



REGULAR MEETING – URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AGENDA

**AUGUST 25, 2026, 6:00 PM
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Meeting: July 28 2026**
 - B. Special Meeting: August 15 2026**
- V. REPORTS**
 - A. Fall Planting Season: Funding**
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Stroffolino Bridge Landscape Improvements**

B. Tree Care Brochure

C. Legacy Tree Nomination Process

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planting Plans

VIII. NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE UPDATES

IX. ADJOURNMENT

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 28, 2026, AT 6:00 PM.
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

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norwalkct.org/meetings



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting but are not participating can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Attendance: Peter Viteretto, Chair
 Gay MacLeod, Vice Chair
 Amy Verel
 David McGoldrick

Staff: Sarah Cruz, Arborist/ Horticulturist
 Ken Hughes, Tree Warden

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Viteretto called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Viteretto called the roll, and all those listed were present. There was a quorum present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION ON JUNE 23, 2026.

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MS. VEREL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hughes introduced himself to the committee as the new Tree Warden and said that he is the Superintendent of Parks and Public Property for the City of Norwalk and is a licensed arborist and looks forward to working with the committee. The committee members introduced themselves to Mr. Hughes.

Ms. Cruz explained the roles and responsibilities of the City's internal urban forestry team and how tree-related work is shared with the Tree Warden.

V. REPORTS

A. Tree Planting Program

- **Watering Requirements**

Ms. MacLeod said that there seems to be confusion about watering for trees planted by the city and asked about contractor requirements for watering.

Ms. Cruz explained the tree planting contract watering and warranty requirements during the first two years of the tree being planted. She noted that the more recent contract awarded last fall included more thorough watering guidelines.

Ms. MacLeod expressed her concern about who is keeping track of how many trees within the two-year warranty are dying. Ms. Cruz explained that it should be reported by the contractor, but is also checked by field staff as capacity allows. Mr. Viteretto noted that the committee will need to be cognizant of the timeline for having the dead trees replaced.

- **Tree Requests**

Ms. Cruz presented a map of the tree requests for public property and noted that the locations follow the lowest canopy neighborhoods.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tree Care Brochure

Ms. Verel explained the edits to the brochure that she had made. The committee discussed the draft tree care brochure. Ms. Cruz said that she will begin to work on proof and the goal is to have it shared with the committee and printed in August. Ms. Verel requested any edits be sent to her by next week.

B. Legacy Tree Nomination Form and Criteria

Mr. McGoldrick provided an overview of the program. The committee discussed the form and criteria for the Legacy Tree Nomination program. Ms. Cruz noted that per the ordinance the tree locations can only be on public property. The committee discussed the ordinance and requested to follow up on whether private trees could apply.

C. West Avenue Medians- Planting Project

Mr. Viteretto presented a map of the medians on West Avenue and plans for the planting project developed with Ms. Verel. The committee discussed the planting project and Ms. Cruz noted that the next step will be to send it to Mr. Sotnik to review for the engineering side of things and she will schedule to meet with him.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stroffolino Bridge Plantings

Mr. Viteretto presented the Stroffolino bridge plantings project and said that it started in 2012, and there is volunteer group in South Norwalk that may be willing to help. Ms. Cruz will schedule a meeting on site with Mr. Viteretto and Mr. McGoldrick and Mr. Viteretto will share the maps with the committee.

B. Urban Forestry Commission- Webpage Content

Mr. McGoldrick will work on the content for the committee to review describing the Urban Forestry Commission, the different programs running, and the forms to participate in those programs. Ms. Cruz said that she will send the commission links to tree related pages on the city website.

C. Tree of Heaven Management

Mr. Cruz said that residents are directed to go to CTDEEP's website for additional information regarding management on private property and are tracking the parks and schools for DPW to address reported trees where feasible during the off-season.

D. Connecticut Urban Forestry Network-Needs Assessment Response

Mr. Viteretto will gather responses from the commission to respond and Ms. Cruz will respond on behalf of the city.

VIII. NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE UPDATES

Mr. Scherr provided updates and plans for tree plantings for the fall. The Norwalk Tree Alliance would like to provide and help nominate and celebrate legacy trees, but he does not know if they have the capacity to manage it but can help to promote and celebrate the existing trees.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MCGOLDRICK MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. MACLEOD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2026, AT 9:30AM.
CONSTITUTION PARK 201 CT-136
NORWALK, CT 06855

Attendance: Peter Viteretto, Chair
Amy Verel
David McGoldrick

Staff: Sarah Cruz, Arborist/ Horticulturist

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance
Tom Arbron, TokiSpirit

Attendees:

Peter Viteretto – Chair
David McGoldrick – Commission
Amy Verel – Commission
Jeff Scherr – Norwalk Tree Alliance
Tom Arbron – TokiSpirit

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 9:31am, and all those listed were present. There was a quorum present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

1. DISCUSSION OF THE STROFFOLINO BRIDGE LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT

Mr. Viteretto gave background on the original planting project from 2014 which included tree plantings on each corner of the bridge.

The Commission walked the northeastern corner of the Stroffolino Bridge and discussed the recently cleared upper slope of the bridge abutting Constitution Park. Ms. Cruz provided background on why the clearing was done by DPW after receiving a request for tree trimming to improve visibility of the adjacent billboard signs and Operations cleared this corner rather than topping or improperly pruning the streetside and park trees. She reported that the area seemed to be taken over by tree of heaven but the previously planted Oaks may have been overlooked during the clearing.

Ms. Verel joined the meeting at 9:38am.

Mr. Viteretto proposed a vegetation maintenance and planting plan based on the surviving Oak plantings on this corner being removed. He explained that the existing invasive and less desirable vegetation will need to be managed before and after planting. The tree plantings for this project would remain the same variety of Oaks previously planted, and the Commission discussed potentially planting shrubs as well to establish an understory layer.

Ms. Cruz explained that any chemical treatments would need to be approved by the City as required by Ordinance and that there may be permitting requirements due to the proximity to the harbor.

Ms. Verel and Mr. Scherr discussed potential seed mixes and sourcing of seed to establish groundcover after managing the current vegetation.

Mr. Arbron joined the meeting at 9:49am.

The Commission walked the southeastern corner of the bridge along Veteran's Memorial Park to assess the standing Oak trees and surrounding vegetation. Mr. Arbron and Mr. Viteretto discussed what could be accomplished on this corner potentially through volunteer labor as well as donated trees and shrubs. Mr. Arbron said that he has been working with Courville Nursery regarding this project. Ms. Verel and Ms. Cruz discussed the potential for planting shrubs for the understory on this site as well.

There was a discussion on how the Recreation and Parks Department could maintain the area surrounding the planted trees to ensure survival, as well as potential ground cover establishment with seed mixes similar to the northeastern corner.

The Commission walked the southwest corner of the bridge and assessed the existing Oaks previously planted. Ms. Cruz stated that property line clarification is needed. There was a discussion of maintenance needs for the Oaks and how that could be accomplished given limited access, and would require ownership clarification. The Commission also discussed and noted the surrounding stands of Tree of Heaven.

The Commission walked the northeast corner of the bridge adjacent to the North Water parking lot. They discussed potentially planting additional Oaks at this location as well, pending ownership confirmation and necessary approvals.

The Commission discussed timelines for the project and next steps including property ownership research, feasibility of chemical management of invasive vegetation and a plan for procuring and planting the proposed trees. Ms. Cruz said that at least a portion of the project could be accomplished this fall. Mr. Viteretto agreed that phasing the project may be necessary but also allows the public to see progress and will have a strong visual impact to this area.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19am.

Submitted by Sarah Cruz

How to Care for Your New Tree



[description text]

[General Info RE: Tree Program, Commission etc]

For more tree care tips, please scan the QR code for a link to CT Tree Owners Manual

For more information about Norwalk’s Adopt a Tree Program, please scan the QR Code

Learn more:



Watering Your Tree

Water your tree with 5 – 10 gallons a week for the first two years. Water the root zone of trees and not the leaves or trunk.

Methods:

- **Bucket:** Using a 5 gallon bucket, fill twice.
- **Hose:** Run on low pressure at base of the tree for 15 minutes, using hose nozzle set for shower. Move hose around the base of the tree and out from the trunk to the edge of hanging leaves (the drip line).
- **Watering Bag:** Fill 1x a week. When using a watering bag, check regularly to ensure mulch isn’t built up against the base of the tree and that there is airflow around the trunk. If watering bags are necessary, they can also be staked in a few feet away from the base of the tree to provide water to the roots.

When?

- Year 1-2: Water May - October
- Year 3-5: Water during dry summer months when needed

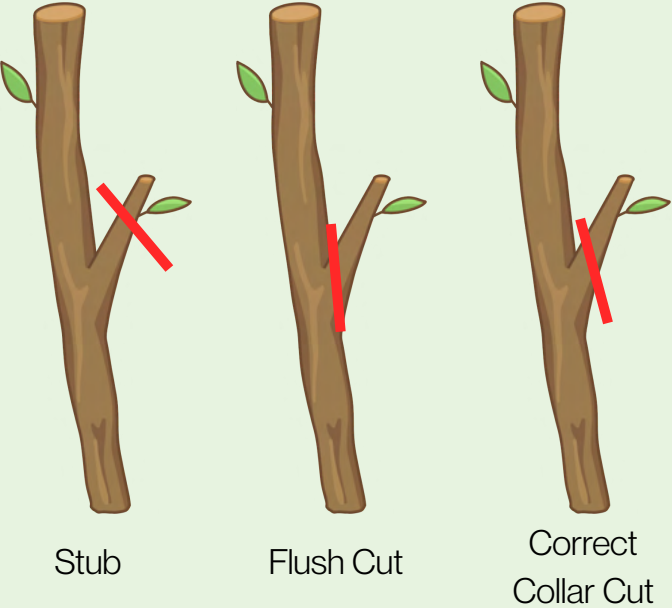
Contractor watering: depending on how your tree is planted, there may be a contractor assigned to water it periodically. Do not rely on this alone to maintain the health of the tree. Assess the need for watering regularly. Check moisture level by making a small, narrow trench with a trowel. The soil should be consistently moist and not soggy to the touch.

The Importance of Mulch

[Mulching text]

Proper mulch ring photo example
(Sarah will take current photo)

Making the right pruning cuts:



Proper Pruning

[Pruning text]



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Strategic Tree Canopy Enhancement Sub-Committee

August 28, 2012

[December 18, 2012 Discussion](#)

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(tbd)

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Strategic City Street Tree Canopy Enhancement Sub-Committee Composition

- Sub-Committee comprised of 3 to 4 NTA & Neighborhood Liaison Members
- Aided by the City Staff
- Report back to the NTA Committee on Recommendations
- Finalize Strategic Plan Projects

Sub-Committee Members:

Rob Frasier
Ron Muller
Christine Names
Peter Viteretto

City Representative:

Paul Sotnik, Dept. of Public Works

OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Planning Sub-Committee for the Purpose of

- Overview of the city street tree plantings using city mapping and current aerials
- Develop criteria for determination of Street Tree Canopy need

Tasks :

- Criteria for Need Based on:
 - presence & absence of existing trees
 - proximity and adjacency to tree lined streets & public parks
 - continuation of ongoing tree improvement projects
 - street character and smart street components in place
 - ability for the infrastructure to support tree growth
 - presence of neighborhood community association
 - extension of improved streetscapes by approved development

- Norwalk City Staff - Aid
 - available Mapping and Aerials
 - knowledge of Capitol Improvement Project per Annum
 - knowledge of proposed commercial / residential development
 - knowledge of neighborhood issues and concerns
- Interface with existing Infrastructure & capitol work
 - identify ability for the infrastructure to support tree growth
 - identify enhancement of scheduled Capitol projects-City & State
- Recommendations
 - make recommendations to the NTA Committee
 - synthesize NTA Committee comments
 - identify strategic locations for improvement
 - outline target costs and needed approach
- Project Document
 - Formatted as part of the Norwalk Tree Management Plan
 - Structure for annual review and updating

STREET TREE PLANTINGS BY DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

It is useful to group the different streets throughout the City of Norwalk into various categories based on their overall character, function, associative uses and stewardship. The six categories following are identified looking at the combination of these four considerations for the purpose of developing a tree planting strategy within each of these differing streetscape typologies. Planting designed to reinforce the dynamic within each of these landscapes types is more readily accepted and supported by the contributing officials and community support groups. Each category has implicit characteristic elements that are important considerations when making decisions with regard to: the scale of planting, tree locations, species selections and general maintenance and care to cite several.

Execution of a tree planting strategy in each of these categories needs to consider the potential sources of contributing funds and long term resources for the implementation and ongoing management and care. Successful plantings need to consider both the promotion and assistance of individual neighbors, commercial organizations and municipal departments and agencies. These groups include: commercial and business partners, taxing districts, the Norwalk Tree Alliance, Norwalk Redevelopment, Chamber of Commerce, Department of Recreation and Parks and the Public Works. Structured in this way the categories aid in targeting potential contributors within the project areas

The Six City Categories are:

BOULEVARDS, CITY GATEWAYS & PRIMARY COLLECTORS

- Primary City & State Roadway
- Primary Roadways as Points of to the City
- Secondary and Heavily Travelled Roadways.

NEIGHBORHOODS STREETS

- Neighborhood Streets - blocks
- Single and Infill Tree Plantings

PUBLIC PROPERTY STREET FRONTAGE

- City Parks
- School Properties
- Municipal Buildings and Facilities (Library & Firehouse)
- Taxing Districts

URBAN CENTRAL/CORE AREAS STREETSCAPES

- Central Norwalk
- South Norwalk
- Merritt 7 North

DEVELOPMENTS, MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL FRONTAGE

- Commercial/Developer
- Norwalk Re-Development
- Capital Improvement Projects

LOW/MODERATE INCOME HOUSING & MIXED INDUSTRIAL USE FRONTAGE

- City/State Housing Complexes
- Non-for-Profit Organizations
- Community Aid Facilities

STREET TREE ENFORCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

In addition to new plantings for increasing the street trees within the City an effort to promote the replanting of trees lost over time and protection of street trees will further the urban street tree canopy. This section addresses trees within the City under private commercial developments, the proper detailing for tree plantings, and heightening the awareness and need for protection of existing valued trees.

Commercial developments within the City of Norwalk are requires to planting of trees and landscape improvement as part of the zoning approvals for new construction and renovation projects. Many of these landscape plantings including trees have been replaced with lesser plantings, improperly pruned, removed or simply lost over time. The loss to the overall City tree bio mass as a result of these losses is unknown.

Reinstitution these trees by the individual property owners in compliance with their approved plans would add to the overall number of trees on the city streets and in the publicly used landscapes.

There is loss of trees over time within many of the approved plan areas due to a lack of care and poor provisions made during the planning and construction of tree planting areas. Too often plans are approved with technically unsound tree planting details. Insufficient detail is provided and lack of attention given to the needed infrastructure for support and promotion of healthy root system. In addition to the poor detailing tree species can be approved that are inappropriate for location and ability to sustain long

term growth. These trees often require a higher degree of managed care that when lacking results in poor health, decline and ultimately removal. Review of tree plantings for technical soundness and appropriate species selection will improve the longevity of street tree and contribution to the City canopy

Established street tree plantings add value to the streetscape and making a positive contribution to the quality of life in the City. These valued trees are often overlooked and as such there is risk that they become adversely impacted by poor planning and individuals' singular focus on infrastructure changes and developer planning needs and not the social and economic gains provided by these maturing species. Recognition of these plantings by providing care to the individual trees and their immediate surrounds substantiates their importance as valued City Property.

Following are two categories to address these considerations for the enforcement, management and instituting added value to City trees.

ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING REGULATION TREE REQUIREMENTS

- Re-planting of Missing Trees Required by Approved Plans
- Review/Comment on Zoning Applications - for compliance

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF EXISTING TREES

- Review/Comment on Zoning Applications - for technical soundness
- Care of Existing Trees

STREET TREE PLANTINGS RECOMMENDATION AREAS Fall 2012- Spring 2013

(BOULEVARDS, CITY GATEWAYS & PRIMARY COLLECTORS)

East Avenue

- Cemetery to Norwalk Green
(Coordination with Widening of NHN Underpass)

Main Avenue / Route 7

- Broad/Maplewood to Merritt Interchange
- Merritt Interchange to Grist Mill Road (Corporate Match)
(Planning and Outreach Winter 2012)

(DEVELOPMENTS, MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL)

Wilson Avenue/Meadow Street

- Grey Rock Place to Woodward

(PUBLIC PROPERTIES)

Washington Street

- Fort Point Street/Veteran's Park & Liberty Square Frontage
(Target Planting Spring 2013)

(NEIGHBORHOODS)

Highland Avenue

- Brian McMahon HS to Flax Hill Road
(Completed Fall 2012)

(LOW/MODERATE INCOME HOUSING & MIXED INDUSTRIAL USES)

- Merriam Street Shelter