

**From:** Elizabeth Greywolf  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Woodbury, Catherine <cwoodbury@cambridgema.gov>  
**Subject:** Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force Meeting

Dear Ms. Daly Woodbury:

Re the upcoming Urban Forest Master Plan meeting, I do not think I will be free to attend, but would like to convey some thoughts regarding the matter.

The book written by a German forester *The Hidden Life of Trees*, makes it clear that trees thrive best when planted in groups. Obviously that is often not possible in cities, so the odds are already stacked against new plantings. To assure young trees have the best chance for survival -- as I'm sure you are aware -- they require routine watering (which I've noticed is often lacking). Young trees are also planted in extremely small open-ground spaces. Time and again I've seen newly planted trees wither due to lack of post-planting care both in Somerville and Cambridge.

I think four things might improve the chances of increasing our "urban forest" - (1) increasing the area of open earth in which they are planted; (2) adding notices that dog urination on new trees is damaging (though it may be the only moisture some trees get); (3) better follow-up on city watering post-plantings; and (4) some sort of "contest" to advertise the need for regular maintenance of new plantings and perhaps annual individual recognition awards for those whose care of trees planted near their homes result in healthier, thriving trees. Also, I'm wondering if there are more retired residents than myself who would be willing to devote time to helping with this effort. If that's the case, you may have an untapped potential resource.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Greywolf

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