

# Spring 2024 Tree Notes: Storms, Browntail Moth, Little Herbie Clones, & Latchstring Park

By Yarmouth's Tree Warden, Scott Couture

Spring has sprung here in Yarmouth, but not before winter threw a couple of hard-hitting storms at us. The last two storms of winter caused widespread power outages and significant tree and power line damage. I would like to commend our Departments of Public Works and Parks for their quick and thorough response, which continues in earnest during this spring cleanup week. I also observed many instances of neighbors helping neighbors. Yarmouth is a wonderful community to be a part of.

Many of you have noticed significant work being done down at Picnic Point in Royal River Park over the last few weeks. It's a great project headed up by members of the Tree Advisory Committee and our Parks Department staff. They removed a great volume of invasive trees and shrubs during the first stage of the revitalization. Then on April 23rd, over 90 native specimens of trees and shrubs were planted. It was a lot of work and they did a beautiful job.

I am pleased to report that the Browntail Moth population in many areas in Yarmouth has decreased in public properties. We put forth a significant mitigation effort last year concentrating on the Main Street and the Royal River Park areas, and it has paid off. Duncan Tree Service clipped the nests out of the few trees in the park still harboring the pests early in April. These efforts will create a much more comfortable park environment this summer. There are still a few pockets of Browntail Moth in town that we will be treating. Should anyone need more information on this issue, please email me. Please check out the link [for more information on Browntail Moth](#) and how to protect yourself.

Yarmouth Community Services, the Tree Warden, and the Tree Advisory Committee are looking to plant 31 cloned trees from our famous "Herbie" elm this year. We found homes for many of the saplings but are seeking residents who would like to sponsor a new tree. This is a large specimen of tree and must have enough space to grow. It must be planted on town property to include the Right-of-Way space in front of many homes in town. If anyone has a location they would like considered for a sapling or if you would like to foster a different native tree, please fill out the "Plant a Tree" form on our website. [Request a Tree for your Yard link](#)

Our Latchstring Park is in the throes of a considerable revitalization project, as many concerned residents have noticed. The Latchstring Park Task Force raised private funds and worked closely with the Tree Advisory Committee to implement this visionary plan. Most of the planting should be accomplished this summer. We thank you for your patience.

If you have questions or concerns regarding any tree issue in town, please email me, the Town Tree Warden, at [treewarden@yarmouth.me.us](mailto:treewarden@yarmouth.me.us).