



Glastonbury Partners in Planting, Inc.

Together we can help make Glastonbury a more beautiful, greener place to live.

American Elm Restoration

Glastonbury's streets were once lined with hundreds of graceful American Elms. During the 1920s and '30s Dutch Elm Disease killed forty million of America's seventy million Elms. Since that time universities and arboreturns have conducted research to develop disease-resistant varieties. Several varieties of disease-resistant Elm are now available.

Work to restore Elms to Glastonbury started in 2002 with Glastonbury Parks and Recreation and the Community Beautification Commission. GPIIP has now taken up this work with the goal of bringing American Elms back to Glastonbury's streetscape.



Every year Glastonbury Partners in Planting partners with the Town to beautify our streets with young, disease-resistant Elm trees from our nursery. As of summer 2009 we have planted 19 Elms throughout Glastonbury. Their locations:

- 1 - McDonald's
- 1 - Glastonbury Foreign Auto
- 1 - Salmon Brook Park
- 1 - Banknorth - Hebron and NLT
- 1 - Rankin Road between The Parma and Coldwell Banker Realty
- 2 - 2146 Main St
- 1 - Welles St - across from Riverfront Park
- 1 - 371 Hubbard St
- 1 - 19 Elm Tree Rd
- 1 - 44 Elm Tree Rd
- 1 - Lotti's Plaza at intersection of New London Tpk. and Quarry Rd.
- 1 - Gideon Welles School
- 1 - 1478 Main St
- 1 - 1062 Main St
- 1 - 1037 Main St
- 1 - 895 Main St - Masonic Hall
- 2 - 875 Main St - South Mill Common median



A Brief History of Elms

A special interest of GPIIP is the restoration of American Elms to our streets and public places. In the 19th and early 20th centuries many towns and cities in the Eastern United States were defined by their streets lined with American Elms. New Haven, for example, got its moniker "the Elm City" for that reason.



Glastonbury Main St. circa 1920 looking South from the corner of Hebron Ave.



In the 1920s Dutch Elm disease appeared in the U.S. from Europe and began killing millions of American Elms. In a few decades the streetscapes in countless Eastern U.S. towns were radically altered by the loss of their graceful, arching Elm trees. Glastonbury Partners in Planting would like to recapture some of that lost beauty and grandeur by restoring American Elms to Glastonbury's streets and public places.

Some of the trees in the Town Tree Nursery are Valley Forge Elms, a cultivar of American Elm. This cultivar is highly resistant to the devastating Dutch Elm disease. Valley Forge is the result of years of horticultural research to produce a disease-resistant Elm which retains the classic look of the American Elm.



Another part of GPIIP's mission is to educate the value of biodiversity among flora. It was the practice of planting only Elms that made the effects of Dutch Elm disease so devastating. Had towns and cities planted Elms along with other trees, the disease would not have spread so easily and any loss of the Elms would not have had such an acute effect on streetscapes. GPIIP has taken this lesson to heart and works to insure diversity of flora in its planting projects.

