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Street Tree Program Investments

As the “Garden City,” we must take care of our City trees and plant more every year.

Trees certainly are beautiful, and they make Newton more livable, improve air quality, help stormwater runoff, and reduce temperatures in hot weather. The number of City street trees peaked in the late 1970s, and declined steadily by 50% until 2010 when our Forestry Program was reenergized.

The City’s Forestry staff, with help from contractors and the wonderful volunteers from the Newton Tree Conservancy, plant and care for young trees, identify and remove dangerous trees and limbs, and complete stump removal and grinding. These investments have begun turning Newton greener, especially with strategic planting efforts in low tree canopy areas.

Our significant investments in new trees over the past decade need to be carefully nurtured to assure they grow and thrive into full canopy trees. I am investing \$250,000 in ARPA funds to purchase a new watering truck and to conduct pruning of young trees, and to address the backlog of mature street tree pruning.

While these investments are made, our Director of Urban Forestry and Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Marc Welch’s team are finishing a complete inventory of our City trees and developing Newton’s first ever City Street Tree Master Plan.

Click [here](#) for more information on Newton’s Urban Forestry Program.