



Town of Natick Launches 'Planting the Future' Program in Celebration of Arbor Day

Free Trees Available to Increase Shade in Area Heat Islands

April 28, 2023 Natick, MA - In celebration of Arbor Day 2023, the Town of Natick is launching a new program, "Planting the Future", that focuses on providing free shade trees to residents living in area heat islands, where surface temperatures are higher due to lack of a tree canopy.

The program, which was co-designed by the Natick High School Earth Club, Natick Sustainability Committee and Natick Department of Public Works, is being initially funded as part of an [Accelerating Climate Resiliency](#) grant from the Barr Foundation and Metropolitan Area Planning Council. With support from student volunteers, the program aims to plant 50 native shade trees on private properties by the end of 2024.

"Trees provide critical cooling and Natick has a long history supporting public shade trees," said Arthur Goodhind, Natick's Tree Warden. "We are thrilled to work with student volunteers who are invested in protecting the environment and bringing shade to high temperature areas."

Residents who are interested in participating should visit natickma.gov/plantingthefuture to learn more and sign up to have their property assessed. Assessments will occur over the summer and the Town anticipates working with residents and volunteers to plant trees this fall.

The program will kick off with a Tree Planting 101 event on Friday, April 28 at 3 PM at Natick High School. At the event, Earth Club students will work with Mr. Goodhind, and the Natick Department of Public Works to learn about Natick's "right tree, right place" strategy and plant three river birch trees near the building's entrance.

"The students have been working so hard this year to organize a tree-planting program and we're excited to get our hands dirty," said Rebecca Adams Pandolfo, co-advisor of the Earth Club.

The event will be recorded and made available online by Natick Pegasus, Natick's cable access station, so it can be a future resource for residents participating in the Planting the Future program.

Natick is one of more than 3,500 cities in the U.S. that is recognized as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Arbor Day tree planting event kicks off a series of Earth Day events taking place across Natick supported by Eco Natick. Learn more about all the Earth Day events by visiting <https://www.econatick.org/>.