

## **General Recommendations**

The Task Force suggests the following recommendations:

- *Need Resources for Best Information on Roadside Forest Management:* A recognized “go to” resource for all landowners with questions about tree management within the roadside forest is sorely needed. CT DEEP, UConn Extension, and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station serve as resources for landowners and businesses with tree questions; however, all three have been under-resourced for many years. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is a critical resource for conducting, collecting, and disseminating relevant tree-related research. The roles of these three state entities need to be better defined, strengthened and coordinated in way that provides landowners and others the information they need regarding the roadside forest.
- *Need Increased Municipal Involvement in Roadside Forest Management:* Municipalities are responsible for the “care and control” of the vast majority of trees alongside Connecticut's roads, yet most municipalities are unable to commit to managing street trees to the extent needed: 1) tree wardens need to be certified through a process that demonstrates that they have qualifications necessary for the position, and 2) funding needs to be made available so that municipalities are able to provide the required level of management for their roadside forests.
- *Transition from Reactive to Proactive Roadside Forest Management:* The state needs to step-up tree removals, as we transition from a reactive to proactive approach to roadside forest management. The public needs to be educated as to why there is a need for these tree removals at the same time every effort is made to keep this process of tree removal at a level that is appropriate to the problem, is intelligent in approach, and is effective over the long term.
- *More Proactive Emergency Management:* More proactive communication between FEMA, CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), CT Department of Transportation, and tree experts will help ensure that tree care standards are not sacrificed for post-storm expediency, and that future storm risks are minimized appropriately.
- *Understand that Right Tree Right Place Includes Both Small and Large Trees:* 'Right Tree, Right Place' is an important concept, as it captures the need for trees to be planted in places where they are appropriate (i.e., size, form, growth requirements and other features). This means small trees in the vicinity of utility wires, but it also means large trees where the site is appropriate, for all of the personal, social, and environmental advantages associated with both small and large trees.