



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday February 5, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

If you choose to use the Microsoft Teams platform:

Go to www.teams.com

Enter Meeting ID# 234 128 152 130

Enter password: Qp6R6Wd7

If you choose to attend via phone:

Call 1-469-998-7682

Enter Meeting ID#: 441 560 979#

If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – December 4, 2024
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
5. Public Participation – Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in person and remote participation at the Urban Forestry Tree Commission meetings. To partake in the “Public Participation” section of this meeting, you may join us directly within the 50 Officer Manny Familia Way Meeting Room A, follow the information above to join via the Teams application or dial the direct line as indicated. If you would like to raise your hand when in the meeting as a call-in user, you may dial *5.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

- 1) Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
- 2) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
- 3) Update on filling vacancies on the Urban Forestry Tree Commission
- 4) Review City Ordinances on Trees –
<https://www.worcesterma.gov/parks/trees>

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted (3) three business days before each Commission Meeting with subject line "Agenda Item" to worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov.

- 1) Request of Commissioner Winborne on Commission vacancies
- 2) Request of Commissioner Winbourne regarding updates on EAB and successional planting strategies in Worcester.
- 3) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss agenda items for March 12, 2025, meeting.
- 4) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the New England Botanical Garden Urban Forestry Symposium on Feb. 6th. There is a great line up of speakers, many that are area experts on Worcester Urban Forest. https://nebg.org/urban_tree_symposium/. During the lunch there is a designated space set aside for "Networking Opportunity: Worcester Tree Research Summit" that will provide opportunity for folks to "Engage with local experts in dynamic round-table discussions focused on defining a tree canopy goal for Worcester. Take the opportunity to network over lunch at a dedicated table for enthusiasts and professionals alike to share insights, exchange information, and explore collaborative opportunities in urban forestry."
- 5) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss research on tree ordinances conducted by Commissioners.
- 6) Request of Commissioner Wobbe to discuss final report on trees planted, trees pruned, trees removed for 2024.
- 7) Request of the Commission to discuss changing the meeting time.
- 8) City Council Communication on Growing Worcester Urban Forest

9. Tabled Items

Tabled agenda items cannot be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved to old business. The item must be requested and approved during the previous meeting to be included on the next agenda.

- 1) NA

10. Tentative Dates of the Next Meetings:

- March 12, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 4, 2025

11. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION **MINUTES**

Wednesday December 4, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

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Enter password: QaT6hW

If you choose to attend via phone:

Call 1-469-998-7682

Enter Meeting ID#: 314 907 086#

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AGENDA

1. Called to Order at 6:05
2. Attendance – Commissioners present were:
 - a) Elton John – (Via telephone at around 6:15 PM)
 - b) Robin Karoway-Waterhouse
 - c) Joy Winbourne
 - d) Kristen Wobbe
 - i. Administration present were:
 1. Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
 2. Brian Breveleri, Supervisor of Forestry
 3. Dennis Tucker, Foreman – (Virtual)
 4. Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant 3
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – November 20, 2024
 - a) Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks,

Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.

5. Public Participation – Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in person and remote participation at the Urban Forestry Tree Commission meetings. To partake in the “Public Participation” section of this meeting, you may join us directly within the 50 Officer Manny Familia Way Meeting Room A, follow the information above to join via the Teams application or dial the direct line as indicated. If you would like to raise your hand when in the meeting as a call-in user, you may dial *5.
6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
7. Old Business
 - 1) Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
 - a) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
 - 2) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
 - a) Commissioner Winbourne informed that the public speakers that will be at the December 10th event at the New England Botanical Gardens will be revealed soon, and she will have more information for the next meeting.
 - b) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
 - 3) Update on filling vacancies on the Urban Forestry Tree Commission
 - a) Assistant Commissioner Antonelli informed that nothing has changed, he had no further update.
 - b) Commissioner Wobbe said she was promoting the open seat.
 - c) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
 - 4) Review City Ordinances on Trees – Fall 2024
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
 - a) Assistant Commissioner Antonelli gave an update, he informed the Commission that Michelle Smith from Planning and Regulatory Services would be attending the March Urban Forestry Commission Meeting to give an update and discuss Zoning and planning.
 - b) The Commissioners conversed about starting discussions of ordinances from other cities/towns, updated a google doc with their proposals/ requests/goals.
 - c) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted (3) three business days before each Commission Meeting with subject line "Agenda Item" to worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov.

1) Request to discuss EAB on Ash Trees in Worcester

- a. Commissioner Winbourne spoke about the treatment to the Ash Trees Elm Park at Newton Hill that are infected with the EAB.
- b. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that the some of the neighbors were interested in raising funds to treat the trees with the EAB, he added that some of those trees need to be removed. He also said that there aren't many Ash Trees in Worcester, and the majority are old and in decline not because of the EAB.
- c. Commissioner Winbourne recommended doing an inventory of the Ash Trees to identify those trees that are being affected.
- d. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli agreed that it was a good idea as it would give a better understanding of the diversity, in the event of another invasive species. However, he said it would impact 1400+ acres of land, and there was currently no funding for that purpose.
- e. Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse asked if there was anything she can do to help as a certified professional.
- f. Commissioner Elton recommended working with one of the colleges.
- g. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that it could be beneficial but that a criterion would have to be set on what the inventory will contain, if species and location or species, location and health of the tree. He added that his concern was that if the people doing the inventory don't have the qualification to determine the health, that he would not be interested, he added that they require Davey Tree specialist to have a Certified arborist to do the inventories. He also added that if the inventory is done, then something like that could be given to Davey Tree to add to their current inventory.
- h. Commissioner Winbourne asked that if the Commission decided to take it upon themselves to organize inventorying trees and working with the professors at Clark University.
- i. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that would be ok.
- j. Commissioner Wobbe explained that at WPI all students need to complete a significant project with a community partner, and they have a group in Worcester that does it every term and there's 4 terms in an academic year. She said she can connect with the person who's in charge of that group of students, and there's usually 12 students.
- k. Commissioner Elton discussed and gave suggestions on treatment of the trees at Newton Hill and removal of the hazardous trees, and planting of new trees.
- l. There was further discussion, with Assistant Commissioner Antonelli and the Commission regarding planting at Newton Hill.
- m. Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to file. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

2) Request to discuss Green Island Neighborhood Development Permit and tree planting concerns.

- a. Commissioner Winbourne said she added this item to the agenda after hearing from residents' concerns about the development. She pointed out the concerns citizens were present at the meeting. She said she reached out to Michelle Smith to learn more about it. She added that this is something that will be discussed in the coming meetings, ordinances and regulations for developments. The

current ordinance doesn't require any developer on a private area to put up any trees, but Planning and Regulatory Services are working with them to have them plant trees.

- b. Assistant Commissioner informed that the City doesn't have jurisdiction over private property, therefore on private developments Forestry doesn't have jurisdiction. He said there should be a discussion with Michelle in the March meeting to have a discussion of where the ordinances for tree planting lack.
- c. The Commission had further discussions on what they can do to research and discussing with Planning and Regulatory Services.
- d. Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to file this item. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

9. Tabled Items

Tabled agenda items cannot be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved to old business. The item must be requested and approved during the previous meeting to be included on the next agenda.

- NA

10. Tentative Dates of the Next Meetings:

- January 15, 2025 (Tentative)
- February 5, 2025(Tentative)
- March 12, 2025(Tentative)
- April 2, 2025(Tentative)
- May 7, 2025(Tentative)
- June 4, 2025(Tentative)

11. Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 PM

- a) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

- Urban Forest Master Plan Review
 - Update – Commission Approved Draft available at [Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](https://www.worcesterma.gov)
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli informed that since the last meeting he had not received a date of when the Veterans, Memorials and Parks & Recreation Subcommittee will be holding the hearing. The Master Plan has been posted on the city website.
- Quarterly Review of Forestry Work - NA
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – No updates
- Tree replacement policy – NA
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- Planting –
 - Spring 2024 Planting - NA
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning & Planning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA

- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
 - DCR Grant Program - NA
- Economic Development Initiatives –
 - NA
- Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Pests –
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA – NA
 - Awarded the Tree City USA designation for the 38th consecutive year
 - Awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award designation for the 25th consecutive year
 - Arbor Day – Update
 - April 25, 2025
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA

Misc.

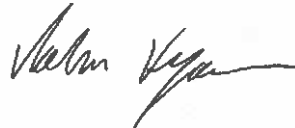
CITY OF WORCESTER

In Committee

December 16, 2024

The Committee on Veterans' Memorials, Parks and Recreation to whom was referred November 12, 2024 the Communication of the City Manager transmitting informational communication relative to an update on the Urban Forest Master Plan; having considered the same, most respectfully reports recommending adoption of the accompanying Order.

For the Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Vega", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clerk

cm2024nov07032452

CITY OF WORCESTER

ORDERED: That

The City Council does hereby accept the Urban Forest Master Plan, as presented to City Council on November 12, 2024.

In City Council

January 14, 2025

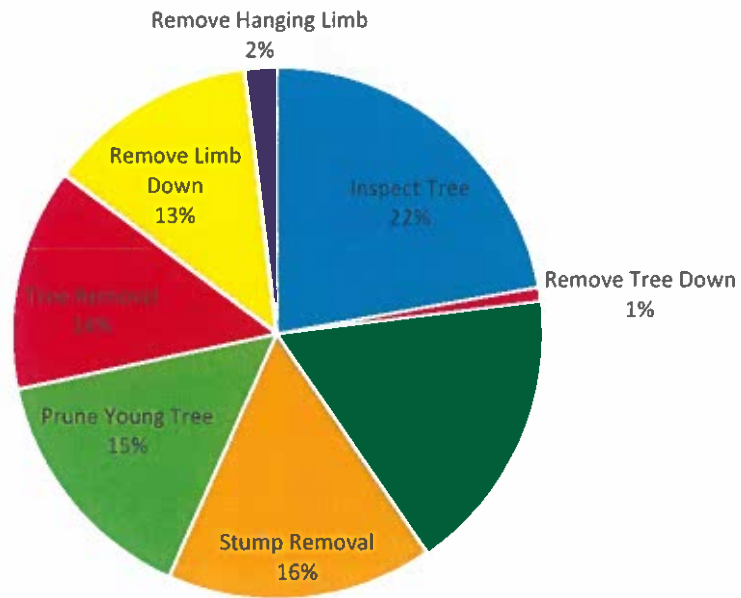
Order adopted by a yea and nay vote of Eleven Yeas and No Nays

A Copy. Attest:



**Nikolin Vangjeli
City Clerk**

4th Quarter Work Type Breakdown 2024



- Inspect Tree
- Remove Tree Down
- Prune Tree
- Stump Removal
- Prune Young Tree
- Tree Removal
- Remove Limb Down
- Remove Hanging Limb

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

January 21, 2025

Attachment for Item# 9.32 A

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to an overview of the use of a crowdsourcing map for new street tree plantings, as received from John Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer, is forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

This is a beginning of a larger tree planting effort in the city, primarily in environmental justice areas, and is based on both Urban Forestry Plan goals.

Through the crowdsourcing map residents have already identified 140 locations where they would like a street tree planted. This program is an excellent example of using resident engagement to guide municipal action.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Batista
City Manager



The City of Worcester

Department of Sustainability & Resilience
John Odell, Chief
51 Sever Street, Room 310 Worcester, MA 01609
P| 508-799-8324
GreenWorcester@worcesterma.gov

To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: John Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer
CC: Jarrett Connor, Acting DPW&P Commissioner; Robert Antonelli, Parks Division
Assistant Commissioner
Date: January 21, 2025
RE: **Growing Worcester's Urban Forest Canopy - "Request a Free Street Tree"
Crowdsource Campaign**

As part of an ongoing collaboration between the Department of Sustainability and Resilience (DSR) and the Department of Public Works & Parks (DPW&P), the municipality is promoting the growth of the Worcester's urban forest canopy, particularly in its environmental justice neighborhoods. To do this, DSR is leveraging its experience with crowdsource tools and diverse and accessible communication methods, as well as over \$900,000 in ARPA funds, to assist the Parks Division with significantly increasing street tree plantings, including maintenance, over the next two years.

This initiative is based on both Urban Forestry Master Plan and Green Worcester Plan goals, specifically increasing tree plantings and tree care initiatives citywide, with a focus on advancing sustainability, resilience, and equity.

We are currently engaging property owners by providing a **crowdsource mapping tool**¹, to allow them to drop a pin where they would like to have a street tree planted in front of their property. The requested street trees are prioritized by the location (within federally designated environmental justice districts), and by clustering (the more trees in one area – the easier it is to maintain them). The Parks Division's consultant, Davey Resource Group, is developing a list of locations and commensurate tree species for the 2025 and 2026 planting seasons, and the crowdsource map information will inform that plan.

This is the third crowdsource map the municipality has used recently to gather public input, and ultimately to make municipal projects serve the public better.²

Since we promoted the "Plant a Free Street Tree" feature, residents have identified more than 140 locations where they would like a street tree planted. The Parks Department is reaching


¹ Via 311 – using 3rd party software - SeeClickFix. [New Request: Location - Worcester, MA](#)

² The other 2 being [Keep Worcester Clean - One Bin at a Time](#) and [Building Community Resilience - One Resilient Solution at a Time](#)

out to homeowners at these addresses to confirm their interest. Trees requested by a non-owner will be placed on a separate list for future consideration but will not be prioritized for the Spring 2025 planting.

Going forward, DSR will continue to engage with the public on other potential locations for the trees throughout the city, with a goal of developing and implementing a Tree Outreach Campaign in early 2025. DSR will also be working with the Parks Division to create an accessible and thorough tree planting FAQ set to be posted and updated on the Parks and DSR webpages.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Odell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "O".

John Odell
Chief Sustainability Officer

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday February 5, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

Virtual with Teams

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General

- 1) Urban Forest Master Plan Review
 - a) Update – Commission, City Council Sub Committee & City Council Approved Final available at <https://www.worcesterma.gov/parks/trees>
- 2) Quarterly Review of Forestry Work - NA
- 3) Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – Update
- 4) Tree replacement policy – NA
- 5) Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- 6) Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- 7) Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- 8) Planting –
 - a) Spring 2024 Planting - NA
- 9) Customer Service Update
 - a) Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- 10) Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- 11) Zoning & Planning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- 12) Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA
- 13) Partnerships –
 - a) New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- 14) Grant Applications –
 - a) DCR Grant Program - NA
- 15) Economic Development Initiatives –
 - a) NA
- 16) Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - a) NA
- 17) Donations –
 - a) NA
- 18) Pests –
 - a) ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - b) EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - c) Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - d) Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- 19) Forestry Operations –
 - a) Tree City USA – NA
 - Awarded the Tree City USA designation for the 38th consecutive year
 - Awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award designation for the 25th consecutive year
 - b) Arbor Day – Update
 - April 25, 2025
- 20) Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - a) Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - b) Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - c) City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- 21) Misc.