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# **New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill Receives \$70k for Worcester Tree Planting**

## *State grants \$800k+ for Greening the Gateway Cities Program*

(August 31, 2022 - Boylston, MA) [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#) announced today that it has received a \$70,559 grant from the Commonwealth's [Greening the Gateway Cities](#) Program to conduct outreach to residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations in the Main South, Grafton Hill, and Bell Hill neighborhoods in Worcester and plant 100 trees.

[The Baker-Polito Administration announced](#) \$825,703 in grants to support tree plantings in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts. Grantees include five municipalities and two non-profit organizations, of which New England Botanic Garden is one.

The Greening the Gateway City Project is a partnership between the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), along with Gateway Cities and local grassroots organizations.

Greening the Gateway Cities harnesses the power of trees to reduce energy use, reduce flooding from stormwater runoff, and improve the quality of life in cities. Trees also cool neighborhoods and reduce the "urban heat island" effect, a dangerous consequence of large amounts of pavement. Greening the Gateway Cities focuses on planting trees within Environmental Justice neighborhoods that are often under-resourced and have the least tree canopy.

"These funds represent an incredibly important opportunity to improve the health and climate resiliency of neighborhoods in real need of tree canopy and the many benefits trees provide," says Grace Elton, CEO of New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. "We're proud to be selected as a grantee by the Baker-Polito Administration, and we look forward to working with our partners in the Worcester community to get more trees established in the year ahead."

In addition to planting trees, New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill engages in a variety of community greening efforts that address issues of environmental justice and put plant-based solutions to climate change into action. In Worcester, these efforts include watering street trees,

establishing sidewalk planters, beautifying medians with pollinator-friendly plants, and working with residents and partners to steward plants in urban spaces. Over the last year, the Garden helped maintain over 400 newly planted trees in the City of Worcester.

“Since taking office, we have invested over \$25 million to support the Greening the Gateway Cities Program and have planted nearly 35,000 trees across the Commonwealth, which provide tremendous benefits to our communities, such as improving air quality and lowering energy consumption,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are pleased to provide this important funding to assist our partners as we work together to plant and care for trees within cities and towns throughout the state.”

The GGCP Implementation Grant awards will facilitate tree planting in seven municipalities and augment tree planting that the DCR is actively pursuing within designated planting zones. In addition to New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, grantees include the Cities of Chelsea, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, and Taunton, and the nonprofit organization Groundwork Lawrence.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Liz Nye, at: [lnye@nebg.org](mailto:lnye@nebg.org).

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#### **About New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill**

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is a nonprofit organization located at 11 French Drive in Boylston, Massachusetts. A regional destination, we are operated on 171 acres by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, one of the oldest of its kind in the country, and are open to the public for garden viewing, trail walking, activities, private events, classes, weddings, exhibitions, and more. We are an [AAM-accredited](#) museum that includes an irreplaceable collection of plants. We hope to engage you in a life-long passion for growing plants for their ornamental, economic, and ecological value. Learn all about New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill including its history, mission, and its staff, please visit [www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org).