



100 Tree Challenge: Please Consider Making a Pledge!

As you know, our beloved Town has been designated a Tree City for many years now. We care about *all* our trees! And what a sight it is for us during our walks around town, as well as for our visitors.

This month I would like to start an annual tradition and ask each neighbor to consider planting 100 trees.

Buy Trees to be Planted Worldwide:

This can be done most easily by visiting your favorite tree planting website and buying trees to be planted either locally or in a designated country worldwide. One of my favorite websites is www.onetreeplanted.org, but there are many others. The Mother Earth Project works with many dozens of communities in Africa, India, and South America that are focused on planting trees. If you are interested in supporting one of these communities, please contact us at themotherearthproject@gmail.com.

Plant Your Own Trees:

If you want to plant trees, you can go to www.arborday.org, although there are also other websites.

If you own a larger property in rural Maryland, a state-funded non-profit will plant 4'-high trees for free and additionally pay you \$1000 for every acre of forest planted. What an incentive! Our family is planting two acres of land with a mix of native species (oak, maple, sycamore, etc.), amounting to approximately 300 trees. Very. Exciting. Contact me, bartsher@gmail.com, if you are interested in this option.

Let Trees Grow On Their Own:

Council Member Robin Barr (Essex) has informed me that when he left a section of his yard alone, native trees began to grow on their own and create a copse. Somerset is a former forest and if we leave the land alone (but clear invasives), nature will do all the work without human intervention. Awesome.

Why Plant Trees?

Trees are an easy and inexpensive way to absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Rising CO₂ levels, in large part the result of burning fossil fuels, contribute to the present climate emergency by trapping heat beneath



the earth's atmosphere and heating the planet like a greenhouse. Trees provide our Town with an abundance of oxygen compared to urban centers. The healthy feeling of breathing the air in our "town forest" is good for the health and soul! Trees also provide shade from the hot summer sun and act to stabilize the ground and limit erosion of our critical soil. The list of benefits is substantial—except when you have a large tree over your house! My 200-year-old white oak now has multiple cables so I can sleep easier at night. Last, I must say my favorite activity each autumn is to see my neighbor's gigantic ginkgo tree turn a brilliant yellow, followed by a large yellow ring of leaves at its base!

Goal

The goal is to have ALL residents participate, which would result in tens of thousands of trees planted.

Please add your name to the Pledge List and let us know by November 30! <https://bit.ly/3DX1O4e>

Pledge Now

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at TOS.EnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com