

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CRA Board  
**From:** Fabiola Alikpokou  
**Date:** July 19, 2023  
**Re:** East Cambridge Tree Planting Update

### INTRODUCTION

BXP is engaged in a multi-year process to develop and enhance several parts of Parcel 2 in the MXD District in Kendall Square as part of the Eversource Substation project. As a result of this project work, a significant number of trees have been removed. Therefore, the CRA sought to mitigate the loss of trees by entering into a memorandum of understanding with BXP to receive funds to plant trees in East Cambridge, The Port, and Wellington Harrington neighborhoods. The aforementioned communities were identified as suitable locations due to their proximity to the affected tree locations and the neighborhoods' relative scarcity of trees compared to other areas of Cambridge. This mitigation is in addition to the payment BXP made to the Department of Public Works under the Tree Protection Ordinance.

To lead the community-based tree mitigation effort, the CRA with contracted Green Cambridge in early 2023, after a procurement process. The scope of the contract compels Green Cambridge to research and identify suitable planting areas in the focused neighborhoods, provide tree planting services, and produce a close-out report and tree maintenance plan. Green Cambridge aims to plant a total of at least 128 trees during three planting seasons: Spring 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024.

### GREEN CAMBRIDGE PROGRESS UPDATE: SPRING 2023 PLANTING SEASON

The mitigation initiative commenced in March 2023 with outreach to residents of East Cambridge, the Port, and Wellington Harrington neighborhoods to seek viable private land for planting. Green Cambridge conducted outreach via social media, flyers, tabling, attending community meetings, door knocking, and more. As a result, 14 trees were planted in the first planting season, Spring 2023. During the planting season, the physical tree planting is being conducted by Green Cambridge's Canopy Crew internship program, a paid urban forestry internship for Cambridge High School students aged 16-18.

Green Cambridge is continuing outreach to residents in the focus neighborhoods to garner more viable planting locations for the next planting season in the Fall of 2023. To assist with outreach, Green Cambridge is participating in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program to have students help with engagement. The CRA staff meets with Green Cambridge twice a month to discuss outreach, track tree-planting efforts, and provide support. This effort has been operating out of the Foundry building.