

# Introduction to Community Tree Care



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# The Rundown

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- Tree Biology
- Principles of Community Tree Care
- Maintenance Plans
  - Partnership
  - Funding



# Tree Biology



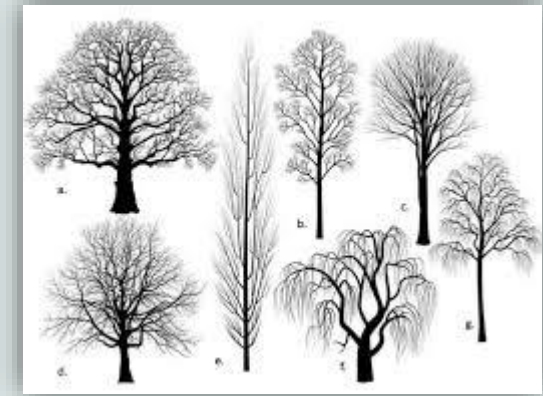
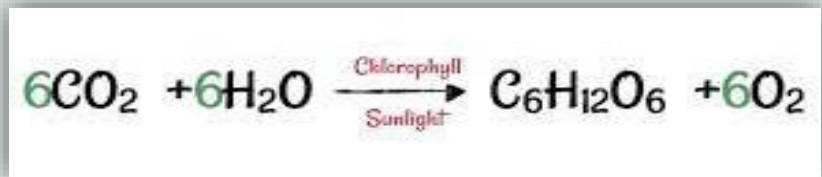
What trees need to thrive



# Above the Ground

## PHOTOSYNTHESIS

- Chlorophyll turns water and carbon dioxide into glucose (sugar) and oxygen
- Those sugars are what plants use to live
- We depend on oxygen to live



## STRUCTURE

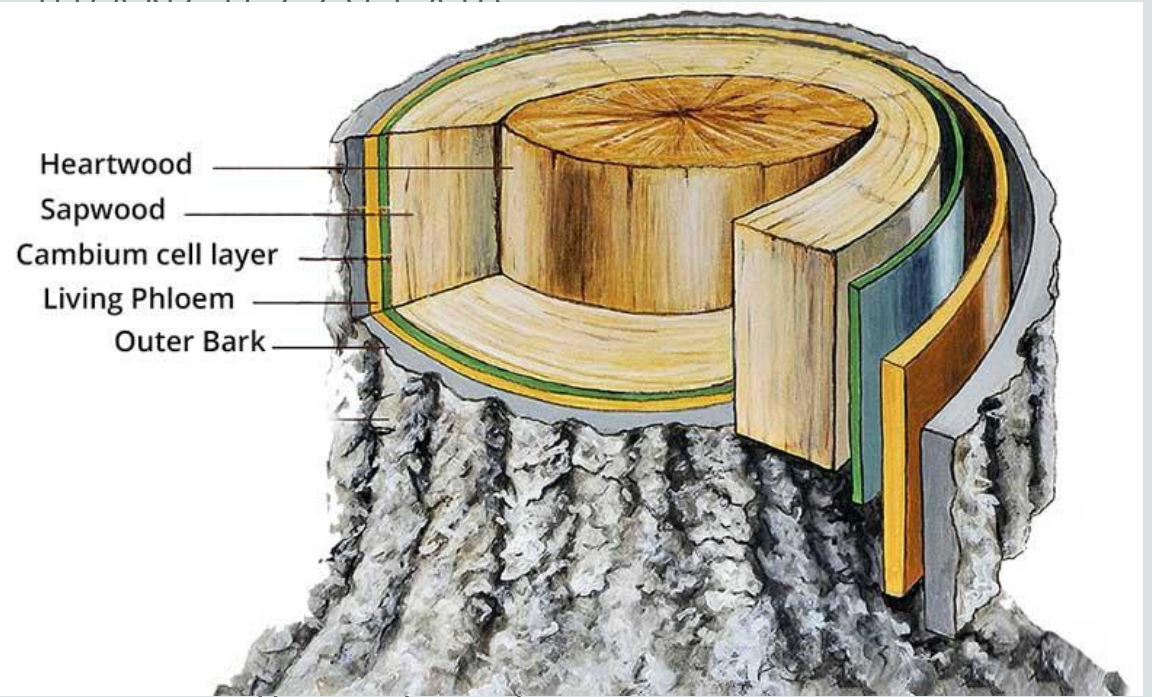
- Trees create wood - structural support made of carbon compounds
- This enables trees to grow tall and wide to capture more sunlight
- This generates shade and creates vertical interest in a landscape

# Healing and Growth



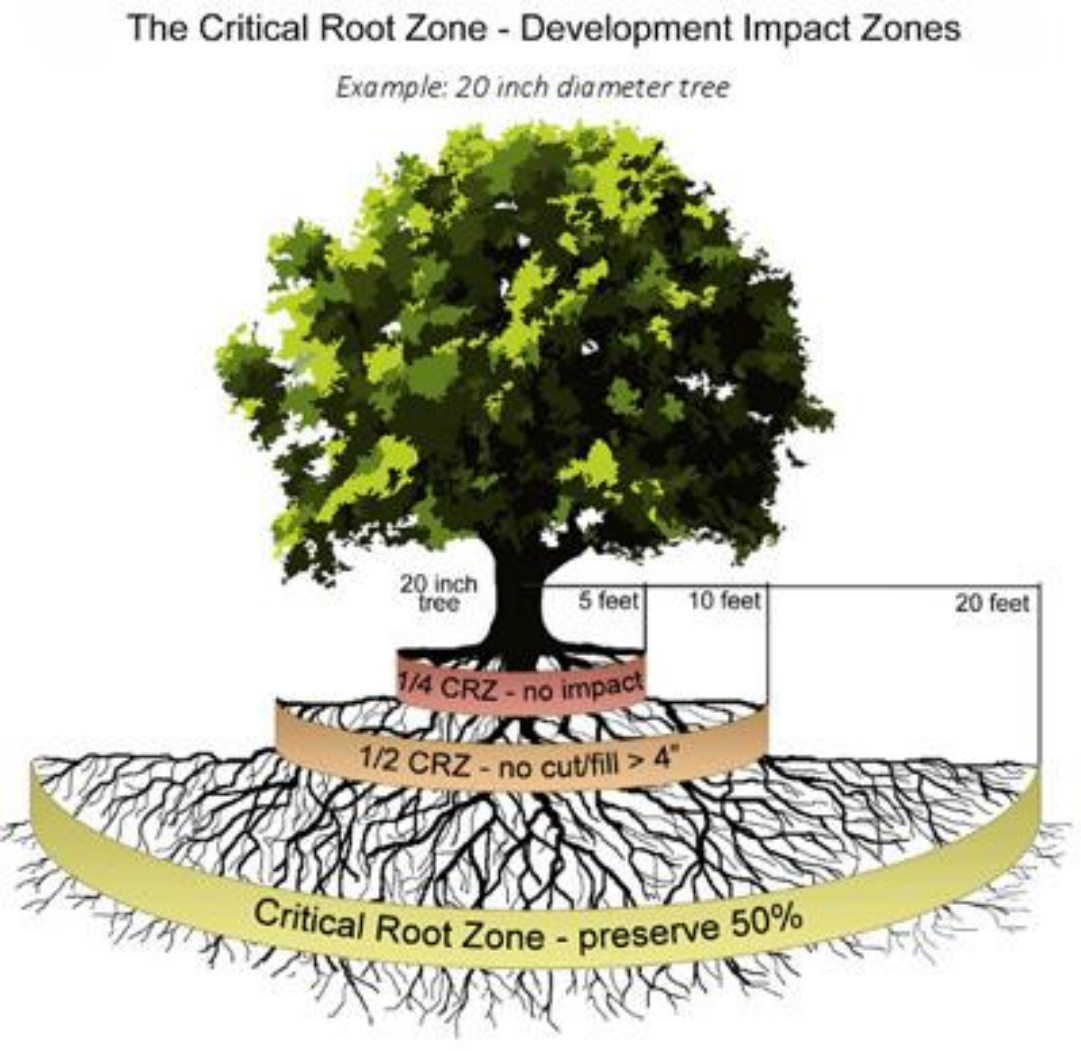
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## BRANCH COLLARS



or inefficient parts

# Getting to the Root of the Issue



ROOT ZONE



# Principles of Community Tree Care



Urban Forestry



# Why We Love and Need Trees

Many benefits that have real value







# What is an Urban Forest

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All trees growing within a city, town or suburb

This includes street trees, boulevards, parks, playgrounds, nature preserves, green belts, and wetlands

All forests in our populated areas require maintenance to ensure health and safety for people, plants and animals



# Considerations for the Urban Forest

## METRICS

- Quantity - Percentage of an area covered by trees
- Quality - Improve biodiversity, environmental and public benefits
- Connectivity - Are the green areas connected
- Accessibility - Residents proximity to trees

## CONVENTIONAL

- Typically monocultures
- Typically all of similar age in an area
- Very little if any benefit to wildlife or invasive
- Some residents have limited access to green space

## DYNAMIC

- Species diversity and age diversity is a priority
- Native species are prioritized over Invasives
- Includes flexible green space
- Prioritizes creative solutions in areas with declining/limited tree populations

# Conventional Design Ideas



SAMPLE FOOTER TEXT

# Dynamic Design Ideas



# Maintenance Plans



Blending tree needs with  
people needs



# Management Planning

## REACTIVE

- Responds to emergencies
- Responds to imminent safety concerns and high priority requests
- Does not renew the population or seek to extend the life of existing trees

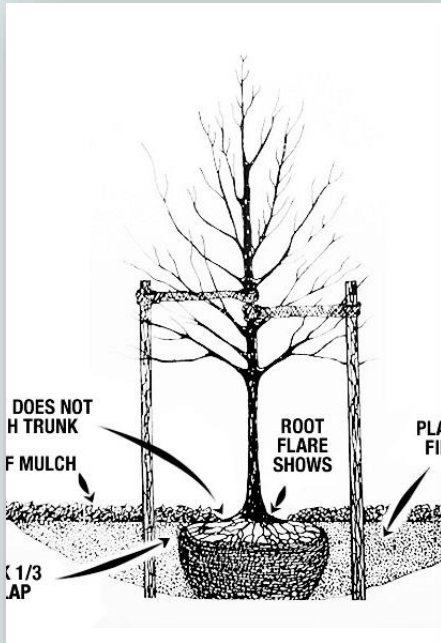
## PREVENTATIVE

- Responds to medium priority safety concerns and requests
- Includes planting to renew the population of tree
- Treats or fertilizes high value trees to prolong life

## PROACTIVE

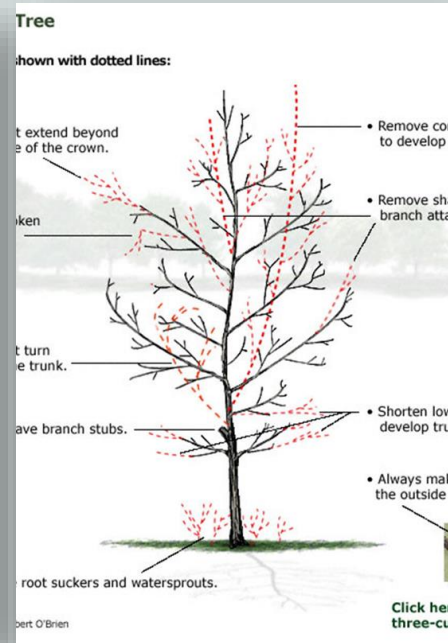
- Engages in pruning young trees for stronger structure over time
- Incorporates cabling, root zone excavations and alternative infrastructure to create tree habitat
- Tracks and manages pest populations and emerging weather patterns to create long term planning goals

# Tasks for Maintenance



## Planting

Finding the right tree and planting it well



## Pruning

Removing hazards, guiding new trees away from obstacles, encouraging strong structure



## Mulching

Weed suppression, water retention, mechanical protection



## Treatments

Protecting trees from insects and diseases



## Fertilization

Vitamins for trees that can even include live microbes for healthy roots and soil

## **PRESERVATION**

- Historic and exceptionally large trees
- High profile trees on main roads or near town buildings
- Parks
- Mature and known stands of trees

## **CONSERVATION**

- Wetlands
- Native Species
- Connecting green space
- Transitioning newly unmanaged land

WHERE DO WE DEPLOY OUR RESOURCES?

# Partnerships



No committee is an island



# Partnering With Others

- Town workers and committees - Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Preservation Commission
- Private Companies - Utility companies, tree companies and landscapers
- Residents - Yard access and maintenance agreements
- Volunteer Groups - AVIS, Weed Warriors, school groups, corporate team building



# Money Doesn't Grow on Trees

Know how much you're already spending on trees alone

Grant funding - finding and securing appropriate grants from state or federal agencies, or private organizations

Development Agreements - Asking developers in town to share the load

Fundraising/Philanthropy  
- ArborDay sales,  
Memorial trees, Adopt-a-Tree,

Municipal fees - Permit fees, Stormwater fees, Business Improvement District (BID) taxes,

# Questions?

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now

