

The two trees cut down each year are typically on private property, and the owners who make these donations do so because they were already planning to remove them. These Christmas trees in Washington Square and in front of Marble House have been part of a traditional community celebration of the holidays for years.

The Preservation Society manages and cares for over 2,000 trees of a variety of species in our accredited arboretum, which is located on 88 acres of landscape. We also grow trees in our nursery and have been a leading voice in the battle against Beech Leaf Disease. In June we hosted “The Iconic Trees of Newport: Past, Present & Future,” a forum that discussed Newport’s landscape history, the cause and treatment of Beech Leaf Disease and strategies for proactive tree planting.

We are obligated to present these properties with historical accuracy. An exception is made during the holiday season with a tree temporarily placed in the fountain. As part of the landscape design for Marble House, there was never a tree planted directly in front of the house. Much like The Breakers landscape plan, and the plan for all the houses, the design of the landscape is as important as the design of the house.

Bill Tavares