



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

DIVISION OF FOREST ENVIRONMENT  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 394  
Providence, RI 02908

Office: 401.222.2445  
Fax: 401.222.2444

December 3, 2018

Greetings!

It is that time of year where each Rhode Island community must begin the process of appointing its Tree Warden.

As you may be aware, one of the responsibilities of my office is to oversee the Tree Warden appointments throughout the state.

I wanted to send out this reminder that to be in accordance with RIGL Sect. 2-14-1 et seq. each city and town must appoint a licensed arborist to serve as a tree warden each year during their **January council meeting**.

*\* Compliance with the Tree Warden Act is required as a matter of law and is necessary for approval of funding urban forestry tree planting grants.*

In 1901, Rhode Island was one of the first states to enact a tree warden statute. This law has served to protect and enhance some of our state's greatest assets for over a century. Healthy trees improve the quality of the air we breathe, produce shade and moderate local temperatures, reduce storm water runoff management costs, increase property values, and reduce energy use for heating and cooling. Tree wardens play an essential role in sustaining healthy urban and community forests by overseeing the custody of public trees as well as contributing to the development of municipal forestry programs and tree planting initiatives. As we carry forward into the future, the role of the Tree Warden will continue to remain crucial – likely even more so than in the past with the arrival of new insects and diseases and the advent of climactic changes that may significantly affect our urban forest resource.

Enclosed you will find the Tree Warden Appointment Form for 2019. The appointed tree warden must be a licensed arborist or must become a licensed arborist within six (6) months of assuming the office of Tree Warden. If your community needs help finding a licensed arborist to serve as Tree Warden, please call the Division of Forest Environment to request a list of licensees.

Please complete the form and return the original to my office by February 1, 2019. Once I have received your selection of the Tree Warden, it will be submitted for approval and the signed original appointment form will be returned to you for your records.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 222-2445 x2056 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Caroline Scanlan

RI DEM Division of Forest Environment  
Coordinator, Urban and Community Forestry Program

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**OFFICIAL TREE WARDEN APPOINTMENT FOR 2019**

According to the provisions of RIGL 2-14 as amended, the Town Council of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ or the Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ did on \_\_\_\_\_ appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to be town or city tree warden, subject to the approval of the Director of the Department of Environmental Management.

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Arborist License # \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town/City Clerk

Please complete this form and return to:  
Caroline Scanlan  
RIDEM Division of Forest Environment  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 394  
Providence, RI 02908

Appointment approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Environmental Management