

## **Friends of Trees Announces TREES FOR CHATHAM Program**

March 13, 2020

Friends of Trees is announcing a new initiative, *Trees for Chatham*. In response to the loss of trees in Chatham from recent storms, the program is designed to plant more trees in town by offering them to private property owners. Applications are being accepted to install trees on private properties, free of charge, where the location offers public benefit.

“Since 1978, Friends of Trees has been planting trees in the town’s parks, conservation areas and school grounds. After the tornado and other storms resulted in loss of trees and damage to many others, the Friends of Trees felt an urgency to plant more trees beyond just municipal properties. We want to ensure Chatham stays green for years to come,” said DeeDee Holt, president of Friends of Trees.

This spring, Friends of Trees will gift a limited number of trees to private property owners who meet the eligibility criteria of qualifying as a public benefit. If you own a residential or business property that is in view of or abuts a public space, you may qualify. Desirable planting locations are those where trees will offer shade to public ways, improve the streetscape, increase wildlife habitat, or provide other values to the public.

“Trees are key to a healthy community. We are excited to offer this new program and hope it will result in adding more trees to our managed landscapes,” stated DeeDee Holt.

Since 1978, Friends of Trees has planted over 1,00 trees in public spaces and parks in Chatham, including 225 memorial trees. Friends of Trees is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the physical aspects of Chatham by planting and maintaining trees and through grants to schools and local non-profits that share our mission. Friends of Trees endeavors to educate the public about the important role trees play in Chatham’s environment.

The deadline for submission is April 30, 2020 for planting this spring. Click [here](#) to download the 2020 Trees for Chatham grant application.