

Tree fact: *Trees play a starring role in mitigating the effects of climate change.*

RESOURCES

The New York Botanical Garden offers educational symposia and on-line resources. See www.nybd.org.

The Arbor Day Foundation promotes Earth Day and urban forestry: www.arborday.org.

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation sponsors urban and community forestry:
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4957.html

The International Society of Arboriculture helps locate certified arborists and gives guidelines on tree care. www.treesaregood.org.

This brochure created by the Village
of Pelham Tree Committee

Trees in Pelham



*Ensuring the future of our
historic landscape*

Trees in Pelham

Pelham's tree canopy is one of this community's most distinctive features. A few of the oldest trees in Pelham were here when George Washington's troops marched through, but the majority of our towering trees were planted over a hundred years ago. Many trees predate their adjacent houses.

Our tree-rich landscape brings priceless benefits to the community. Trees are the foundation of our suburban ecosystem. Pelham trees temper summer heat; they filter carbon dioxide out of the air and add oxygen; they buffer against noise. Songbirds and hawks are numerous because of our trees. Mature trees have been shown to add significant value to a property. And for many, Pelham's tree canopy is what makes Pelham such an attractive place to live.

TYPES OF TREES

The majority of large trees in Pelham are oaks, the US National Tree. Oak varieties in this area include white, black, red and pin oaks. These slow-growing trees can reach 80 feet in height. Native maple species—red, silver, and sugar—are abundant as well. Found in smaller numbers, but of great value to environmental diversity, are of American beech, American sycamore, locusts, hickory, birch, and evergreens and conifers. To identify a tree, Arbor Day provides an easy on-line tool (www.arborday.org).

Tree fact: *The Village of Pelham's oldest tree is on the northwest corner of Colonial Ave and Monterey*

CARING FOR TREES

Just like humans, mature trees need care to keep them healthy and vibrant. Many residents have annual check-ups of their trees by a certified arborist. Careful pruning can minimize the possibility of storm damage, and help your trees reach well into their second century.

The root systems of mature trees extend beyond their drip line, the distance of the outermost spread of their branches. In mature trees, the drip line can extend along more than a five-yard radius (4.5 meters) from the trunk. Construction, trenching, or grade changes within the drip line of a tree can damage its root system, sometimes fatally. Consulting with an arborist before undertaking construction or landscaping projects can help protect your trees from collateral damage.

Mature trees are acclimated to the natural cycles of rainfall, and except in times of drought, need no extra water. Artificial watering systems, while good for lawns, can actually damage trees by encouraging shallow, rather than deep, root growth. Rainfall alone is best for trees.



THE FUTURE OF TREES



To preserve Pelham's valuable treescape, we need to follow the lead of Pelhamites a century ago and actively plant new shade trees whenever older specimens are lost to age and disease. New plantings of large-growth trees—oaks, maples, locusts, sycamores, and birches—will be the foundation of the tree canopy in the next century. The simple act of planting a shade tree will ensure that future generations enjoy the same tree-rich landscape that we have now.

In planting new trees, sensible choices now will bear fruit for the next century. We need to strive for greater diversity in the tree canopy to hedge against single species diseases. And we need to anticipate the effects of climate change. Good choices include oaks, hickory, beech, birch, American sycamore, bald cypress and lacebark elm. Certified arborists and landscape architects can help in selecting and installing new shade trees.