

Town of Brentwood 5 Year Tree Plan

Expanding and Protecting the Urban Tree Canopy

The following annual Tree Plan (the “Plan”) was prepared by the Town Tree Committee (the “Committee”), as required by the National Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City U.S.A. recognition, for review and acceptance by Town Council. This plan serves as the Committee’s agenda for tree planting, maintenance and stewardship projects for the coming years.

Approved by Mayor and Council 2018
Compiled by T. Yalch and J. Burgess

Introduction:

The Town of Brentwood values its trees for the wide array of aesthetic, functional, and ecological values they add to the community. Imagine the Bartlett Park as just an open field of grass, without the shade and beauty that the trees provide. Imagine our residential streets and views without trees adding beauty, providing habitat and nesting spots, creating oxygen, sequestering carbon, filtering pollutants, dampening noise, soaking up storm water, providing shade, reducing solar heating in the summer, and enhancing property values.

Trees are an important part of the fabric of our community, part of the infrastructure that supports our community and that makes it a special place. Most of these trees were planted purposefully by previous generations looking to the future, beyond their own lifetimes, and creating a heritage that we all enjoy today.

An urban tree canopy is defined as the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. Urban tree canopies not only protect the environment in which we live by reducing air pollution, improving water quality, and providing wildlife habitat, but they also provide social and economic benefits.

Trees create places for active and passive recreation and provide an opportunity to learn about plants and animals. They create a sense of place and pride in the community and bring the members of the community together. Finally, tree planting is critical to meeting State water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, particularly through forest buffers.



For the purposes of this plan, the term “forest” includes all trees on public and private land in Brentwood, including trees in the right of ways along Town roads. Trees are a large part of Brentwood’s history and sense of community. The Town has long recognized its responsibility as a steward of its forest resources, acting to protect and enhance the many environmental, cultural, and economic benefits of trees. This document describes the benefits of trees, summarizes and sets goals for the town Tree Committee and a vision for the urban tree canopy in Brentwood.

Benefits of Community Trees:

Trees provide many functions and benefits within a community. Some of these benefits, like decreased heating and cooling costs, erosion control, reduction of storm water runoff, and increased property values, translate directly into economic savings. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that over a 50-year lifetime, one tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and provides \$31,250 worth of soil erosion control.

Other benefits of trees are not quantifiable in monetary terms but are no less valuable. These involve the aesthetic and social advantages of maintaining healthy street and

shade trees within a community. The degree of planning and care that street and shade trees receive is directly proportional to the benefits that a community can reap from its tree resources. Therefore, it is important to set guidelines and strategies for developing, maintaining, protecting, and managing a healthy community forest.

Street and Shade Tree Benefits:

- Trees mark the passage of time and provide living memorials for significant community events
- Energy efficiency due to shade and wind block
- Calming, health benefits
- Aesthetic character / appeal
- Economic
- Water filtration
- Flood and Erosion control
- Improved commerce
- Habitat
- Shade
- Carbon sequestration
- Air and water purification
- Stream-flow regulation
- Educational / discovery opportunities
- Edible plants, nuts, and berries
- Mitigate climate change problems

Our Mission:

The Tree Committee's Mission is to increase, protect, and promote Brentwood's tree canopy to improve and maintain the health, beauty and diversity of our town's natural environment for the benefit of its citizens and future generations.

Tree Committee Activities:

The Tree Committee is charged with developing and administering a comprehensive tree management program to guide the Town and the Committee's activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Facilitating and encouraging the long-term health of Brentwood's public trees;
2. Promoting native tree species;
3. Performing tree surveys, inventories, and evaluations;
4. Creating manuals or guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees from streets, parks, and other designated public places;
5. Developing best management practices for urban forestry and silvicultural work;
6. Working in conjunction with the Town Administrator to seek grants or other assistance concerning the preservation and maintenance of trees in Town; and
7. Performing public education and coordination with civic groups to promote Arbor Day and other special events related to public trees.

Town of Brentwood Tree Committee Members:

1. Teale Yalch (Chair)
2. Jerry L. Burgess (Council Liaison)
3. Keilia Phillips
4. Jose Machado
5. Amparo Casillo
6. Lara Payne
7. Sara Prigan
8. Hope Eliot
9. Ted Baker
10. Brooke Leggin
11. Kurt Becker
12. Jeffery Clark
13. Elizabeth Marshall

Tree Plan Objectives for 2018-19

- Arbor Day (at least one tree planted every year)
- Tree City USA Designation
- Begin eradication of invasive vines on Town trees.
- Hire a consultant to perform a comprehensive tree inventory, including tree location, species, size, condition and maintenance requirements, provide tree inventory software, which will become the property of the Town upon completion, and create an inventory available to the residents via GIS
- 2018 Spring & Fall Tree Giveaway - the Town will offer two tree giveaways a year for residents, one in the spring and one in the fall. The goal of the giveaways is to increase the Town's overall tree canopy, promote a healthier environment, and improve the physical appearance and visual character of the built environment. The 2018 spring tree giveaway is on Saturday, April 28th at Bartlett Park.
- Review plan to revise the Town's Tree Ordinance. The Committee began review and proposed revisions to the Town Tree Ordinance. The Committee will continue preparing the ordinance revision and hopes to produce a revised ordinance for enactment within the year. The Committee's goal is to provide a document resident and business owners can reference for proper tree planting techniques, procedures, and regulations specific to the Town.
- Combine the Tree Committee and the Sustainability Committee (Green Team) into one entity.

2020-21 Plan Goals:

- Remove Invasive Trees (Norway Maples, Autumn Olive, Callery Pear, Tree of Heaven, etc.) and threats to those trees (Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle, etc.)
- Add tree boxes for bioretention purposes in street retrofit projects (if grant funded)
- Line Utah Avenue near Bartlett Park with native hardwoods
- Line the Rhode Island Corridor of Brentwood with medium sized street trees.
- Tree Planting: increase number of trees planted and assessment of trees planted in the program

- Education and Outreach: signage project throughout town in collaboration with pertinent Town and civic groups
- Work on Tree Ordinance revision
- Address invasive plants, insects, and diseases
- Identify species and age of trees on public property

Long Term Goals:

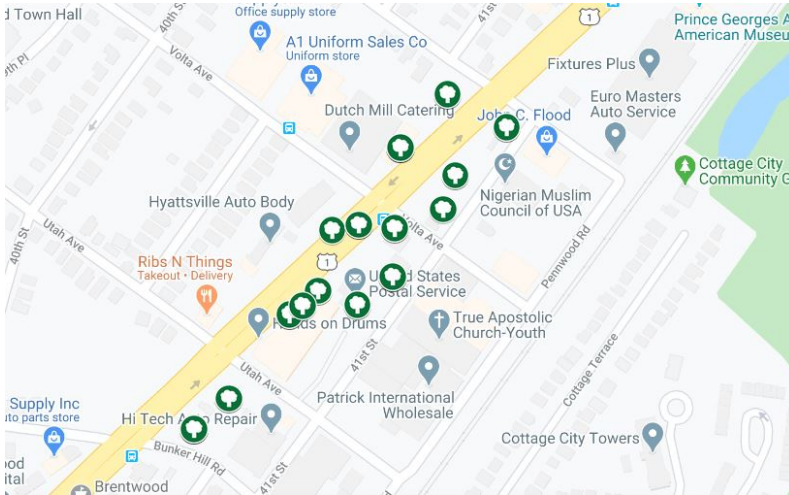
- Increase Town Open Space acquisition and maintenance
- Continually increase urban tree canopy
- Work on Tree Ordinance revision
- Incorporate woody species into rain gardens
- Reduce unnecessary removal of healthy trees in the community through advocacy and regulation

Tree Plantings for 2018-19:

Tree Name	Short or Tall	Over-head wires	Address
Scarlet Oak	Tall	no	Bartlett Park
American Elm	Tall	no	Bartlett Park
Dogwood, Silverbell & Cherry	short	no	Bartlett Park (layered under Scarlet)
Franklin Tree	short	no	Bartlett Park
Oak/Elm/Linden	Tall	no	3802 37 th Place
Oak/Elm/Linden	Tall	no	3804 Cedarcroft Place
Oak/Elm/Linden	Tall	no	3815 Perry Street
Oak/Elm/Linden	Tall	no	4306 40 th Street
Birch	Tall	no	Bartlett Park
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3712 Perry Street
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3705 Quincy Street
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3705 Perry St. on 37 th Place Side
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3705 Perry St. on 37 th Place Side
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3706 Perry St.
Redbud or another understory	short	yes	3815 40 th St.

Oak/Elm/Linden	Tall	no	3719 Perry St.
Hop Hornbeam & Witch Hazel	short	yes	3701 & 3705 Quincy Street

Street Tree Plantings for 2020-21 (locations only approximate)



Proposed Workshops and Educational Initiatives:

- Tree Pruning
- Tree Planting and Maintenance
- Encourage edible tree planting
- Invasive Tree and vine control
- Tree education workshop for kids
- Adding tree species, planting and maintenance information to the Brentwood Website

Resource Mobilization Opportunities:

The Tree Committee is and will continue to pursue funding opportunities through county and state programs. Below are four opportunities that we are considering and the Town Administrator can help with the grant writing.

- [Tree ReLeaf Grant Program](#)
- [Arbor Day Every Day](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)
- [Marylanders Plant Trees](#)

ARBORICULTURE PRACTICES (done by Brentwood Staff)

L Pruning Schedule

The maintenance pruning schedule shall be dictated by tree species, age, function, and placement.

- All newly planted trees will be mulched and watered regularly throughout their first year.
- Trees less than 7 years old should receive structural pruning on an annual or biennial basis.
- Trees 7-20 years old should receive structural pruning every two to five years.
- Trees 20 years old and older receive maintenance pruning every five to seven years to clean dead, diseased, dying, and defective branches from the crown.

- Trees adjacent to roadways, walkways, signs, and streetlights are annually inspected for safety and clearance issues and maintenance pruned as necessary

II. Pruning Practices

To encourage the development of a strong, healthy tree, the following guidelines shall be followed when pruning.

General

- Pruning shall not be conducted without a clear objective or outcome. Prune first for safety, next for health, and finally for aesthetics.
- When removing branches, the pruning cut shall not damage the branch bark ridge and branch collar.
- Internode (heading) cuts should not be used except in storm response and crown restoration procedures
- Branch reduction or thinning should be used to achieve pruning objectives rather than making large (>8" diameter) branch removal cuts.

Cleaning

- Thinning shall be performed to remove dead, diseased, dying, and defective branches, which reduces hazards, promotes health, and improves appearance
- Large branches should be removed with the aid of ropes and rigging equipment to minimize the risk of tree injury from falling debris

Thinning

- Thinning shall be performed to reduce the density of branches, which increases light penetration, improves visibility, and decreases wind load.
- Assess how a tree will be pruned from the top down.
- Favor branches with strong, U- shaped angles of attachment.
- Remove branches with weak, V-shaped angles of attachment and/or included bark. Ideally, lateral branches should be evenly spaced on the main stem of young trees.
- Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch. Make sure that lateral branches are no more than one-half to three-quarters
- of the diameter of the main stem to discourage the development of co- dominant stems.
- Do not remove more than one-quarter of the living crown of a tree at one time. If it is necessary to remove more, do it over successive years.

Raising

- Raising shall be performed to provide vertical clearance from thoroughfares, signs, streetlights, and structures
- Always maintain live branches on at least two- thirds of a tree's total height. Removing too many lower branches will hinder the development of a strong main stem.

- Remove basal sprouts and vigorous epicormic sprouts.

Reduction

- Reduction shall be performed to decrease the overall height of a tree or to decrease the length of an individual branch
- Use reduction pruning only when absolutely necessary. Make the pruning cut at a lateral branch that is a least one-third the diameter of the stem to be removed.
- If it is necessary to remove more than half of the foliage from a branch, remove the entire branch.

III. *Cultural Practices Mulching and Irrigation*

- Tree mulching- every two years for trees up to approximately 6". Periodically, drip lines of larger trees and tree groupings are mulched extensively with waste wood chips.
 - Trees should be extensively watered during the summer. Preferably once a week.

- *Fertilization and Pest Management*

Trees are treated for pest problems as needed. There is no regular tree fertilization beyond treatment received as a result of fall lawn fertilization. Specimen or high-value trees may receive prescription fertilization when severe nutrient deficiencies are diagnosed. Trees will be inspected for Dutch Elm.

IV. *Other Practices Tree Removals*

- Live trees are generally removed only when required to protect the public safety or are detracting from the quality of the landscape.
- Trees may only be removed after consultation with the Tree Committee Chair or Liaison. Where the committee cannot reach a consensus, an independent assessment by a qualified arborist may be required and submitted to the committee for review.

Planting and Tree Diversity

- As the Town is ecologically focused, increasing the diversity of tree species is extremely important. However, species selection must be dictated by site conditions.
- With rare exceptions, only native (defined by USDA and MDE) trees will be planted on Town property.
- A species list for planting does will not be addressed, but Committee members are consulted regularly to recommend species for specific site conditions. Only native trees will be planted.

