

FAQS: THE 2013 TREE WARDEN EXCHANGE PROGRAM



What Is the Tree Warden Exchange Program?

MTWFA is offering an exchange program for municipal arborists located within Massachusetts. Each participant will spend 1-2 days visiting and working with another town or city forestry department. Professional exchanges will take place this fall, 2013.

An exchange may be one-way or two-way. "One-way exchange" means that a selected participant will visit the tree warden in one of three host communities that have already been identified and approved by MTWFA. "Two-way exchange" means that paired participants take turns, each hosting the other in their respective communities. A two-way exchange is preferred. If necessary, MTWFA and contributing sponsors will fund gas and lodging.

Why Sponsor an Exchange Program?

The program creates a way for tree wardens to exchange urban forestry expertise, management ideas and technology through personal contact and on-site experience. What better way to find out how other forestry practitioners operate than to spend time with each other? We have much to learn from other programs in our state, and we each have much to offer. The program will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and will help foster a growing network of tree wardens.

Who Can Apply?

A candidate must be a member of MTWFA. One can apply for the exchange immediately upon joining the association. A candidate must be employed in a municipality, within the urban forestry profession and preferably as a tree warden, for at least two years.

How Will Selections Be Made?

Two-way exchange pairings will be made by our selection committee on a "best match" basis. The number of participants will depend on available funding. Selected participants will most likely be from cities of similar size. Ideally, each forestry program will have or do something that the other can learn from - a unique or exemplary program, site condition, problem, etc. The selection committee will consider if an applicant wishes to have an exchange with someone from a preferred city.

What Is Required From Selected Participants?

Participants will spend 1-2 days with the host city's forestry department or tree warden. Each participant will be required to write an article for the MTWFA newsletter, the BARK, about what he or she learned and experienced.

When Is the Deadline?

All applications must be submitted by **August 30, 2013**. Awardees will be notified by September 15, 2013. The timeframe for the exchanges will be determined by the participants, with assistance from MTWFA program coordinators.

How Do I Apply?

- Download the fillable application form from our website, www.masstreewardens.org or call 781-894-4759 to request that it be emailed to you.
- Complete all questions, with none omitted.
- Save your completed application to your desktop.
- Submit your completed application
 - via email to mtwfa@comcast.net, OR
 - via snail mail to MTWFA

P.O. Box 326
South Hadley, MA 01075

QUESTIONS? Phone: 781-894-4759 | Email: mtwfa@comcast.net