



TAG 2022 Initiatives

The Tree Advisory Group (TAG) was founded in 2002 to promote community tree health.

That mission is achieved through action in 4 major categories:

- 1) **Planting**
- 2) **Stewardship**
- 3) **Project & Policy Support (Community and Municipal)**
- 4) **Education**

For 2022, TAG will focus on the Weston Ahead Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) and other high-visibility, high-use areas of Town investment, such as Town Center, Case Park and Case Estates. TAG will continue to provide support to Community Projects and Tree related Issues as they develop.

PLANTING



Initiative 1: Arbor Day Planting & Ceremony—Project Leaders: Nina Danforth and Tom Szekely

Why TAG is doing this: This is Weston's annual Arbor Day tree to bring attention to the importance of trees to our community and for Weston to receive its Tree City designation.

Timing: Friday April 29, 2022

Location: TBD--Scout House suggested – to replace the recently removed 100 'Tulip Tree

Budget/Funding Source: Free/Eversource

Educational Activities:

- Article to highlight the importance of preventative maintenance of trees. The Tulip tree would not have been lost to storm damage if the recommended pruning had been done in time.
- Weston Media to record the Arbor Day invocation by the Select Board member.
- Scout activity?

DPW Support Needed? Yes, if Tree Diaper is not used.

- Watering



Initiative 2: Case Park Rehabilitation, Phase 1 – Project Leader: Dr. Carol Lee

Why TAG is doing this: To revitalize a prominent yet underutilized historic Park by connecting the tree canopy to understory plantings using sustainable, ecologically beneficial landscape design practices.

Timing: Phase 1 Planting—Spring/Fall 2022

Location: Case Park



Budget: \$20k

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act funding

Educational Activities to support initiative:

- TBD

DPW Support Needed?

- Watering, spring bed clean-ups, weeding?

Community Support Needed? Yes—Garden Club Support for weeding and maintenance



Initiative 3: Case Park Rehabilitation, Phase 2— Projects Leaders: Dr. Carol Lee and Nicole Seddon

Why TAG is doing this: To revitalize a prominent yet underutilized historic Park by connecting the tree canopy to understory plantings using sustainable, ecologically beneficial landscape design practices.

Timing: Phase 2 Planting-- Fall 2022

Location: Case Park

Budget: TBD-Need estimate from Wellnesscapes

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act funding

- December 2021--CPC funding application due
- May 2022—Town Meeting Approval

Educational Activities to support initiative: TBD

DPW Support Needed? Watering

Community Support Needed? Yes—Garden Club Support for weeding and maintenance

Ongoing maintenance budget required?



Initiative 4: Work with Permanent Buildings Committee and DPW to enact a Town-wide planting process, including Schools and community requests – Project Leader: Barbara Fullerton

Why TAG is doing this: Permanent Buildings has started crafting the process to facilitate the planting process for its jurisdiction. However, planting is a Town-wide activity and there should be one process developed to make the process more efficient and transparent for departments, community groups and residents. This will help us avoid the frustration and duplication of effort that occurred in the 2020-21 planting cycle.

Timing: Winter 2021-22

Location: n/a



Budget/Funding Source: n/a

Educational Activities to support initiative: n/a



Initiative 5: North Ave Eversource Replacement Plantings --Project Leader: Ed Recka

Why TAG is doing this: Due to utility wire upgrades, over a dozen trees were removed along North Ave./Route 117. TAG is working with Eversource and Tree Warden to pick new planting location and native tree species to replace lost canopy.

Timing: ongoing

Location: n/a

STEWARDSHIP



Initiative 1: Preventative maintenance for large heritage trees in High-visibility locations.

Why TAG is doing this: Weston is an historic town with many heritage trees that provide character to the town, among other important ecological benefits. TAG's mission is to support community tree health. These "Tree Treasures" need preventative maintenance to support their longevity and enhance their overall health and resiliency especially as they face the effects of climate change.

Timing: TBD

Location: Town Green, other trees, as identified by initiative leader

Budget: TBD

Funding Source: Grants and/or Community Preservation Act funding

Educational Activities to support initiative: TBD



Initiative 2: Tree Inventory for Weston's Open Spaces—Project Leader: Dr. Carol Lee

Why TAG is doing this: Weston inventoried over 15,000 Public Right of Way trees during a 3-year survey. Trees in Weston's open spaces, like parks, cemeteries and Land Sake's were not included. In order to strategically maintain Weston's Open Space trees, an inventory should be conducted to document the number, condition, species and recommendation of these trees.

Timing: TBD

Location: Cemeteries, Parks, School grounds, Land Sake's.



Budget: TBD

Funding Source: Community Preservation Act funding

Educational Activities to support initiative: TBD

PROJECT & POLICY



Initiative 1: Work to increase the % of protected tree canopy—Barbara Fullerton and Lori Hess

- **Why TAG is doing this:** Weston’s Climate Resiliency Action Plan (CARP) calls for the Natural resources of Weston to be preserved and enhanced through sustainable management practices and regulations. Currently, only 34% of Weston’s Tree canopy is protected by law. By 2050, Weston’s goal is to have 50% of its tree canopy protected. The Private Tree Working Group is tasked with working towards the 2035 goal of protecting 38% of Weston’s Canopy by focusing on a Tree Protection By-law.

Project Supported: Weston Ahead CARP

TAG lead or participant? Participant in the Private Tree Working Group

Output: A Tree-Protection By-law

Timing: Ongoing with projected May 2022 Town Meeting vote

Educational support needed? Yes



Initiative 2: Work to increase the % of Street Trees in “Good”, “Very Good” or “Excellent Health ”—Lori Hess

- **Why TAG is doing this:** Weston’s Climate Resiliency Action Plan (CARP) calls for the Natural resources of Weston to be preserved and enhanced through sustainable management practices and regulations. Currently, 72% of Weston’s Public Right of Way (RoW) Street trees are in “Fair”, “Poor” or worse condition, which makes them vulnerable to storm damage, decline and removal. The Public Tree Working Group is tasked with examining Town policies that impact trees. It is working towards the goal of increasing Weston’s “Good to Excellent” trees to 38% by 2035.

Project Supported: Weston Ahead CARP

TAG lead or participant? Participant in the Public Tree Working Group

Output: A Tree Management Plan, including Preventative Maintenance, Risk Management and Planting.

Timing: Ongoing

Educational support needed? TBD



Initiative 3: Work to create an Invasive Management Plan- Lori Hess

- **Why TAG is doing this:** Invasive species are non-native plants that spread to a new area and quickly become dominant, stifling or preventing the growth of native plants, including trees and saplings. They eliminate important habitat for native insects, birds, mammals, and other animals.

Project Supported: Invasive Plant Management

TAG lead or participant? Participant in the Weston Invasive Plant Management Group

Output: TBD

Timing: First meeting: September 20, 2021

EDUCATION



Education: Educational efforts are to support and amplify the above goals and other topics —**Project Leader: Anne Benning**

- a. Town Website, Town Crier Articles and other publications, Speaker Series, Library Talks, Weston Media video series, TAG Recommends series for calendar, participate in Community Events.