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NOVEMBER 2026

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky."

– Khalil Gibran

A Greener Future Through Local Action

As Shrewsbury prepares to celebrate its 300th anniversary in 2027, the Tipping Point 01545 initiative and the Towns 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee have launched a tree-planting project to honor our past and invest in our future. The pilot program to launch in 2027 is to plant 50 native species trees on Municipal land starting in Dean Park and Maple Ave. Playing Fields.

Trees provide shade, store carbon, manage stormwater, cool our neighborhoods, and create habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Choosing native species strengthens these benefits and supports the local ecosystem.

Native trees planted today become part of Shrewsbury's landscape for generations to come

Learn more about Tipping Point at

TippingPoint01545.com

TIPPING POINT 01545

Shrewsbury Garden Club

Shrewsbury, MA

Conservation Connection is an online report to members on environmental issues that impact our planet and our lives. You may notice a theme this year of trees. I hope to share information on the importance even one tree can make in the landscape and help you understand how planting trees and caring for trees also helps protect our fragile environment. There will be links to online videos as well as tips and information of how, as stewards of this planet, we individually and collectively can make a difference.

Gail Aslanian, Conservation Chair

Check out this video on managing storm water....

https://www.davey.com/videos/drg-stormwater-best-management-practices/

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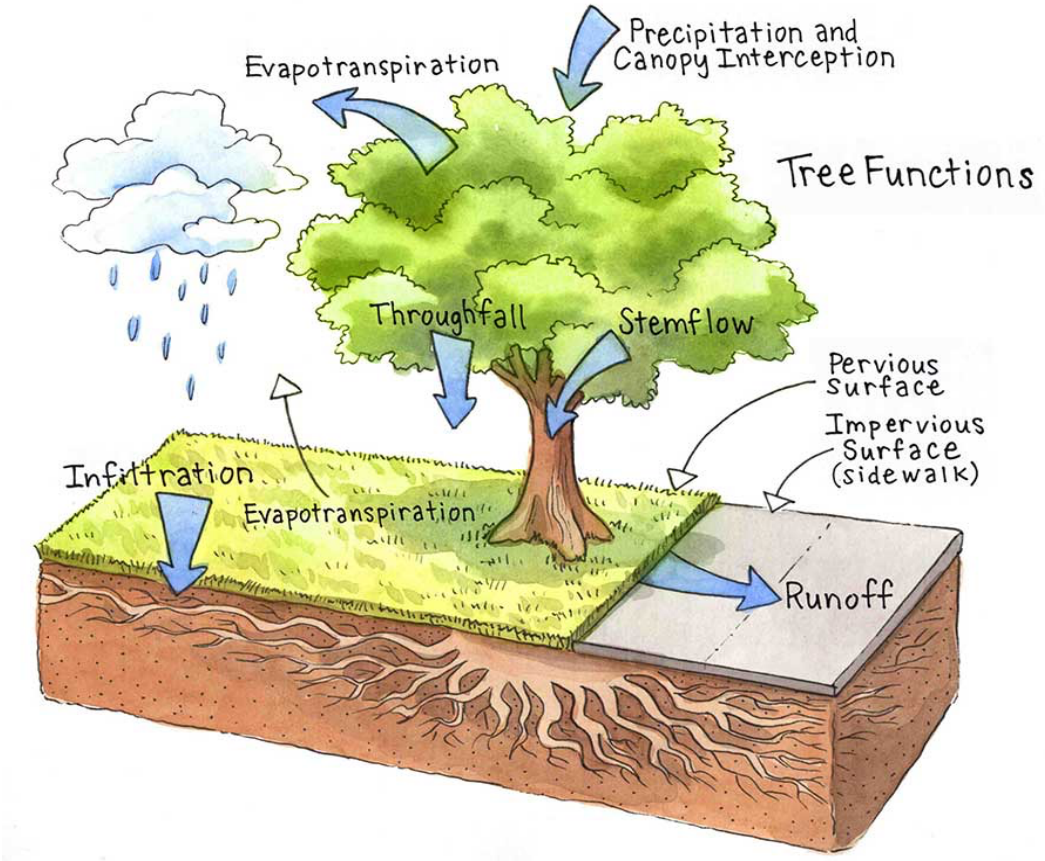
Trees help manage stormwater through absorption and evaporation



Excessive stormwater runoff accounts for more than half of the pollution in America's surface waters and causes increased flooding and property damages as well as public safety hazards.

One urban tree can intercept thousands of gallons of water annually.

Click on link for American Elm information

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UevFivf95Lo



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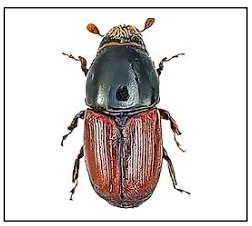
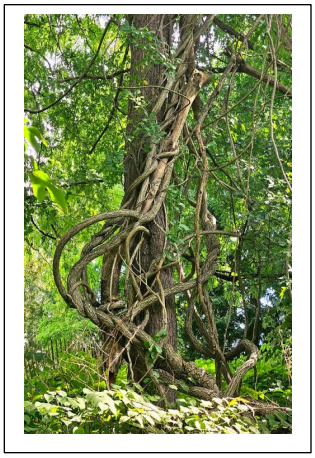
Valued for its graceful canopy,
the American Elm Tree was designated as the official Massachusetts state tree in 1941.
Native to North American it can grow upwards to 60-80 feet having an upward arching canopy which historically created canopies over streets.

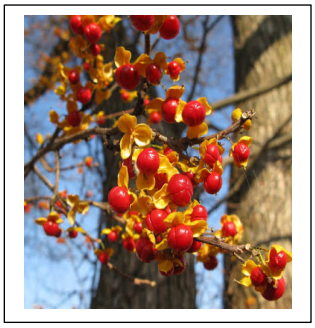
Arriving in the 1930's and reaching its peak in the 1970's, the Dutch Elm disease devastated elm trees killing hundreds of thousands across America. A fungal pathogen spread primarily by native and European elm bark beetles were the culprit.

Modern selective breeding programs have introduced hardier, disease- resistant cultivars that offer strong residence against Dutch Elm disease making contemporary plantings safer.



ELM BARK BEETLE





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIVMFiAMa3o&t=17s

Check out the video above for how to get rid of bittersweet

Winter INVASIVE plant Management

Asiatic Bittersweet

Is bittersweet climbing up your trees?
You don't have to wait until Spring because Fall and Winter is the best time to get it under control.
Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) is an aggressive, invasive deciduous woody vine native to East Asia that girdles, smothers and kills native trees and shrubs. We have all seen it and the damage it causes. When the leaves are off the trees and vines and the berries show their flashy bright color, it is easier to see where the plants are coming from.
To manage bittersweet, it is necessary to cut the vine at the base and apply an herbicide. This time of year, the plant is best able to take up the herbicide and kill it at its roots making next season more manageable.



Don't be fooled by its beauty… It's a killer!

VIDEO ON GETTING RID OF CREEPING CHARLIE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uoXZsSfyy4

ANOTHER INVASIVE



CREEPING CHARLIE

GROUND-IVY (Glechoma hederacea), also known as creeping Charlie or gill-over-the-ground, is a low growing, aromatic perennial herb belonging to the mint family. We all know the difficulties in managing mint!
If creeping Charlie has crept into places you would rather not have him reside there is a way to get rid of him.



Pulling it leaves the real problem behind!

You yank out the mat of Creeping Charlie, the bare spot looks great, and a few weeks later green runners are creeping back. That is frustrating but you did nothing wrong. It's the plant . This weed travels in a way that makes a quick pull easy to get wrong. Picture a long green string lying along the soil, with little round leaves all down its length. At points along the stem called nodes, can send down roots and start a new plant. A quick tug and a grab cause the stem to snap leaving a piece of the stem and node behind. Pulling is not a lost cause though. If you remove the whole connected runner, node by node, and keep checking the spot, a small patch can be cleared. The larger the patch the harder to clear so try and catch it early.
The other option is to just embrace it!

