

What to expect from your new tree throughout the years

Preparing for planting

Right plant, right place—take the time to find a tree species that matches desired location, this is the ultimate key to tree longevity

Trees planted with Boston Tree Alliance grant funding will need to be planted by a person who has attended BTA planting orientation

First 5 years

Watering is key factor for newly planted trees to establish— 5 gallons per inch of trunk diameter 2–3x a week depending on rainfall— Trees will not need to be watered during dormant winter months

Fence off new trees to protect stems and leaves from deer and rabbit browse

With training—make proper pruning cuts to set up tree for success while young—remove double leaders and problematic branches

Into maturity

Continue to supply supplemental water in times of drought

Continue to prune for structural integrity and removal of dead branches that may pose a threat to landscape underneath

Remove leaves that fall onto pavement as it may be slipping hazard

Note* You can leave the leaves on lawns and landscapes as they provide nutrients and habitat

Removal

Tree removals can be costly but necessary when decaying trees start to pose threats to surrounding areas

Note* In certain cases, dead trees can be left as standing snags as long as majority of branches are removed and the tree does not pose threat to any structure or utilities—standing dead wood is valuable to many ecosystems for providing habitat and diversifying food chains

What your tree will need every year regardless of age:

Refresh mulch rings and keep it clear of competing weeds and turf grass

Address any health issues with arborists or other plant health care professionals

Every year you have a tree is year your property is producing oxygen, providing habitat, reducing heat island effect, and contributing countless other benefits



For more information, reach out to bostontreealliance@massaudubon.org