

BEDFORD ARBOR RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 26th, 7:30PM

Via Zoom – See link at Bottom

1. Call to order, required notices, attendance
2. Public Comment-5 minutes
3. Department of Public Works (DPW):
 - Update on projects and events
 - Arbor Day – DPW’s plans, BARC planting demonstration—locations, scheduling
 - Tree Regulations
 - Final review of markups from February 26th meeting. Discussion will be limited to verifying that edits accepted by vote from February are duly incorporated.
 - Next steps, scheduling, presentation planning
 - Tree Policy, version dated 1/15/2026: short poll of BARC members: are we ready to move forward right now with the Policy? Next steps and planning dependent on poll.
4. 2026 Tree Planting
 - DPW: update on Tree Mitigation Fund: funds available, cost per tree, watering constraints, advance notice constraints
 - Discussion: location(s) for planting 2026. Goal is to arrive at guidelines that steer planting of trees when and as funds become available, moving towards multi-year planting plan.

References: Committee has the following resources available to dovetail community input with a formal map of open planting locations on Town-owned or Publicly-owned land:

Community Forest Master Plan – Community Survey Summary—

<https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4390/Shared-Bedford-CFMP-Survey-Summary-2024-08-30PDF?bidId=>

Tree Keeper is the Town's software system for tracking Town-owned or Publicly-owned trees. It is available here:

<https://bedfordma.treekeepersoftware.com/index.cfm?deviceWidth=1920>

There a fair bit of data in it, so be patient, give it a moment or two to load.

5. Willson Park-update from Elizabeth Knox, BARC representative

6. Town Common: update on BARC statement, Elizabeth Knox.
7. Looking ahead for BARC:
 - a. Outreach events for 2026
 - b. “De-vining” events
 - c. Plant Fair, First Parish, May
8. Committee compliance-reminders and tasks to keep the Committee up to date with State laws and guidelines.
9. Items from the floor
10. Minutes-TBD
11. Next Meetings-Scheduled unless noted as proposed. All at 730pm via Zoom:
 - Thursday, April 16th, 2026
 - Proposed: May 21st, 2026
 - Proposed: June 19th, 2026
 - Proposed: July 17th, 2026
12. Adjourn

The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary –Isaiah, 60:13

Zoom Link-see next page

Zoom Link

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Mar 26, 2026 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Arbor Resources Committee Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86250704195?pwd=AEZLBCziYV1c2qcnM5QPsfSMYolyg5.1>

Passcode:341515

Phone one-tap:

+13052241968,,86250704195#,,,,*341515# US

+13092053325,,86250704195#,,,,*341515# US

Join via audio:

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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Webinar ID: 862 5070 4195

Passcode: 341515

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86250704195?pwd=AEZLBCziYV1c2qcnM5QPsfSMYolyg5.1>

Bedford Community Forest Master Plan - Community Survey Summary

To gather community input and feedback about Bedford’s trees, The Town of Bedford and Davey Resource Group released a community survey that was open to public participation from April–July 2024.

The survey totaled 309 respondents, representing members of the community who live, work, recreate, or are otherwise connected to Bedford (Figure 1). The majority of respondents live in town, and of those, the great majority own their homes (95%) when compared to those who rent (4%) (Figure 2). Figure 3 displays the age makeup of the survey respondents in comparison to the age makeup of the Town, per the 2022 Census. Residents under 18 are underrepresented in the survey results, but the results otherwise generally reflect the age diversity in Bedford. However, this comparison is not wholly accurate, as it assumes each respondent lives in Bedford (which we know is not true) and was included in the Census. This figure also does not account for the 8 respondents who selected not to include their age. Of the respondents, the majority prefer to receive communication regarding the community forest via email or through the Town website (Figure 4).

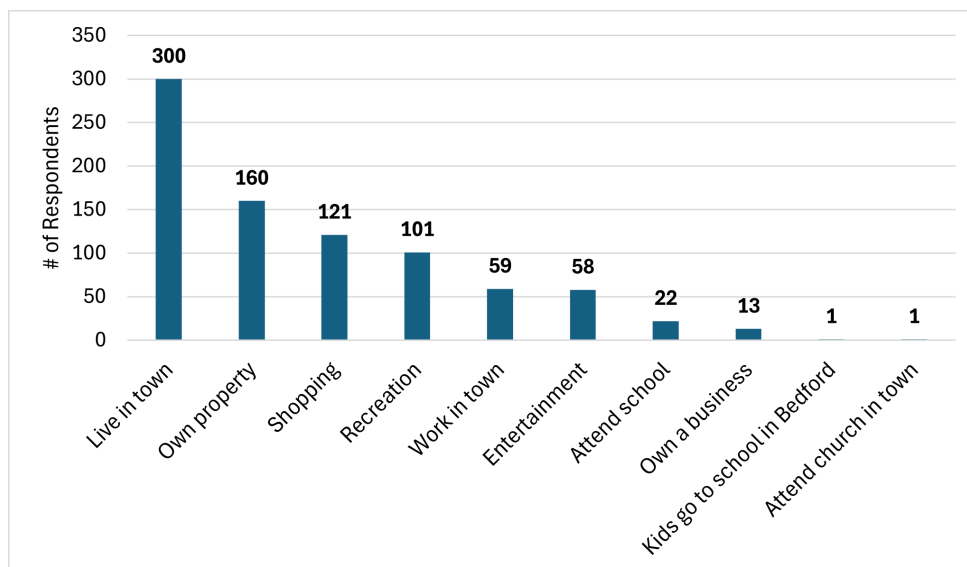


Figure 1. “What is your connection to Bedford? Please select all that apply.”

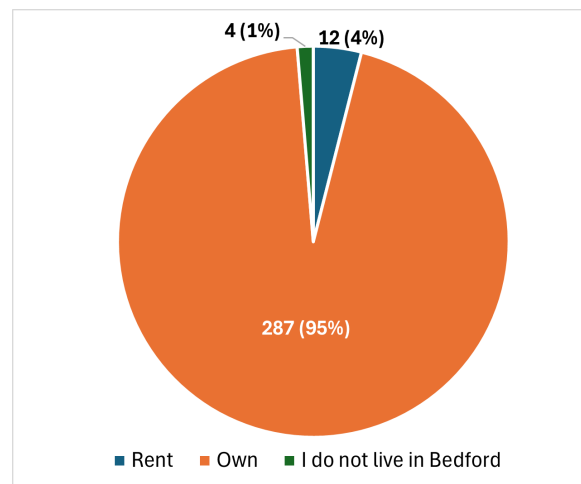


Figure 2. “If you currently live in Bedford do you...”

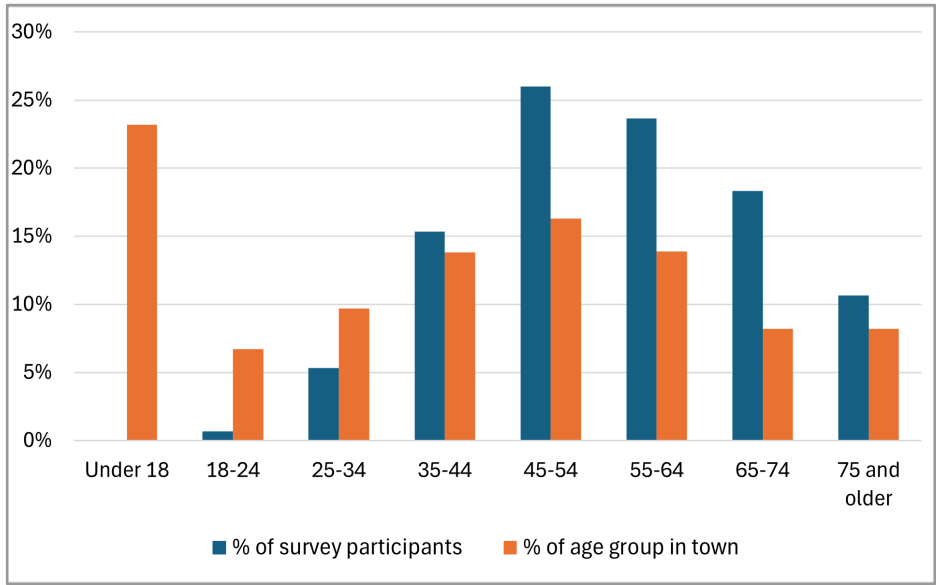


Figure 3. “What is your age?”

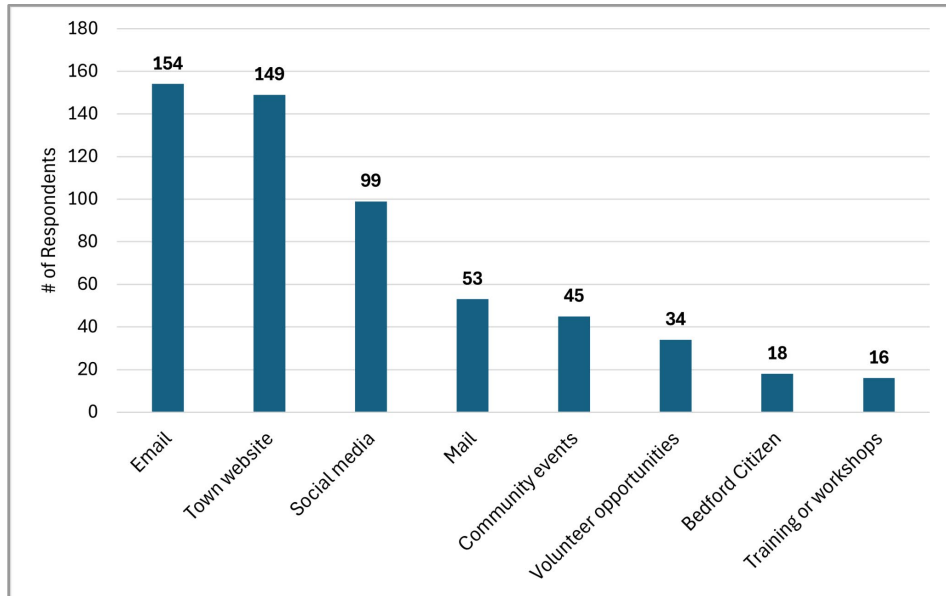


Figure 4. “How would you prefer to receive information from Bedford regarding the community forest?
Please select all that apply.”

Of those who took the survey, over 97% of them agree or strongly agree that trees are an important part of Bedford (Figure 5). Although respondents are nearly split between reporting that there are too many trees in Bedford and the right amount of trees in Bedford (Figure 6), they were more likely to report that there are the right amount of trees, or even too many trees, in their own neighborhoods (Figure 7).

This is further displayed in Figure 8, which shows that respondents think it's most important to plant trees in parks, along streets, and in retail/ commercial areas, ranking private property as the least important.

Figure 5. "Trees are an important part of Bedford."

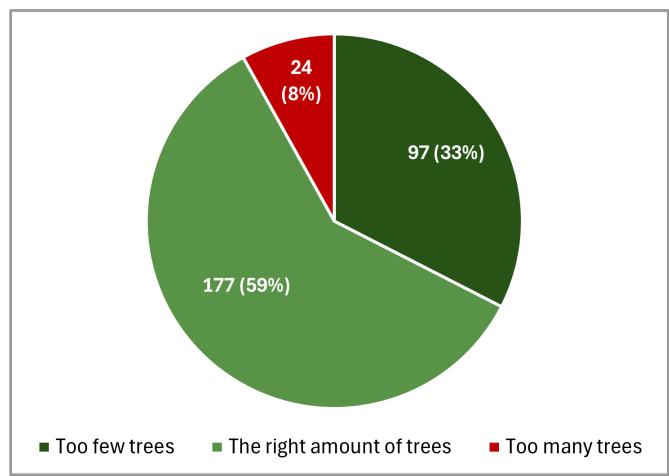
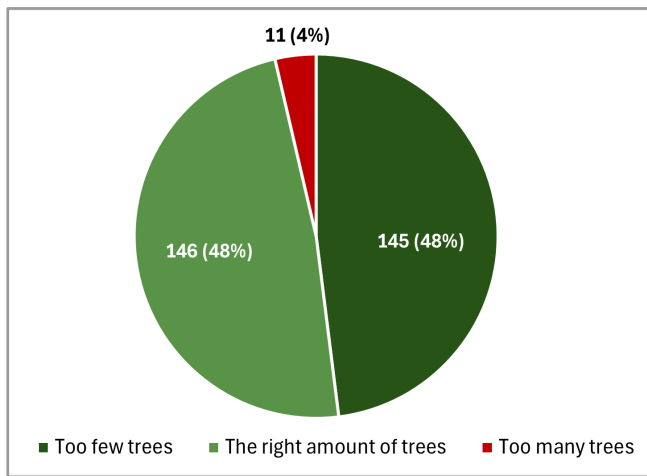
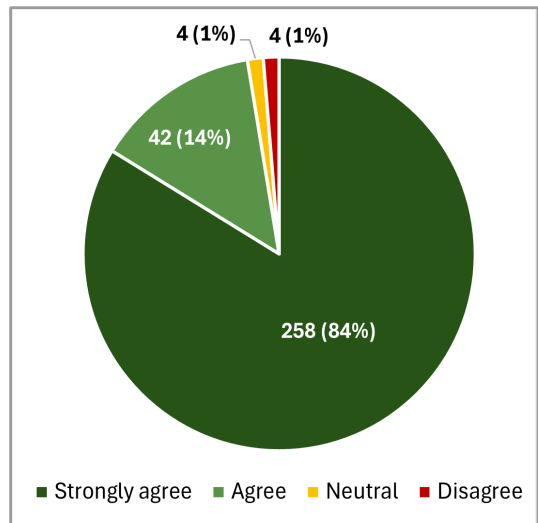


Figure 6. "Across the town of Bedford there are..."

Figure 7. "In your neighborhood there are..."

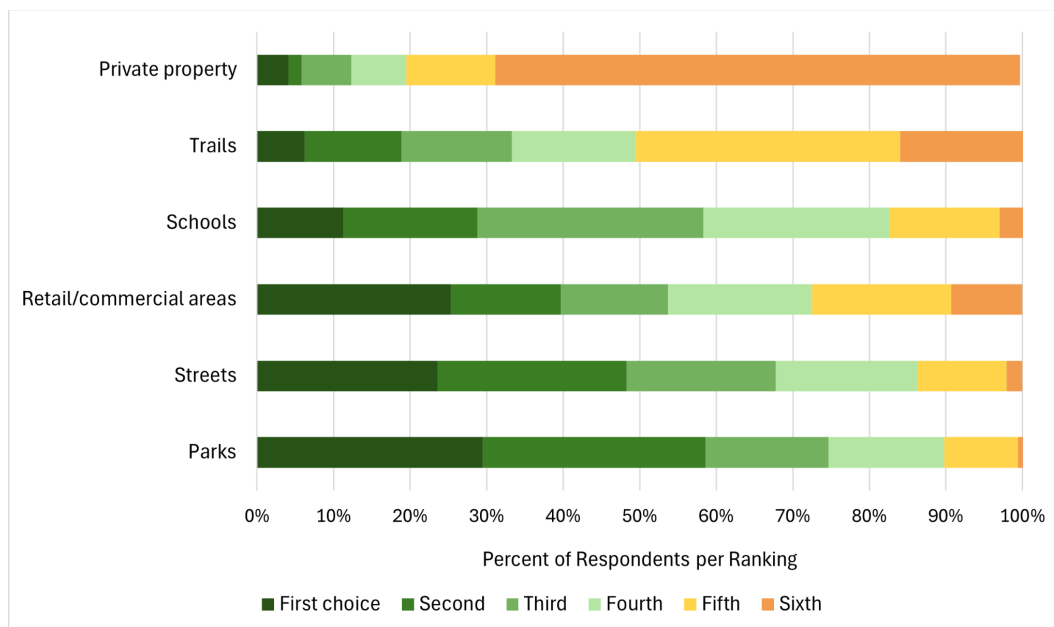


Figure 8. "Where is it most important to plant trees in Bedford? Rank from most to least important to you."

Respondents value the ecosystem services provided by trees- specifically, their ability to improve air quality, reduce high temperatures, and mitigate the effects of climate change (Figure 9). Although some report no concerns with trees, others are primarily concerned over trees blocking visibility while driving or damaging property, utilities, sidewalks, and streets (Figure 10).

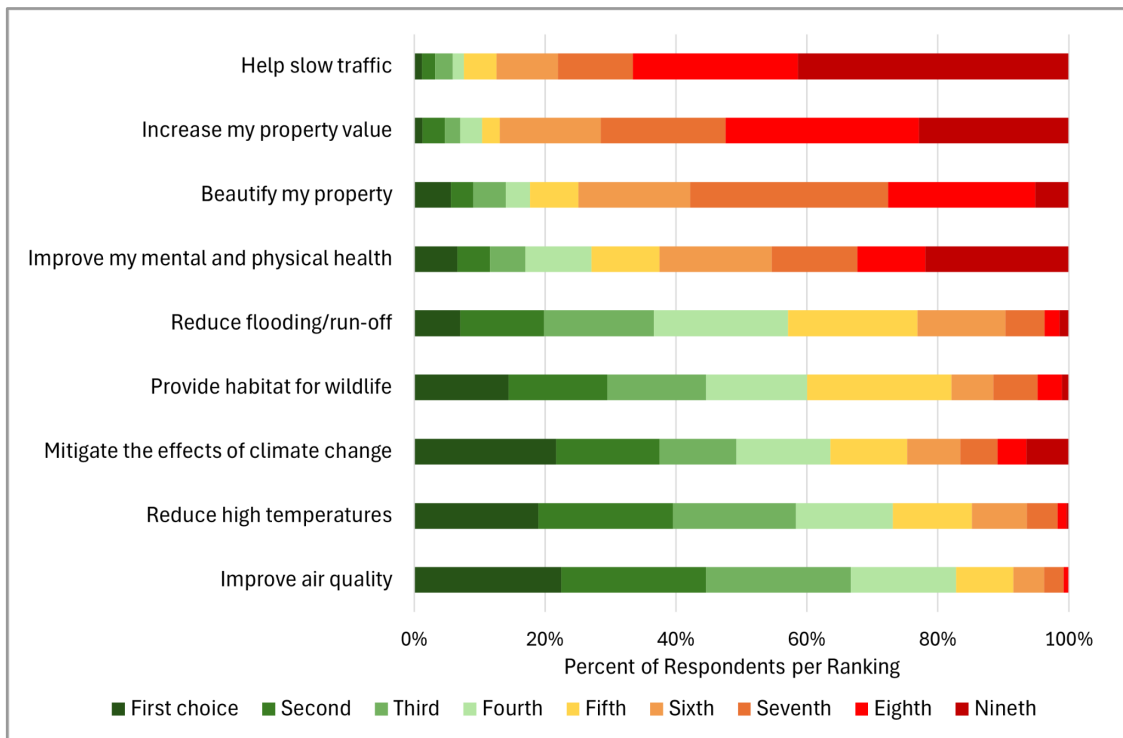


Figure 9. “I want trees in Bedford to... (rank from most to least important to you)”

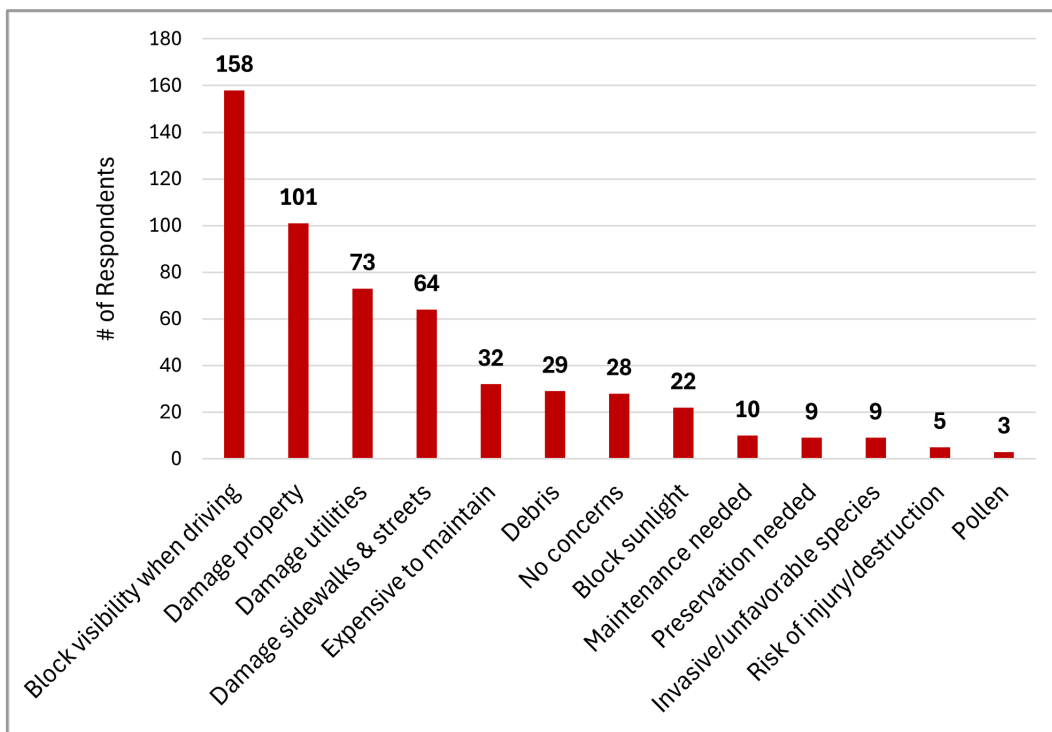


Figure 10. “My concerns about trees are that they... (select up to 3 choices)”

When asked about their feelings towards their street trees, the majority of respondents selected that they love their tree, or that they don't have one but wish they did (Figure 11). However, others have less positive feelings towards their street tree or don't want one. Respondents elaborated on why they feel the way they do about their street tree, and a variety of themes were present in their responses (Figure 12).

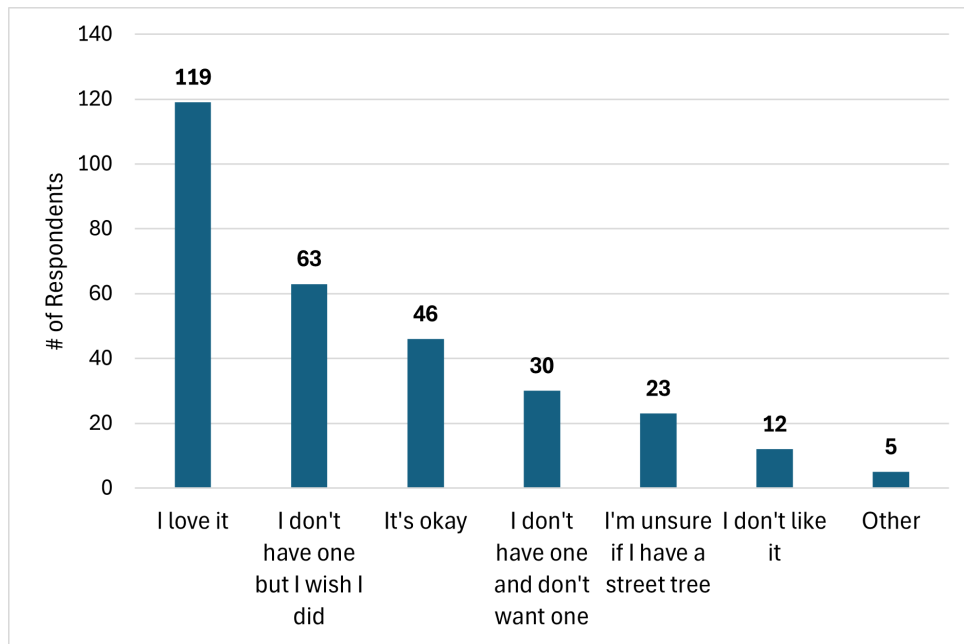


Figure 11. “How do you feel about the street tree(s) in front of your home?”

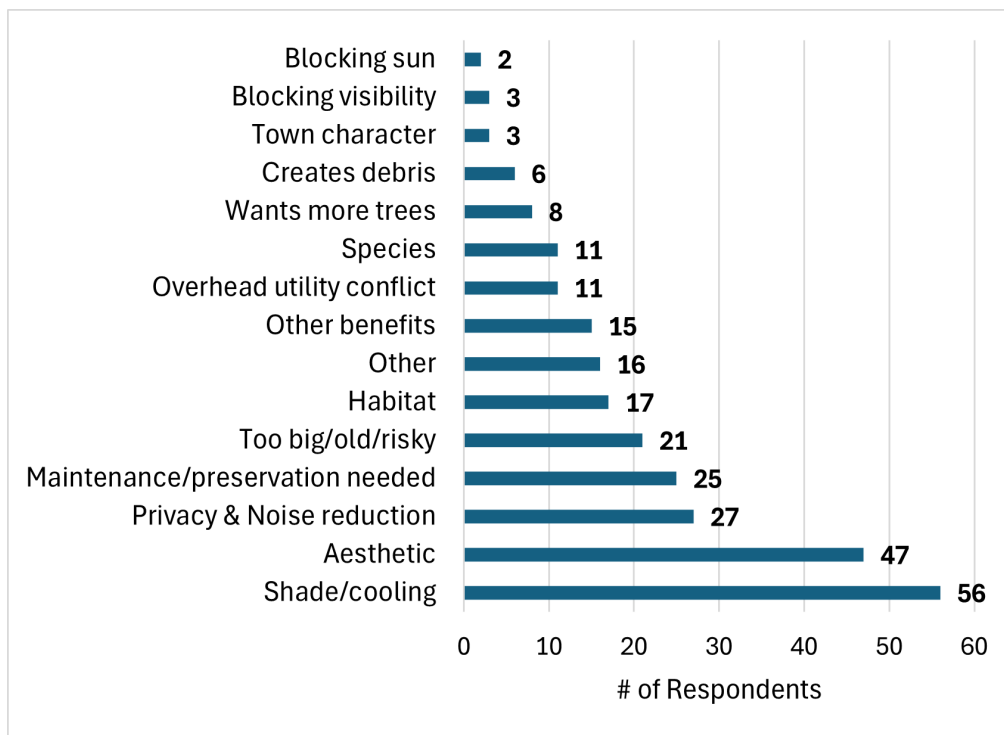


Figure 12. “Tell us why you feel the way you do about the street tree in front of your home.”

They further agree that having trees is worth the financial cost of maintaining them (Figure 13). There was less agreement on if public street and park trees seem well cared for in Bedford (Figure 14).

88% of respondents agree that tree preservation should be included in the early stages of planning any Town infrastructure project (Figure 15). Almost all respondents believe that large, mature trees should be preserved in some respect - 166 choosing on both public and private property, 102 for only public property, and 5 for neither (Figure 16).

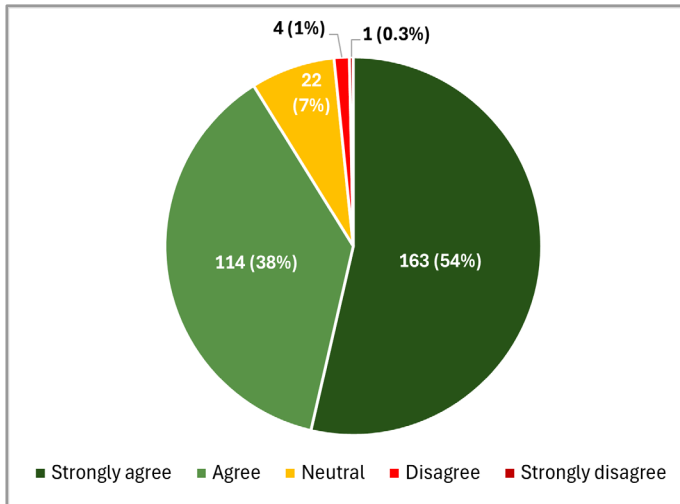


Figure 14. "Public street and park trees seem well cared for in Bedford..."

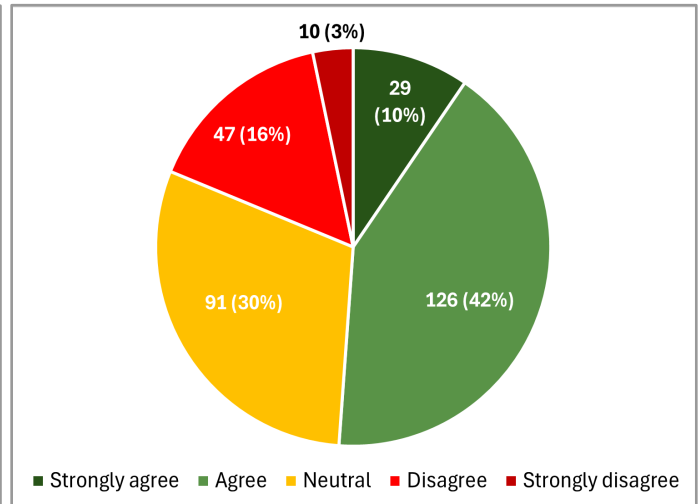


Figure 13. "Having trees is worth the financial cost cared for in Bedford..."

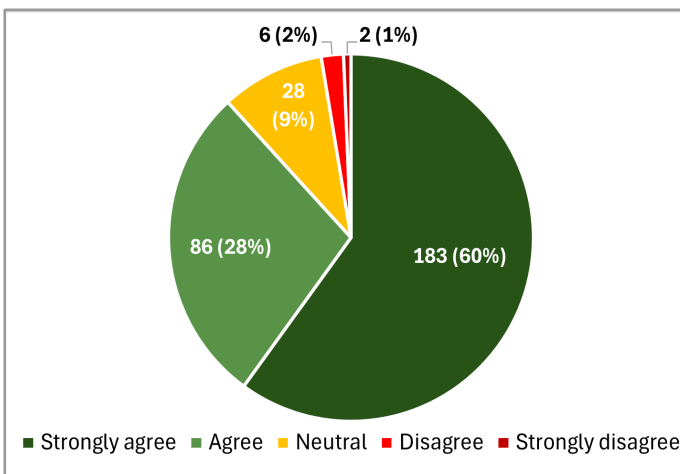
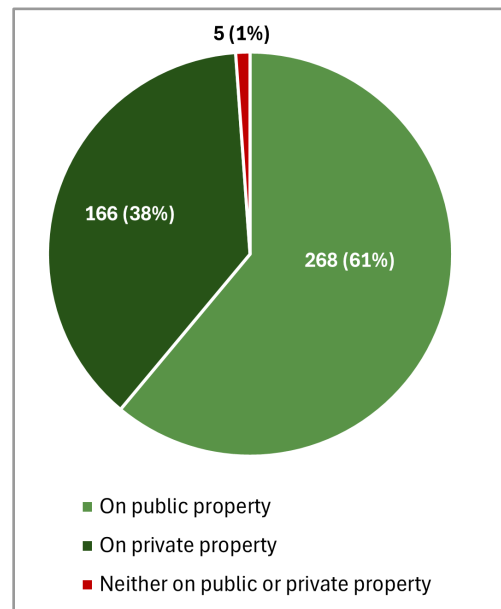


Figure 15. "Tree preservation should be included in the initial planning phases of any Town infrastructure projects." apply."



be preserved... (please select all that apply)."

The survey concluded with an open ended question, inviting participants to write anything else they had to say about Bedford's community forest. Each answer was categorized into 1-3 themes that encompassed the response (Figure 17, Table 1). Tree preservation was the most common theme - many respondents noted that they believed too many trees were being cleared for development. Some advocated for tree protection policies on private property (ideas include having a property perimeter tree preservation requirement and implementing a tree removal permit system) or for exploring other ways to balance development with tree preservation, such as offering tree preservation incentives to developers. Others called for the Town to conduct community and developer education to raise awareness of the benefits of tree preservation and of Massachusetts public tree protection laws.

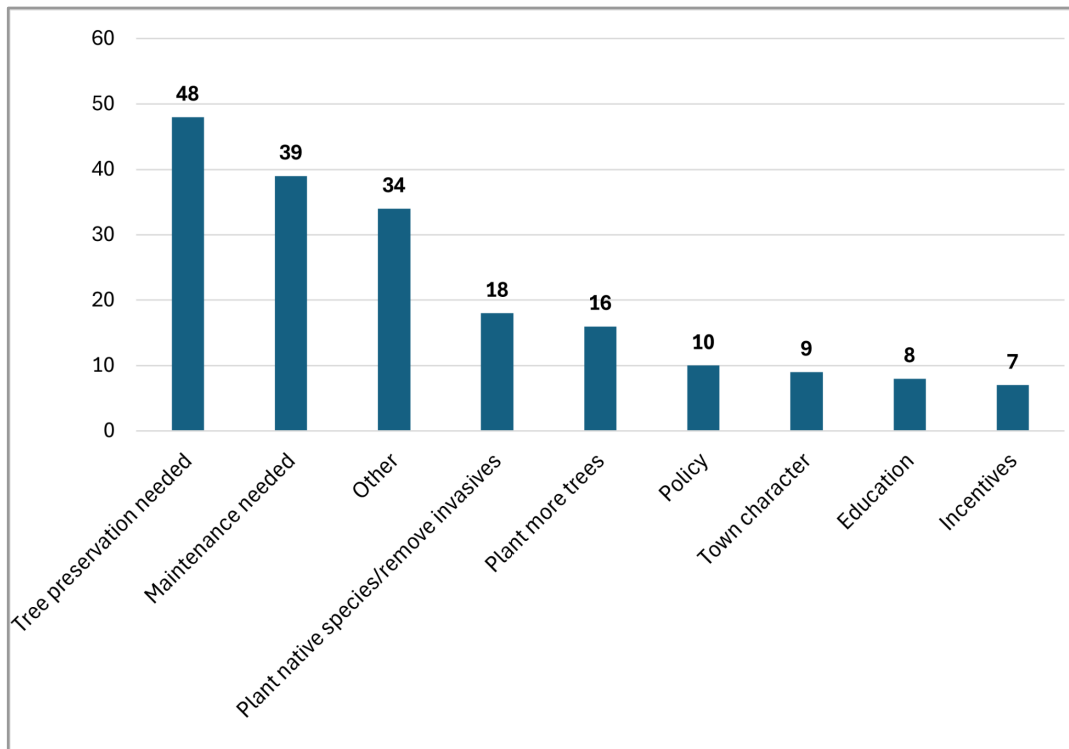


Figure 17. “Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Bedford’s trees or community forest?”

Table 1. Themes of write-in responses with examples. Percentages reflect the proportion of comments that related to a theme out of # total comments. Comments could be categorized as more than one theme.

COMMENT THEME	EXAMPLES
Tree preservation needed (25.4%)	<p>“Requirements for developers to retain as much of existing trees on new construction as possible. And to call in an arborist to help suggest what to replace what they have taken down. We live in a neighborhood where the homes are getting larger and larger and they are clear cutting to make it easier to build, chopping down healthy 100 year old trees.”</p> <p>“I hate seeing mature trees cut down. I hate it when Bedford loses open space to development. I think Bedford should do more to preserve what open space is left and not develop parcels that are currently open space. I think Bedford should do more to prevent mature trees from being cut down.”</p> <p>“As more and more land is developed, it is vital to include preservation of trees early in the planning process. Given climate change, it is also vital to plant new trees and maintain all our trees.”</p>

Maintenance needed (20.6%)	<p>“Please trim them back from intersections and stop signs where you can see to look side to side before proceeding.”</p> <p>“Once the town of Bedford plants a tree they seem to ignore it. Newly planted trees in times of drought need some help to get established. As an example trees were planted for the road work and sidewalk project on Bacon road. One of those trees had died because it was stressed by that dry summer. Other towns seem better at watering the newly planted trees over the summer. Also these younger trees seem to have damaged weed trimmers scaring the bark around the base of the trees. If Bedford does start planting trees I hope they help them survive those first few years.”</p> <p>“Lots of dead trees around Town. Can the Town do something about it?”</p>
Other (18%)	<p>“The North Road project is not necessary and should have been rejected.”</p> <p>“When trees have to be removed it makes more sense to bury them so you don't emit the carbon to the atmosphere.”</p> <p>“In this survey does 'Community Forest' mean the proposed 'master plan'? It's a bit confusing.”</p>
Plant native species/remove invasives (9.52%)	<p>“White oaks support 540+ native caterpillars - this makes them a keystone species for our native birds. Black cherry and willow are up there too, and they all need preference and care in our Bedford tree community.”</p> <p>“I would like to hear some discussion on the use of pine stands in our town forests such as in Springs Brook Park and Hartwell Forest. From my understanding these aren't healthy for native ecology and could benefit from thinning and planting a more diverse range of trees.”</p> <p>“What do we do about the invasive vines smothering trees?”</p>
Plant more trees (8.5%)	<p>“I love how Bedford has so many trees. I would like to see the trees replaced in the Town Center parking lot (the ones that were lost to disease). I hope trees are preserved during construction instead of clearing off the property. Please keep up the wonderful work!”</p> <p>“The Town needs to take care of planted trees and help get more shade trees planted”</p> <p>“I'm tired of trees being removed for various reasons and not replaced. Our town common is getting sparse, as are the school properties.”</p>
Policy (5.3%)	<p>“Bedford should adopt strong regulations promoting low impact development and road diets/complete streets to ensure future growth and development is efficient, compact, and NOT designed solely around individual car travel to protect and preserve existing trees, street trees, and forests into the future.”</p> <p>“would love to see some restrictions on developers' tendency to clear-cut”</p> <p>“I strongly oppose any regulation that would limit any action by private citizens on private property.</p>
Town character (4.8%)	<p>“Bedford is a beautiful town because of the trees that exist here. For example, look at the difference in scenery traveling on from Bedford Street in Burlington to Burlington Road in Bedford. We should spend whatever is necessary to maintain the trees that are here and plant native trees for the future.”</p> <p>“Been in Bedford 15 years. Soooo many trees GONE. Fletcher used to be lined with big maples-gone. Great Rd-dozens of trees-gone. South Rd used to be lined with big shade trees-gone. South Rd is the worst. Seems the trees are all gone where the lowest income people live. Coincidence?”</p>

	<p>"Trees are critical to the character and feel of the town. That character has degraded a lot since I moved here 30 years ago."</p>
Education (4.2%)	<p>"People need more education about the benefits of trees, as well as what to do with sickly trees like the beech trees that aren't doing well all over town."</p> <p>"I hate when developers clear cut yards. Please educate residents on whether there are state laws to prevent clear cutting"</p> <p>"Let's increase awareness about Bradford pear trees and what are native alternatives."</p>
Incentives (3.7%)	<p>"I do feel that the town prioritizes tree maintenance and planning. The bigger challenge is individual citizens who remove mature trees from their property. Nothing can really be done there, unfortunately. Maybe education or incentives? Trees are a powerful tool in our fight against global warming."</p> <p>"It's sad that developers and builders always clear cut lots when building. I wish this wasn't allowed, or there was an incentive to keep mature trees."</p> <p>"I have found that positive encouragement of good behavior is more effective than punitive restrictions. Giving guidance and encouragement to businesses, the town and homeowners - provide info on appropriate trees for their location (sunlight, moisture levels), care ,etc. Provide assistance so people can afford the native trees they select. Help our forests and streets by replacing invasives such as Norway maples, with a variety of native trees that will create a healthy forest, good for animals and resistant to monoculture die-off. Work with the town to try to ensure developers plan effective, healthy landscapes as part of their construction. Be open to removing infested trees before they spread their infestation and look towards finding ways to have a healthy, treed community in 20-50-100 years, rather than only worrying about what we have *right now*. Trees have a life cycle, and we need to respect and work with that."</p>

Town of Bedford Tree Regulations

Applicability

These regulations apply to the care and preservation of trees within the public right-of-way pursuant to Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 87 and facilitates additional notification, compensation, and enforcement requirements related to the removal of such trees. It separately also applies to the removal of trees on Town-owned property subject to the control of the Bedford Select Board under Article 64 of the Town Bylaws.

Any officer, commission, board, committee or other public or private individual or entity seeking to cut, trim, or remove, in whole or in part, any tree with any portion of its trunk on land owned by the Town of Bedford shall be subject to these regulations with certain exclusions. They shall be referred to as the applicant.

Exclusions

These regulations do not apply to the following:

1. Trees on land subject to review by the Bedford Conservation Commission, Planning Board, or Historic District Commission;
2. Trees with a DBH of 3 inches or less;
3. Hazard trees or limbs;
4. Trees under the jurisdiction of other Town policies, bylaws, memoranda or contracts;
5. Trees under the jurisdiction of the Sudbury Valley Trustees or federal lands.

Definition of Terms

Terms

Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC): An advisory committee to the Select Board established by Town Bylaw Article 62 whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Bedford by protecting, preserving, developing and managing the arbor resources on publicly-owned lands and by encouraging preservation and development of resources on private lands.

Damages: Measurable and significant damage caused intentionally or unintentionally to a public tree as determined by the Tree Warden .

DBH: Diameter at breast height, or DBH, is a standard method of expressing the diameter of the trunk or bole of a standing tree. For the purposes of this regulation it is measured at approximately 52 inches from the ground. For trees with multiple trunks, it is the sum of the diameters of the multiple trunks.

Hazard Tree: A Town tree that is dead or dying, has dead parts, or is unstable due to structural defects or other factors and is within striking distance of people or property. Hazard Trees have the potential to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure. The Tree Warden has the authority to remove Hazard Trees without a public hearing or remediation. If there

is a Hazard Tree on private property that may have an impact on the public way, the Tree Warden may require the property owner to have the tree removed at the owner's expense.

Tree Warden: The Tree Warden is employee of the Town, appointed by the Select Board to serve at their will and under their jurisdiction. Their duties and responsibilities shall conform to MGL Chapter 87, and shall include management of all trees within the public right-of-way and on Town property. The Tree Warden may undertake other responsibilities consistent with the purpose and intent of this regulation, including, but not limited to: expending funds appropriated for planting and maintaining trees on Town property, granting or denying tree removal permits, and enforcement as laid out in this regulation.

Violation. A violation shall be defined as the unacknowledged identification of an individual tree that has been cut, trimmed, or removed without prior approval as laid out in this regulation.

Procedures for Cutting, Trimming, or Removing Town Trees

Application

An applicant seeking to cut, trim, or remove a public tree shall apply to the Tree Warden for approval on a Town-approved form including the following information:

1. Applicant's name, mailing address, subject property address, email address, and phone number;
2. A \$200 application fee;
3. A site plan showing the trees subject to these regulations. If an area greater than 500 square feet is being cleared, an applicant shall consult with the Tree Warden as to how to quantify the number and type of trees. Otherwise, individual trees noting DBH and species shall be specified; and
4. A statement attesting that the applicant is familiar with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, the Town Bylaw Chapter 64 (Public Tree Protection), these Regulations, and Bedford's Tree Policy, and acknowledges responsibility to pay for the required public notices for a Chapter 87 Tree Hearing.

Review

The Tree Warden shall review the application for applicability and completeness. The Tree Warden shall provide guidance to the applicant as to next steps no later than 21 calendar days after the application is submitted. A public meeting or hearing to review an application shall be scheduled no later than 45 calendar days after the Tree Warden has received a complete application.

Notification


Trees being removed under this Regulation shall be clearly identified by the Tree Warden using tree tags with the following characteristics:

1. A tree tag will be affixed to an individual tree or small number of trees. Large groupings of trees, defined at the discretion of the Tree Warden, may be enclosed by colored tape and tags can be affixed to a prominent tree or trees in the group.
2. Tags should be reasonably visible to passersby, including pedestrians and motorists, as applicable.
3. Tags will include contact information for the Bedford Department of Public Works.
4. In the case of a tree scheduled for a Chapter 87 tree removal hearing, the date of the hearing will be included, as well species and DBH.

Public Hearing/Meeting

Trees being cut, trimmed, or removed within the public right-of-way will receive a public shade tree hearing following a notification process described in MGL Chapter 87 Section 3. An optional meeting with BARC prior to the hearing is highly recommended.

Trees being removed on Town property will be discussed at a regularly posted BARC meeting.

At the public hearing/meeting, the Applicant shall enumerate their purpose for removing the identified trees, and the public is provided the opportunity to provide comment. The Tree Warden or their duly authorized representative shall approve the application outlining the required mitigation unless an objection is made in writing by one or more persons at or before the public hearing/meeting. If the application has been objected to, the Applicant is referred to the  Board for adjudication.


Authority	Notice	Review Process
Chapter 87 (public right-of-way trees)	MGL Chapter 87 Section 3	Shade Tree Hearing with BARC notified by the Tree Warden
Article 64 (other subject Town trees)	Posted BARC agenda	BARC meeting

Mitigations

Mitigation shall be required by the Tree Warden or their duly authorized representative for the removal of Town trees with a DBH equal to or greater than three inches. All Town trees being removed must be counted and measured. A compensation value will be assessed on each tree according the following requirements:

1. \$300 per inch of DBH of removed trees less than 24” DBH
2. \$600 per inch of DBH of removed trees 24” DBH or greater

Projects funded with public funds shall be exempt from the payment of mitigations.

Once the application is approved at the public hearing/meeting, the Applicant must submit the calculated payment  30 days to the Town of Bedford. No trees maybe removed until payment is received.

Sunset Provision

Approved requests age out if the Applicant fails to remove the tree after a period of time starting from the date of the approved application.

1. Private requests age out after three years. Private requests are considered as tied to the petitioner, and not to the property. If the property is sold, the right to remove any tree does not pass to the new owner.
2. Public requests are tied to the specific project, and age out when plans are cancelled, rescinded, or the project is not pursued for five years.

Violations

Procedures for Review of Allegations

Any officer, commission, board, committee or other public or private individual or entity may refer to the Tree Warden possible violations of MGL Chapter 87 and/or Article 64 of the Town Bylaws.

Decision by the Tree Warden

The Tree Warden shall determine applicability, mitigation, and enforcement of these Regulations in accordance with these and other applicable laws, bylaws, regulations, and other guidance documents.

Fines

The Tree Warden or their duly authorized representative shall impose fines to any person who is found to have violated these regulations. Payment of such fines shall be made out to the Town of Bedford and recorded to the Bedford Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund, as established by and managed under Bedford General Bylaws, Art. 13.4.5.8. Fines, as enumerated in Article 64, shall be up to \$500 as determined by the Tree Warden.

Payment of fines related to violations does not preclude the need for compliance with all other portions of this regulation including mitigation payments. Each tree so impacted shall be a separate violation. Each day violations have not been suspended or addressed shall be grounds for issuing a new violation. A violation shall be considered suspended (but not addressed) if the violator pays the fine and submits an application in accordance with this regulation OR if the applicant submits a request for an appeal of the violation to the Select Board. A violation shall be considered addressed once all fines and mitigations have been paid.

Appeal of Decisions by the Tree Warden

Notice of violations made by the Tree Warden may be appealed to the Select Board. The appeals discussion and decision of the Board shall be taken up in a public meeting of the Board.

Proposed 2025 Town of Bedford Tree Policy

This document was unanimously approved by BARC at its November 17, 2025 meeting. This is a revision of the document versions approved at the March 20, 2025 and September 11, 2025 meetings.

This 2/22/26 version includes minor typo fixes and some suggested language changes. DJC

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Tree Policy is to recommend best practices to protect and preserve Bedford's Town Trees and Public Shade Trees and to promote a diverse, healthy and sustainable urban forest to provide for the general welfare of Bedford's citizens.

Urban and community forests are all the trees, plants and associated ecosystems anywhere people live, play and work. A healthy community forest improves the quality of air and water, controls erosion, supports wildlife, moderates air temperature, absorbs carbon and pollutants, reduces noise, lowers energy demand, enhances community appearance and appeal, promotes mental, emotional and physical health, and increases property values and traffic to local business. Trees define public spaces, create civic identity, and help to sustain our sense of community and individual pride, our local economy, and our quality of life. More broadly, trees are a primary asset in the fight against climate change, as they both counteract and prevent the effects of global warming.

This policy enhances conditions for long-term preservation and expansion of the community forest through meaningful mitigation requirements, standard preservation measures, and a comprehensive process for hearings and appeals to consider the removal of any tree or trees that are on public land, in the public right of way, or may be taken down on private land for public purposes. This policy sets out measures to encourage and increase community input on activities that affect Public Shade Trees and Town Trees and facilitates implementation of Mass. General Laws Chapter 87, which protects Public Shade Trees.

In 2023 Bedford's Select Board identified a Tree Master Plan as one of its infrastructure priorities. They appointed an ad hoc Tree Master Plan Committee which worked with Town staff, the public and Davey Resource Group to develop the Community Forest Master Plan. The Plan aims to:

- Develop a 20-year vision for Bedford's community forest.
- Provide a platform for public trees to attain similar status as other public infrastructure within the Town's planning initiatives

- Guide the Town’s management to protect and grow the community forest.
- Provide recommendations of strategies and associated action items as guidance for Bedford to support the town’s trees.

The recommended strategies are as follows:

1. Collect and maintain community forestry data for a data-driven management approach.
2. Conduct public outreach and education to foster community engagement.
3. Transition to a more proactive management program for Bedford’s public trees.
4. Create and update policies, practices, and guidelines to support the growth and preservation of the community forest.
5. Improve communication and collaboration among Town departments and committees to include trees across projects and programs.

The Community Forest Master Plan was approved and adopted by the Select Board on February 3, 2025. This Policy strives to embody all of the recommend strategies and actions provided in that Master Plan, especially strategy 4 above.

This document was written by The Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC) and details best practices and procedures that it advises the Select Board to adopt as Town Policy. The Town of Bedford Tree Regulations is a companion legal document that enables enforcement of some components of this Tree Policy.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy and appendix apply to the care and preservation of Public Shade Trees pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 87 and facilitates additional notification, compensation, and enforcement requirements related to the maintenance and removal of such trees. It separately also applies to the maintenance and removal of Town Trees on Town-owned property subject to the control of the Bedford Select Board, with certain exclusions.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, the following definitions apply:

APPLICANT — Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind including public or private utilities and municipal departments or government entities that seeks to remove a public tree

BEDFORD ARBOR RESOURCES COMMITTEE (BARC) — An advisory committee to the Select Board established by Gen. Bylaw Art. 62, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Bedford by protecting, preserving, developing and managing the arbor resources on publicly-

owned lands and by encouraging preservation and development of resources on private lands. The Public Tree Protection Bylaw (Article 64) gives BARC the responsibility of assisting the Select Board and Tree Warden in promulgating and administering regulations such as this Tree Policy.

CALIPER — Diameter of a tree trunk (in inches) measured six inches above the ground for trees up to and including four-inch diameter, and 12 inches above the ground for larger trees.

COMMUNITY FOREST MASTER PLAN (CFMP) — The Select Board appointed an ad hoc Committee which worked with Town staff and Davey Resource Group to develop the Community Forest Master Plan with considerable public input. This plan aims to guide the Town to protect and grow its public trees. The Master Plan was adopted by the Select Board in February, 2025. Also see Section I.

DBH (“Diameter at Breast Height”) — The diameter in inches of the trunk of a tree measured 4 1/2 feet from the existing grade at the base of the tree. For trees with multiple trunks, it is the sum of the diameters of the multiple trunks.

DONATION — A voluntary financial contribution to the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund for the sole use of maintenance or purchase of Town or Public Shade Trees

EXCLUSIONS TO TOWN TREE — see **Town Tree**

Hazard TREE — A Town Tree or a Public Shade Tree that is dead or dying, has dead parts, or is unstable due to structural defects or other factors and is within striking distance of people or property. Hazard Trees have the potential to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure. The Tree Warden has the authority to remove Hazard Trees without a public hearing or remediation.

HAZARD TREE on Private Property — If there is a Hazard Tree on private property that may have an impact on the public way, the Tree Warden may require the property owner to have the tree removed at the owner's expense.

JENKS NATURE TRAIL — An historic arboretum in the center of town that was originally established in the early 1900's, with specimen trees planted by Bedford's first Tree Warden, Charles W. Jenks. It is governed according to the authority delineated in the Memorandum of Agreement Between Bedford Selectmen, School Committee, and Library Trustees on April 19, 2005.[1]

MITIGATION — An action to make something (e.g. the loss of a tree) less harmful, destructive, severe or unpleasant. In this document, mitigation for tree loss takes the form of financial compensation paid into the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund (Section VI-E). Mitigation requirements are defined in Section VIII.

PUBLIC SHADE TREE — Any tree within the public right-of-way except for state highways, as determined by the Tree Warden. This includes trees that have any portion of the stem between six inches and 4 1/2 feet above grade actively growing into the public right-of-way. All Public Shade Trees are Protected Trees under the aegis of MGL Ch. 87[2].

See also **TOWN TREE**

REMEDICATION — A financial payment to the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund as partial compensation for the loss of a Town or Public tree. These funds are for the sole use of maintenance or purchase of Town or Public Shade Trees.

SIGNIFICANT TREE — A Significant tree is any Town Tree or Public Shade Tree that has been individually designated by the Select Board with advice of the Tree Warden, the Conservation Commission, the Historic District Commission and/or Bedford Arbor Resources Committee. Typically, a Significant Tree is a large, individual tree that is so designated due either to its outstanding size or quality for its particular species, or its historic or cultural value. These trees are considered an important community asset owing to their unique or noteworthy characteristic or value. Significant Trees include all Heritage, Donated and Memorial trees.

- **HERITAGE TREE** — Any Town or Public Shade Tree that has been individually designated by the Select Board in consultation with the Tree Warden, HDC &/or BARC, as having unique value and is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for Heritage Tree designation include age, rarity, and size, as well as aesthetic, cultural, botanical, ecological, and historical value. Any tree in the Jenks Nature Trail arboretum is a Heritage Tree.
- **DONATED TREE** — A Town Tree or a Public Shade Tree is considered to be donated when an applicant provides the Town with a completed application and contributes funds to the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund to cover purchase, planting and maintenance for three years. The applicant may choose the species of tree from a list of Town-approved trees or a species approved by the Tree Warden, depending on the suitability of the site and availability of suitable nursery stock.
- **MEMORIAL TREE** — A Tree that has been donated to the Town to honor or memorialize an event or person(s) or a Tree dedicated by the Town as Memorial. The Memorial Tree can be a Town or Public Shade Tree.

Significant trees are listed in Appendix II of this policy

TOWN TREE — Any tree on town-owned property or on leased land being used as a public facility, including but not limited to trees adjacent to public buildings, such as public schools and libraries; within commons, public parks, open space, cemeteries, fields or wooded lots. Town Trees are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board acting as park commissioners, or their appointed designee.

Exclusions to Town Tree:

1. Trees on property under the jurisdiction of Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, and the Planning Board under the Scenic Road Bylaw, are Bedford's Public-owned Trees but, for the purposes of this policy, are not **TOWN TREES**.
2. **Public Shade Trees** as defined by Ch.87 are not **Town Trees**
3. Trees under the jurisdiction of other Town policies, bylaws, memoranda or contracts, trees on Conservation land, trees under the jurisdiction of the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), trees under the jurisdiction of the Library Trustees at Jenks Arboretum[3], and trees on federal lands, such as Hanscom Air Base, Veterans Administration, and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

See also **Public Shade Tree**

TREE MAINTENANCE — Any action that promotes the health of the tree, such as pruning, removing dead wood, feeding and watering.

TREE REMOVAL — The act of cutting down a tree or any act that will cause a tree to be destroyed, removed, damaged or killed within a three-year period. No public or private individual or entity may cause any tree on public land to be removed without following the procedures described in this Policy.

TREE TAG — A placard that identifies a tree or trees that will be removed without a hearing (i.e., a Hazard Tree) or is slated for a Tree Hearing; e.g., Public Shade Tree, Town Tree or Scenic Road Hearing.

A Tree Tag will have the following characteristics:

1. A Tree Tag will be affixed to an individual tree or small number of trees. Large groupings of trees, defined at the discretion of the Tree Warden, may be enclosed by colored tape and tags can be affixed to a prominent tree or trees in the group.
2. Tags should be reasonably visible to passersby, including pedestrians and motorists, as applicable
3. Tags will include contact information for the DPW. In the case of a tree scheduled for a Tree Hearing, the date of the Hearing will be included, as well species and DBH.

Tags that denote a Hazard Tree or a tree scheduled for a Tree Hearing will be of distinctly different colors. Hazard Tree tags are currently orange and Tree Hearing tags are currently blue.

IV. TREE WARDEN [removed]

V. TREE ADVOCACY in PROJECT PLANNING.

The Community Forest Master Plan identified three major goals and five recommended strategies for achieving those goals. One of these strategies is to “Improve communication and collaboration among Town departments and committees to include trees across projects and programs”. The first action item in this strategy is to “Include trees early in the planning process”.

A BARC representative is to be included in a project planning and review meeting before the 20% project plan is released for any and all Town infrastructure projects. BARC will review the plans and then recommend and discuss changes at the next meeting of the planning committee. BARC will have an opportunity to review plans and provide input before each subsequent major design milestone through to project completion. The entire committee will have an on-site review of the project with the project manager around the 50% design stage. Their role in the design process will be to:

1. Advocate for the protection and preservation of mature trees as project plans are developed
2. Explore options to avoid removal of mature trees
3. Assure inclusion of the value of trees and their true cost of removal in the cost/benefit analysis of the project
4. Provide guidance in the selection and location of trees in the landscape plan
5. Assure that the Town Tree inventory is updated with the trees removed AND planted during the project

VI. BEST PRACTICES

- A. All work on public trees in Bedford should adhere to **ANSI A300 standards** and best management practices.
 1. This includes work done by both Town employees and by hired contractors
 2. The Tree Warden will have access to a copy of the full ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards (2023 edition or later) for reference, education, training and compliance purposes.
 3. Town employees who perform tree maintenance, pruning, removal or planting will be trained in A300 standards and procedures appropriate to their responsibilities.

- B. It is a best practice as well as a reasonable expectation that Public and Town trees be protected from damage prior to and during site development, construction, demolition, excavation, repairs, utility work and landscaping.
 1. Protection of Public trees must be implemented and adhered to by Town employees, Town hired contractors, utility companies, private individuals and entities, and by privately hired contractors

2. All Request for Quote and construction contracts will include language setting the requirement that a Tree Protection Plan will be included during planning and followed during execution of all Town projects
3. Tree protection measures must prevent damage to the tree trunk, branches, canopy and roots. Protections must also prevent soil compaction, soil structure damage, soil loss and other conditions in the critical root zone that will compromise the health, structural stability, root function and growth of the tree
4. Tree protection measures should adhere to the ANSI A300 (Chapter 7) standards and practices. This includes fencing surrounding the Critical Root Zone, which, at a minimum, will include 1 foot of radius for each inch of DBH or the tree Drip Line, whichever is greater.
5. The Tree Warden will inspect and approve the tree protection measures prior to the start of work and will inspect the site during construction or other work. The Tree Warden is authorized to stop work should they determine that the protections have been compromised or ignored.
6. If full root zone protection cannot be accomplished, such as if a sidewalk encroaches the root zone of a protected tree, best efforts will be made to protect the tree root system. This may include actions such as pneumatic or hydraulic excavation around the roots and alternative surfaces such as stone dust.
7. Since damage to tree roots may not be immediately evident, if the tree dies or its health is substantially compromised, as determined by the Tree Warden, within a period of three years from the time the tree protection measures are removed, the entity that performed the work requiring the tree protection will be held responsible and is obligated to pay compensation for the tree. Compensation will be the same as if the tree were removed, as described in Section VIII below.
8. Public trees near private projects must also be protected. The root zone on Town property such as the right of way will be fully protected and the owner or contractor will be informed of the expectation that any of the root zone on private property is also to be protected.
9. Once construction activity is under way, it is possible that unforeseen circumstances may have an effect on the planned Tree Protection measures. In these cases, best efforts will be made to protect the tree and assure its survival and BARC will be notified of the issue and the response.
10. This section supersedes the Select Board Policy Resolution on protecting trees in construction zones dated June 9, 2008

VII. PROCESS for PUBLIC TREE REMOVAL

The public tree removal process is defined in the Town of Bedford Tree Regulations document. This section provides a more complete description of the process. Optional consensus building

meetings and hearings for removal of Town owned trees not covered by MGL c.87 are included here.

A. Permitting

The CFMP Action Item 4.3 recommends developing a formal tree removal permit to issue to the applicant for approved removals which can serve as a legal document to confirm compliance with Town regulations and ensure that tree removals are properly conducted and compensated. When this formal permit is instituted, this policy will comply with all stated requirements of the new permit.

See permitting requirements in the Town of Bedford Tree Regulations.

B. Notification for all meetings [Move this section to Regulations]

1. All meetings will be posted to conform to open meeting laws or MGL ch87 requirements.
2. Meetings will also be posted on an online news medium of local circulation, such as the *Bedford Citizen*
3. Meetings will also be posted on the official Calendar of Public Meetings on the Town website
4. Affected trees will display a Tree Tag.

C. Meetings and Hearings

1. Optional Tree Warden/BARC Meeting

The purpose is to promote wider community input early in any private-entity or Town project that requires the pruning or removal of **Town Trees and Public Shade Trees** and removal of **trees on private land for public projects**. This will increase the opportunity for all parties to participate fully in a discussion of the project. This is an attempt to build consensus before the formal Town Tree or MGL Ch 87 Tree Hearing where discussion is more limited. Meeting will take place during a scheduled meeting of BARC. No decision or vote is taken at these meetings.

2. Tree Warden/BARC Meeting [Include private trees in subsection 1 and remove this section]

The purpose is to promote wider community input early in any private-entity or Town project that requires the pruning or removal of **trees on private land for public projects**, to increase the opportunity for all parties to participate fully in a discussion of the project in an attempt to build consensus. Meeting will take place during a scheduled meeting of BARC. No decision or vote is taken at these meetings.

3. Town Tree Hearing

The purpose is to provide information and seek public input for a Town project that requires the pruning or removal of **Town Trees** on Town property. Meeting will take place during a scheduled meeting of BARC. A decision on action is made at these meetings.

4. Public Shade Tree Hearing

The purpose, notification requirements and process are defined by MGL Chapter 87. A hearing is required for the removal of **Public Shade Trees** by any individual or entity. An Optional Tree Warden/BARC Meeting may be scheduled to build consensus before the formal Public Shade Tree Hearing. A decision on action is made at these meetings.

D. Decision and Appeal

Approval or lack of approval for the removal of **Town Trees** will be noted in the minutes of the Town Tree Meeting, which are included in the BARC meeting minutes. These minutes will be approved at the next BARC meeting, including approval by the Tree Warden. The minutes are to be filed with the Town Clerk. The decision may be appealed to the Select Board by any party.

2. For **Public Shade Trees**, the Mass. General Laws Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Hearing provides a process for approval as well as appeal of non-approval to the Select Board. The determination by the Select Board will be filed with the Town Clerk. [Remove this section since process is fully defined in MGL Chapter 87]

F. Sunset Provision Remove – already included in Regulations]

Approved requests age out if the petitioner fails to remove the tree after some period of time.

1. Private requests age out after two years. Private requests are considered as tied to the petitioner, and not to the property. If the property is sold, the right to remove any tree does not pass to the new owner. This is retroactive to requests that are currently pending.
2. Public requests age out when plans are cancelled, or funding cannot be secured or is rescinded, or the project is not pursued for five years. This is retroactive to requests that are currently pending.

VIII. MITIGATION

Action item 4.1 in the Community Forest Master Plan states: “Regularly review the Tree Policy and Update as Needed”. The first component of this action is to analyze the current compensation value of trees for its effectiveness and update as needed. Recent projects have shown that the compensation fees and requirements as stated in the 2018 Bedford Tree Policy are clearly ineffective at preserving trees, especially large, mature, valuable trees. The CFMP includes a comparison to other nearby communities that have instituted a per-inch compensation fee schedule. Since these other towns have found this approach to be effective, this Policy also adopts a per-inch mitigation scheme.

A. Overall Requirements

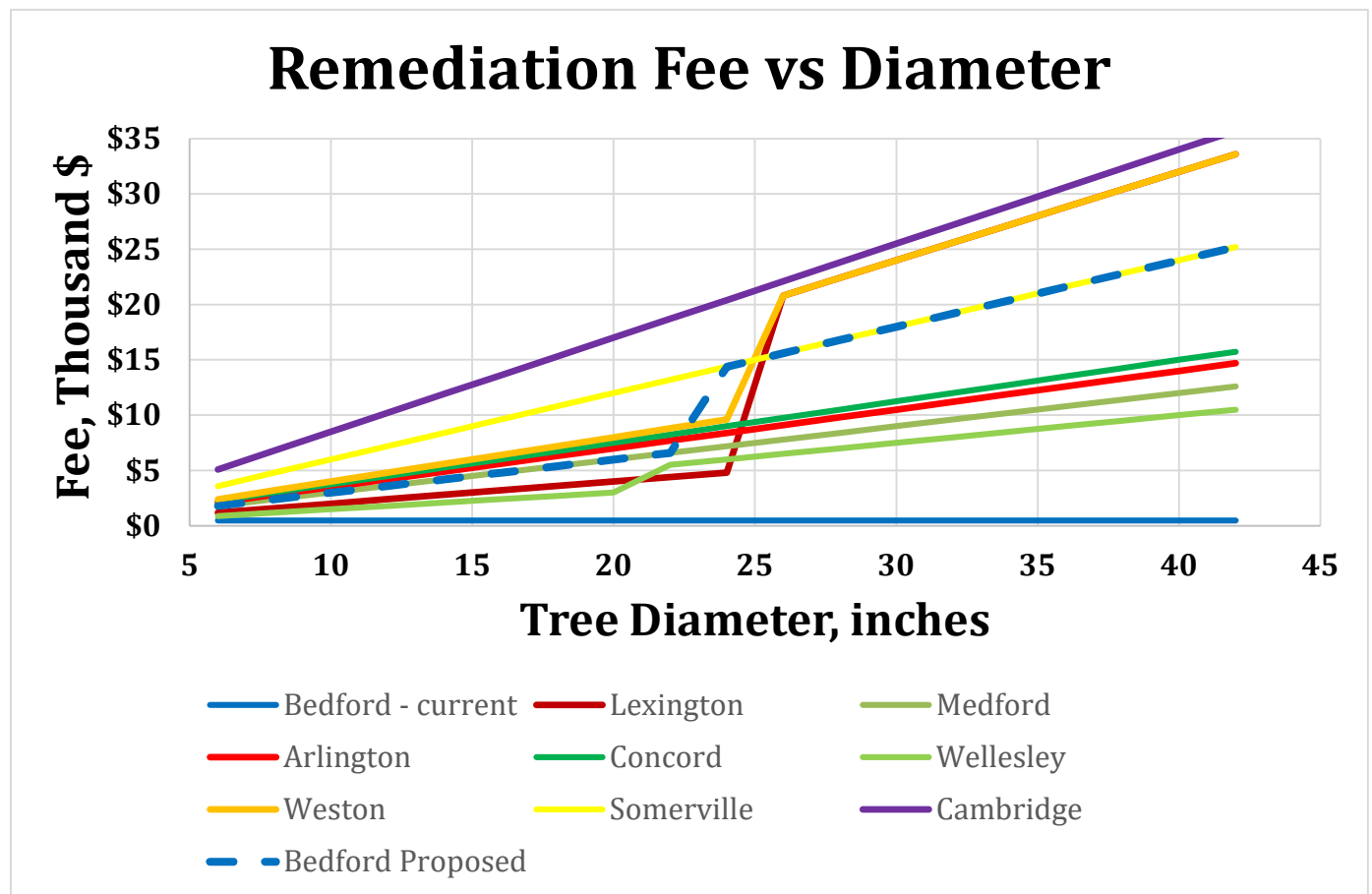
1. Mitigation will be required for all trees with a DBH equal to or greater than 3 inches.
2. Since large, mature trees are exponentially more valuable than small trees, the per inch fee will double for trees over 24” in diameter.
3. Compensation for trees designated as Significant will follow the same requirements as for all other trees, but will be calculated as double the per inch charge.
4. All trees are reckoned individually, in that each tree to be removed must be counted, measured and mitigated.

B. Proposed Fee Schedule

1. \$300 per inch of DBH of removed trees
2. For large trees of 24” DBH or larger fee shall be doubled to \$600/inch.
3. 2X multiplier to be applied for trees specified as Significant Trees

C. Justification for Proposed Fee Schedule

The tree policies and regulations of area towns were surveyed and their tree mitigation data were tabulated. The following chart shows the remediation fee plotted against the tree diameter (DBH).



The blue line at the bottom clearly shows that Bedford is currently grossly undervaluing its trees! The dashed blue line shows that the proposed remediation schedule is comparable to the other towns (except Cambridge), including the increase in valuation at 24 inches.

D. Private Request to Remove Public Shade Trees

1. Private requests to remove Town Trees or Public Shade Trees will be remediated by financial compensation only, paid into the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund. There will be no option for the petitioner to plant replacement trees.
2. In all cases, compensation must be paid to the Collector/Treasurer's Office before the tree(s) is(are) removed. Otherwise, fines may be imposed.

E. Public requests for tree removal include:

1. Requests for cutting of Public Shade Tree per MGL c. 87 (e.g. sidewalk installation, transportation improvements, trimming program in the public right of way)
2. Requests for Town Tree cutting on Town land (e.g., athletic field, school construction, etc.)
3. Requests to remove trees on Private Property for a Public Project (e.g. sidewalk installation, infrastructure easements)

F. Annual Funding in lieu of Direct Mitigation for Public Tree Removal Requests

Mitigation for Public tree removal requests will be by replanting only. No fees will be paid to the Tree Mitigation Revolving Fund for public projects.

It is **expected** that the DPW will include a permanent line item in their budget specifically for planting, watering and maintaining new trees only. This line item would not include other tree expenditures, such as tree removals or pruning.

1. DPW should provide a summary of the number and total DBH of public trees lost for any reason, the number of trees planted and surviving, and the state of the Community Forest in an annual report to BARC and the Select Board. [Move to Section IX with modified text.]

G. Specifications for Planting Public Trees

1. A tree with the minimum caliper of 2 ½ inches.
2. Non-invasive species
3. Planting is to be done preferably with native species shade trees, such as species from the BARC Native Tree List [7] or the list provided in the CFMP Appendix 1. However, cultivar trees that are more suitable to our changing climate may also be planted.
4. Other species may be planted with specific justification and approval of the Tree Warden.
5. "The right tree in the right place," i.e., selecting trees to match the soil conditions, sun exposure, space, available moisture, height at maturity, salt tolerance, etc.
6. Trees will be planted preferably in the vicinity of the trees that have been removed. If there is no room nearby, replacements can be on other public land, either as a Town Tree

or a Public Shade Tree. Appendix J, Section 2 of the CFMP lists priority locations for tree planting and Section 3 identifies over 1100 potential planting locations.

7. Any Public tree planting will include a plan and resources for adequate watering and maintenance over a three-year period from the time of planting. If a tree does not survive for three years, a replacement tree must be planted, watered and maintained for three years from the date of planting.
8. Attach information tags to all newly planted trees. Tags **may** include information such as the tree species, size when planted, date planted, benefits, source of funding or project and other interesting information. This enhances the community's connection to trees and supports action item 2.5 of the CFMP.

IX. RECORDS

1. Since trees are a valuable town asset, the removal of any Public Shade Tree or Town Tree for any reason, including hazard trees, storm damage, insect damage, vehicle damage, town projects, private requests and projects, or utilities maintenance, should be recorded by updating the TreeKeeper Tree Management Software, or other inventory management software.
2. All trees that are planted as Town Trees or Public Shade Trees will be added to the inventory in TreeKeeper or other software. This will enable scheduling of watering and maintenance and help to assure that the trees survive to maturity. Otherwise, the resources to plant the trees and their future benefit are likely to be lost.
3. By proactively updating inventory data, Bedford can extend the useful life of a single tree inventory and ensure that tree care is conducted using accurate data. This will help to achieve the Community Forest Master Plan Action Item 1.1, and meet the requirements of the Tree Management Plan, Section 7 Inventory Updates. It will also help to determine the appropriate replacement ratio for removed trees, as described in Section 1b of the CFMP Planting Plan.
4. DPW will present an annual report to BARC and the Select Board on the current state of implementation of the Community Forest Master Plan. This report will include a summary of the number and total DBH of public trees lost for any reason, the number of trees planted and surviving, progress in implementing the recommended strategies and actions, plans for the next year, and resources needed to accomplish those plans.

X. RECLAIMING WOOD from REMOVED TREES

Removed Town or Public shade trees are typically chipped and end up in wood chip dumps, where they rapidly decompose. This decomposition process releases nitrous oxide, which is more than 360 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, and methane, which is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Both gases are significant

contributors to climate change. There are many beneficial ways to “repurpose” tree waste, such as cutting large logs into lumber for sale or for use in Town projects, making the wood available to local crafts people, or turning it into wood pellets, biofuels or biochar. There are also economic benefits to converting a waste stream into a resource.

This policy encourages the Town to seek out opportunities to reclaim the wood from removed trees for constructive purposes and, wherever possible, to minimize the chipping of usable branches and trunks over 6” in diameter, especially from hardwood species. The CFMP Action Item 4.5 recommends including waste wood utilization in the best management practices manual.

TREE POLICY APPENDIX I: TREE PROTECTION REFERENCES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 87: Shade Trees^[9]
2. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 40 §8C: Conservation Commission Act^[10]
3. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 40 §15C: Scenic Road Designation; Improvements; Fines^[11]
4. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41 §106: Officers and Employees of Cities, Towns and Districts – Tree Wardens^[12]
5. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 131, §40: Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act^[13]
6. Mass. General Laws, Chapter 184, §§ 31, 32, and 33: Conservation Restriction Act
7. Chapter 258 of the Acts of 1996: Rivers Protection Act^[14]
8. Regulations to Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act, 310 CMR 10.00^[15]

TOWN OF BEDFORD

1. Bedford Arbor Resource Charter^[16]
2. Memorandum of Agreement Between Bedford Selectmen, School Committee, and Library Trustees on April 19, 2005., Jenks Nature Trail^[17]
3. Perpetual conservation restrictions^[18]
4. General Bylaws^[19]
 - A. Article 45, pp. 64-67 Scenic Road Bylaw
 - B. Article 54, revised 2016, pp. 97-109 Wetlands Protection Bylaw
 - C. Article 62, p. 129^[20] – Arbor Resource Committee bylaw
 - D. Article 64 Public Tree Protection Bylaw^[21]
5. Zoning Bylaws^[22]
 - A. Section 6.2.12. Minimum Lot Landscaping and Standards

- B. Section 8. Cluster Development
 - C. Section 16. Multiple Dwellings on a Lot, Subsections 16.6.6, 16.6.9-11
 - D. Section 19. Town Center Mixed Use Overlay District, Subsections 19.5.5, 19.5.6
6. Conservation Commission Tree Removal Policy^[23]
 7. Historic District Commission --Landscaping^[24]
 8. Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Section 6.6 Shade Trees^[25]
 9. Selectmen Policy: Tree Protection from Construction Damage^[26]
 10. Planning Board Street Tree Policy^[27]
 11. Planning Board Site Plan Rules and Regulations (see CFMP page 57)
 12. Planning Board Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land
 13. Community Forest Master Plan

TREE POLICY APPENDIX II: TREE LISTS

A. Significant Trees: Heritage Trees. [Create lists of A, B, C for submission to Select Board]

Link unavailable at this time

B. Significant Trees: Donated Trees [Create mechanism]

Link unavailable at this time

C. Significant Trees: Memorial Trees [Create mechanism]

Honoree: Phillip Friden

On June 28th, 2017, the Conservation Commission approved the planting of a memorial tree in honor of Philip Friden, land steward for the Elm Brook Conservation Area and Hartwell Town Forest. Link unavailable at this time

A. Recommended Native Tree List

1. <https://www.bedfordma.gov/arbor-resource-committee/pages/native-tree-list>
2. Community Forest Master Plan appendix: Planting Plan recommended trees list

TREE POLICY Appendix III: Tree Removal Permit Application

TOWN OF BEDFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



www.bedfordma.gov

314 THE GREAT ROAD
BEDFORD, MA 01730
TEL: 781-275-7605
FAX: 781-275-9010

PUBLIC SHADE TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Address of Proposed Tree(s): _____

Reason for removal/project description: (attach additional plans if needed):

Tree Species: _____

Diameter (measured at DBH):

1. I am the record owner of the lot referenced above for tree removal.
2. I am requesting that the Bedford Tree Warden grant permission to remove a Public Shade Tree owned by the Town located adjacent to my property.
3. I have all necessary permits/approvals from other Town agencies.
4. I understand that per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87 the Tree Warden is required to conduct a public hearing. If at or before the public hearing written objection is received by the Tree Warden, the request to remove the tree shall be forwarded to the Bedford Selectmen for their consideration.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

The request to remove the public tree(s) indicated above has been:

APPROVED with the following conditions: _____

DENIED for the following reason: _____

Tree Warden's Signature: _____ Date of Action: _____

If approved, the removal of the tree(s) must take place within ____ days.

Footnotes and Links – Review, move to page footers

[1] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/994/Jenks-Trail-MOA-PDF>

[2] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter87>

[3] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/994/Jenks-Trail-MOA-PDF>

[4] This section and various others, need input and final review from the Town, including the Department of Public Works, Town Counsel, and others.

[5] 2.5” diameter is a typical size of tree available from commercial nurseries

[6] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1032/Arbor-Resource-Committee-Spreadsheet-of-Recommended-Trees-XLS>

[7] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1032/Arbor-Resource-Committee-Spreadsheet-of-Recommended-Trees-XLS>

[8] PENDING citation from Town Manager’s Office for posting of The Tree Protection and Preservation Bylaw, Article 64, passed at Special Town meeting November 6, 2023.

[9] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter87>

[10] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40/Section8C>

[11] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40/Section15C>

[12] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter41/Section106>

[13] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIX/Chapter131/Section40>

[14] <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIII/TitleIV/Chapter258>, & <https://www.mass.gov/doc/about-the-massachusetts-rivers-protection-act/download#:~:text=The%20Rivers%20Protection%20Act%2C%20Chapter,sides%20of%20rivers%20and%20streams>

[15] <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-1000-wetlands-protection-act-regulations>

[16] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/457/Arbor-Resources-Committee-Charge>

[17] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/994/Jenks-Trail-MOA-PDF>

[18] Not available at this time

[19] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/512/The-General-Bylaws-PDF>

[20] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/512/The-General-Bylaws-PDF?bidId=>

[21] PENDING citation update from Town Manager

[22] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/154/Bedford-Zoning-Bylaws-PDF>

[23] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1165/Tree-Removal-Policy-PDF>

[24] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1551/HDC-Guidelines-PDF>

[25] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1230/Subdivision-Rules-and-Regulations-PDF?bidId=>

[26] <https://www.bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1219/Tree-Protection-Reference-Mass-Highway-2006-PDF?bidId=>

[27] <https://bedfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1223/Street-Tree-Policy-2004-PDF?bidId=>

[28] PENDING citation from Town Manager's Office for posting of The Tree Protection and Preservation Bylaw, Article 64, passed at Special Town meeting November 6, 2023.