tree growth than the public way, as private property is less susceptible to urban stressors such as de-icing salt, foot traffic, and pet waste.

Participants in the Front Yard Tree Planting Program work with the Tree Warden, Forestry crew and the Tree Planting Committee to select, plant and maintain street trees planted within 20 feet of the public right of way on private property. Trees in the program must be completely visible from the public sidewalk. To learn more about this program, please visit www.brooklinema.gov/frontyardtree.

To participate in the program, please complete the attached Front Yard Tree Application and mail the application to **Tom Brady, Tree Warden, Parks and Open Space Division of Public Works, Town Hall, 333 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02445**. This application is also available online at www.brooklinema.gov/frontyardtree.

Once you have submitted the application, a member of the Tree Planting Committee will meet with you to help you select a tree that will be well suited to the environmental conditions of your property. The Tree Planting Committee and Tree Warden will make a final determination and inform you of their decision. Town staff will order the tree, schedule planting, and conduct the planting at no cost to you. The planting schedule is dependent on seasonal conditions, crew schedule, utility conflicts, and plant availability.

As part of your Front Yard Tree Planting Program Application, we ask that you please complete a small sketch diagram of your property. It should include the following:

- house footprint (layout position of your house in relation to the street and sidewalk from above)
- location of above ground and below ground power lines and gas or water lines (as known)
- existing trees, shrubs, garden beds, fences, or walls
- existing driveway and walkways
- existing street trees or neighboring trees including approximate size and height
- proposed location of Front Yard tree

Diagram may be drawn by hand or computer generated - it only needs to be a sketch but please be as accurate as possible. The Tree Planting Committee and/or Town staff is happy to answer any questions - please e-mail us at parks@brooklinema.gov.



**Town of Brookline
Tree Planting Committee
Front Yard Tree Planting Program Application**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Organization/Company (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone # Home/Cell: _____ Email: _____

Number of trees requested (you may apply for one or more Front Yard Trees): _____

Please include a brief description of where you would like the Front Yard Tree(s) to be planted (ie. to left of driveway, etc.) _____

*A representative list of species that are often available can be found online at www.brooklinema.gov/frontyardtree. Please indicate your preference(s) below. **Not sure what kind of tree(s) would work best for your site?** No problem – the Tree Planting Committee and Tree Warden would be happy to offer suggestions.*

Do you have a preference of species or tree size/shape/type? _____



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Property sketch diagram:

(please use separate sheet as needed)