



A PROJECT OF WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY TRUST

TREE INITIATIVE OUTLINE: BRANCH OUT WOODSTOCK

Working Group:

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Goals:

To monitor, maintain, and repopulate the trees in the downtown business district.

Specifics of the Initiative:

In downtown Woodstock the trees have been poorly maintained over the past decades. Trees that have died and been removed over the years have not been replaced, resulting in unsightly gaps along the sidewalks. In addition, many of the remaining trees have not, for the most part, been maintained, and are at risk.

Woodstock Village Conservancy seeks to repopulate the sidewalk along Center Street where trees have been removed. By doing the work properly the long-term health of the new trees will be supported, and the downtown businesses will benefit from being a more attractive area for people to visit.

An urban area is a difficult location for trees to survive because of the challenging conditions that exist both below and above ground. Trees planted in the past have suffered from heavily compacted soil, salt contamination, and tree wells that are insufficiently sized to promote and support root growth.

To improve tree survival, the following approach will be taken:

- Open up a section of sidewalk that is roughly 10' square;
- Excavate the soil down 3-4 feet, with the exact depth depending upon the size of the tree and the size of the root ball;
- Remove rubble
- Replace the excavated dirt soil with structural soils engineered to withstand the compaction from the sidewalk;
- Plant the tree and install a 4 X 4 cast iron grate around the tree; and
- Replace the remaining sidewalk that was removed.
- The Conservancy will be responsible for watering to establish planting in Year One.

The species of tree selected is important. Currently most of the trees are locust and ash but today ash is not recommended. Species diversity, with a priority given to native trees, along with hardiness for our current and future climate and urban conditions will be considered. Current trees under consideration are Swamp White Oak, Ginkgo, and Honey Locust.

Cost Estimates:

The cost to install each tree, including site management, demolition, structural soil, protective grating, and the tree itself is approximately \$15,000. An allowance for maintenance and watering until the trees are established is approximately \$10,000.

Recommendation:

This initiative will take place over several years. The goal for the first year is to plant four trees along Central Street in these potential locations where there used to be trees:

- 19 Central Street
- 41-39 Central Street
- 6 Central Street
- 16 Central Street

Stakeholders

- Downtown business owners
- Department of Public Works

Permissions

- Selectboard and Trustees- approved July 2, 2026

Timetable

- Summer/Fall 2026- Fundraising
- December 2026-Approve contract
- April 2027-Installation