

# Bedford Citizen Inventory of Public Trees

## May 10 & 17, 2014

### Why are public trees important?

Benefits of well-maintained trees:

- Reduce air pollution
- Fight the greenhouse effect
- Reduce noise pollution
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce soil erosion
- Reduce storm water runoff
- Support wildlife and plant diversity
- Reduce heating and cooling costs
- Make streets cooler in summer
- Provide aesthetic benefits
- Increase property values

The benefits of trees can be quantified. A single tree can provide thousands of dollars of benefits over its lifetime.

### Why inventory public trees?

- Quantify the economic and environmental benefits of our trees
- Inform DPW maintenance efforts
- Prevent spread of pests and diseases
- Decrease risk and cost associated with fallen trees and branches
- Preserve rare and older trees
- Contain invasive species
- Identify spaces for future planting
- Map the species, age, and condition of trees across Bedford
- Help manage trees to promote long-term tree health and maximize benefits for Bedford
- **It's a fun community activity!**

A Project of the Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC) and Bedford Department of Public Works

[www.bedfordma.gov/arbor-resource-committee](http://www.bedfordma.gov/arbor-resource-committee)

## Get Involved!

### Who?

- Families, individuals, groups or organizations.
- Any amount of tree knowledge.
- Children under 16 must be on volunteer teams with a parent or another responsible adult.

### When?

- Join a field team with your family and neighbors, surveying trees for 1 to 6 hours on May 10 or 17.
- Help with data entry after May 17, recording field team notes onto a computer at your own pace.

### How?

- Field teams will receive a brief training from captains at their neighborhood meeting site.
- Take one or more maps to begin surveying trees. Each map takes approximately one hour to complete.

### Where?

- Sign up to inventory in one or more neighborhoods at BARC's Bedford Day booth or by emailing [BedfordArbor@gmail.com](mailto:BedfordArbor@gmail.com). You will receive information about briefing locations in early May.

## Get Ready!

### What to do next?

- Sign up now to stay informed.
- Practice tree species identification using your tree guide or free downloadable applications for your electronic device (vTree app from Virginia Tech, LeafSnap.com, etc.)

### What do you need?

- At a minimum, a pencil, flexible tape measure and a tree guide book
- If you have them, a wireless Internet access device and/or binoculars

### More Information

- [www.bedfordma.gov/arbor-resource-committee](http://www.bedfordma.gov/arbor-resource-committee) (BARC's Website)
- [BedfordArbor@gmail.com](mailto:BedfordArbor@gmail.com) (to signup)
- [LeafSnap.com](http://LeafSnap.com) (iPad App)
- [ArborDay.org](http://ArborDay.org) (inexpensive tree guide)
- [iTreeTools.org](http://iTreeTools.org) (about the software)