



Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chris Rosa, City of Malden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year



MTWFA President, Ed Olsen presents the 2024 TWOY Award to Chris Rosa

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) presented the 23rd annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Chris Rosa, Superintendent of Cemeteries and Tree Warden for the City of Malden. MTWFA president, Ed Olsen presented the elegant silver tree award to Chris at the association's 111th annual meeting and conference on January 9, 2024.

Chris, who for many years owned a landscaping business started at the Malden Department of Public Works as Assistant Director in 2018 and became Tree Warden in 2022. Chris is responsible for planting and managing the City's tree inventory which consists of all public shade trees including schools, parks, and public buildings. Since becoming Tree Warden, Chris has received more than \$135,000 in planting grant monies. He was

the first to discover and manage the Emerald Ash Borer in the City as well as to sign a vegetation management plan with utility companies. In addition to maintaining the City's Tree City USA status he created Malden's first ever tree planting and protection guideline book.

Chris received a record number of nominations for the Tree Warden of the Year award. Here is just a small sample of what the people of Malden had to say about their tree warden:

Chris goes above and beyond for our city. He has implemented many new and exciting ideas such as an orchard in our cemetery. I have lived in Malden for almost 60 years, I don't remember having so many trees planted in one year as this past year under Chris' supervision. – Mary Beth Leon

Chris Rosa has been instrumental in securing arboretum status at the Forestdale Cemetery in Malden. He has undertaken planting a small orchard there as well. This has greatly improved one of our hidden jewels for all to enjoy. He has worked tirelessly to not only plant many species of trees throughout our city but to involve many people young and old in this endeavor... – Kathleen MacDonald

Chris takes great pride in not only saving trees but recommending correct trees to be planted. With so many heat islands we need more awareness of the destruction of mature trees and planting trees to provide shade, homes, and good food sources for many wildlife species... -Linda Amato

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. The position of tree warden is a municipal one, mandated under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, with the charge to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

For more information about the position of tree warden and about the association, visit www.masstreewardens.org.

The association plans to hold a commemorative tree planting in the City of Malden to honor Chris Rosa's award. Details will be posted on www.masstreewardens.org.