

## **Public Education Recommendations**

The Public Education Working Group will extend beyond the official efforts of this Task Force by assisting statewide organizations such as CT DEEP, UConn Extension, CT Urban Forest Council, CT Tree Protective Association, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Tree Wardens Association of CT, Audubon Connecticut, and many local organizations to “get the word out” to the various audiences involved with maintaining the current roadside forest and planting the roadside forest of the future. We would also like to reach out beyond tree, garden and government groups and work with industry to support public-private partnerships.

Private property rights are an important and valued part of lives as citizens in Connecticut and with these rights comes responsibility. This task force believes there is a need to make the general public aware of their role and responsibility in maintaining their property and all the resources available to them. This is why we have made the recommendation that a single resource for landowners for managing their personal property is essential as well as increased funding for municipalities to play catch-up on their roadside forest management, which has been severely neglected for many decades.

In Appendix 5, we include two draft brochures, still works in progress, which could advance a broader appreciation of the roadside forest and shared stewardship for all landowners.

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