



# Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

*Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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## **Alexander Sherman, City of Springfield, Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year**

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association presented the 21st annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Alexander Sherman, City Forester of the City of Springfield Massachusetts. President Arthur Goodhind presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Sherman at the association's 109th annual meeting and conference on January 11, 2022.

Alexander Sherman serves as the City Forester for the City of Springfield Massachusetts and manages the City's extensive street tree population, as well as, trees located on over three thousand acres of parks and all other public trees within the community. Mr. Sherman began his career with the City of Springfield as the Assistant City Forester in 2011 and became the City Forester in 2018. Mr. Sherman has built upon a long tradition of urban forestry in the City of Springfield and has worked to continually improve the Forestry Division over his ten-year career with the City. Mr. Sherman is valued for his 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for the Forestry Division and his focus on building a team of professional arborists to care for Springfield's trees. Mr. Sherman utilizes the latest urban forestry concepts, techniques, and technology to manage a safe and healthy urban forest and is always looking to learn more by attending industry events and participating in cutting edge research projects.

Mr. Sherman began his forestry career with a forestry internship during his senior year of high school with a state lands forester in his native Rhode Island. He then earned a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire in forest science with a focus on forest ecology. After working for a consulting forester managing woodlands in New Hampshire, Mr. Sherman moved west and was introduced to Urban Forestry with a position with the City of Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. Sherman then returned to New England and became a full time tree climber and arborist for a private tree care company in central Vermont. During this time Mr. Sherman received a professional certificate in GIS from the Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Sherman then received a Master of Science in Urban Forestry from UMass Amherst and began working for the City of Springfield. He also served as President of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association in 2018 and 2019 and continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

During his time with the City of Springfield Mr. Sherman has managed several severe weather events including assisting the City and FEMA with the EF3 tornado and the early October snow storm in 2011. Since that time Mr. Sherman helped to oversee over \$3 million in tree planting efforts throughout the City. Since becoming the City Forester, Mr. Sherman has received \$4 million in grant funding to plant trees, improve the City's municipal tree nursery, and build a state-of-the art, resilient Forestry Operations Center to house the division for decades to come. In addition to his day to day responsibilities Mr. Sherman has continued to improve his professional knowledge by participating in several research projects conducted by the US Forest Service, the University of Massachusetts, Yale University, and Harvard University. Mr. Sherman's participation in these projects brings world class researchers to western Massachusetts and showcases the Springfield Forestry Division as a leader in Urban and Community Forestry. Alexander Sherman is most deserving of the Seth H. Swift Award and continues to set the standard for community service.

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.

The Tree Warden of the Year award was created in 2002 to honor the late Seth H. Swift, a longtime tree warden for West Springfield and an active member of the association. For more information about the position of tree warden and about the association, visit [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

The association plans to hold a commemorative tree planting in the City of Springfield in honor of Mr. Sherman's award. Details will be posted on [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).