



### **Replacement of Trees and Woody Shrubs**

Trees and woody shrubs are an important part of the overall interpretation of a historic site and should be considered part of the living collection at Historic New England. Historic New England recognizes the importance of replacing trees in its landscape but the inappropriate replacement of trees and woody shrubs can hurt the interpretation of the site.

### **Guidelines for the Replacement of Trees and Woody Shrubs**

- Replacement of trees and woody shrubs should occur only when that tree contributes to the interpretation of the site in conjunction with an approved landscape interpretation plan.
- If the species of the tree or woody shrub is still commonly available and the tree by itself is not of high cultural or site significance then a modern replacement can be used.
- Replacement of a system, such as an allee, can be devastating to a historic landscape. A transition plan should be developed to minimize the impact of the demise of the system.
- Specimen trees or woody shrubs or otherwise interpretively significant trees and woody shrubs should be replaced by propagation including seeds, cuttings, grafting or other methods.
  - Specimen tree or woody shrub replacement should be planned for five to ten years in advance of its actual passing. This should provide ample time to propagate a replacement of the specimen for planting upon its actual demise.
- Planting whips will ultimately generate faster growth and healthier trees than planting larger caliper trees as long as they survive the establishment period.
- All new material should be planted in accordance with the latest industry recommendations.
- Trees should be planted in the same location as the original otherwise “drift” will occur and the tree location will shift with time.
- An aftercare program should be in place to ensure that the new material survives. This includes watering through the establishment of the material, a process that can last several years, but also possible applications of fertilizers, mulching and root collar inspections to ensure proper planting depths and identification of girdling roots.