

CELEBRATING Arbor Day

For 26 years, Groton’s dedication to urban forestry has earned it recognition by “Tree City USA.” As part of the Town’s “Green Vision,” Groton embraces the social and health connection that trees offer while providing wildlife habitat. Public Works proactively assesses trees and fulfills trimming and planting plans.

This summer, look for these *native trees* **Connecticut Black Gum & Eastern Cedar** planted on Arbor Day (April 30) at the new playscape at **Groton Community Center** on Fort Hill Road. Both trees love sun and well drained soil. The Gum tree has glossy leaves and spectacular Fall color; the Cedar tree is a great windbreak and provides nesting, roosting cover, and tiny pinecones coveted by Cedar Waxwing birds. Check out the clips on **Facebook & YouTube!**

Native species require less water and fertilizer, saving time and money, plus they support pollinator health and clean water efforts.

Look for these NEW trash & recycling containers in downtown Mystic

In a cooperative effort between Public Works & the Town Beautification Committee, the new street-side cans use the Town logo color scheme and are designed to make it easier to distinguish trash from recycling. The retro design of the trash cans also bring back the popular seagull silhouette that used to adorn them.



WELCOME to these new Public Works team members:



Jamison Fielder, Highway Equipment Operator

Beth Russel, Highway Equipment Operator

Derek Stearns, Highway Equipment Operator

Rick Thurston, Transfer Station Equipment Operator



Recently Public Works, Water Pollution Control Facility, Parks, and Golf Course staff members took part in a multi-day **CHAIN SAW TRAINING**. This gave personnel the opportunity to gain experience and practice techniques in a controlled environment before they are faced with the task of post-storm opening of roads or removal of trees.



The training involved classroom as well as outdoor time. **Topics included** personal protection equipment (PPE), tree fell planning, and handling of reactive forces that can result in injury or death. They identified potential limitations and learned how to adjust their technique. Felling a tree requires consideration of total tree height, plus surroundings such as power lines, rock walls, buildings, and neighboring trees.

In the field, participants practiced felling trees, limbing, and bucking (cutting of a felled tree). They also learned to maintain a saw, sharpen the chains, and choose the correct saw for the job. They identified hazards such as broken tree tops, outside pressures, and trees entangled in vines. **Crews are now well prepared for storm clean-ups!**