



Tree Health Assessment Report

Argenziano School Playground

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB 25-26

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February 6, 2025

Overview:

This site is a public middle school playground and schoolyard with a small cul-de-sac and parking area. It is adjacent to Lincoln Park, a large, heavily-used public park. It is home to approximately (30) young to mature, deciduous shade and ornamental trees as well as a hedge row of small, evergreen Juniper trees. Any tree work here cannot commence while school is in session.

General Tree Health

Most trees on this site are in good condition due to proper spacing and being planted in beds protecting them from foot traffic. The only exception being a row of upright Junipers planted along the eastern wall of the school building that have limited root zones.

Soil Health

The soil here appeared relatively healthy compared to other parks. Our soil probe was able to fully penetrate most soils throughout the site, likely due to the trees being protected from foot traffic in raised beds or mulch rings. While no distinct horizons were detected, some organic matter was present in the top 2-4 inches, likely due to leaf litter or mulch being able to remain on top of undisturbed beds and thus cycled into the soil. The results of the soil test indicated slightly below-optimum levels of potassium. Corrective measures are not necessary at this time, but we recommend monitoring these levels in the future to ensure it does not get low enough that it may affect plant physiology.

Due to limited root zones and environmental stress we recommend applying a liquid bio-stimulant as a soil amendment to the row of Junipers located on the eastern side of the school building. These trees are labeled as 41824-41751 on the Tree ID Map. This liquid blend of humic acids, kelp extract and natural compounds will enhance soil structure, microbial activity and nutrient availability to these stressed trees. See photo below.



Juniper hedge with limited root zone along eastern wall of the school

Pests and Diseases

There are (4) Paper Birch Trees located throughout this site, labeled as 41423, 41412, 41532, and 41450 on the Tree ID Map. This species in particular is susceptible to the Bronze Birch Borer beetle, especially under urban environmental stress. Because of the proximity of these trees to the public school, systemic pesticide applications are not practical. Therefore, we also recommend applying the above-mentioned bio-stimulant as a soil amendment to increase vitality in these trees, aiding them in defense of any potential infestation. We recommend including the Cherry 41402 that is adjacent to the (2) more western Birches in this soil amendment. See photo.



Paper Birches 41423 and 41412 and Cherry Tree 41402 grouping

Other Corrections of Adverse Conditions

None noted at time of report.

Removal Needs

None noted at time of report. Our level 1 TRAQ assessment of all trees on this site results in a “low” risk rating.

Pruning Needs

The main pruning focus on this site includes pruning to remove deadwood in all deciduous shade and ornamental trees and to provide clearance from buildings, structures, and sidewalks as detailed in the spreadsheet. In addition to these specs, we also recommend removing some sprouts and crossing interior limbs from the (3) Crabapples located in the northwest portion of the site along Washington Street. Also of note, there is a London Planetree 41754 located in the southeast corner of the property that we recommend pruning to remove deadwood, to raise off of a fence and driveway, and also to fix stubs left from previous work.

2025 Priorities:

- Pruning: Canopy cleaning and clearance in deciduous shade trees
- Organic Bio-stimulant to Birches and Junipers

5-10 Year Priorities:

- Bio-stimulant and soil conditioning on an annual basis
- Maintenance pruning on 3-5 year cycle
- Monitor Potassium levels in soil



Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

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February 8, 2025
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Job Site: 31
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Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/26/2024

Description of Services

- Work Plan for Argenziano Schoolyard and Playground Pruning/Plant healthcare April 22 2025.

All Work will be performed during School vacation week of April 22-25, 2025. Playground/Schoolyard will need to be closed from 7AM- 4PM for 1 business day for the pruning work April 22. We will post permits and arrange for sidewalk closing and police detail as needed on public streets. Equipment access will be limited to sidewalk /street. Trees within park will all be accessed by climbers if nor reachable from the street. No equipment will drive on the playing surface. No material/equipment/debris will be staged overnight.

- Pruning on Young-Mature deciduous shade trees throughout the park. Individual tree specs listed on the attached spreadsheet.

Structural Pruning - Selective pruning to improve branch architecture; select, develop and maintain strong, properly spaced scaffold branches by reducing or removing interfering, overextended, defective and poorly attached limbs as specified
Canopy Cleaning - Selective pruning to remove declining, dead and broken branches as specified
Canopy Raising - Selective pruning to provide and envelope of clearance of walkways, roadways, utilities, structures, as specified.



This proposal is valid for 45 days, assuming there are no changes to the site (driveway, plantings, buildings etc. remain unchanged).
All work performed in accordance with ANSI A300 Standards.



Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/26/2024

Description of Services

- **Plant Health: Bio-stimulant Application** - Early season. Treat soils within the critical root zone (typically within the dripline) of Paper Birch, Crabapple, Ornamental Cherry on school grounds and row of Juniper by the rear driveway with an organic liquid blend of humic acids, kelp extract and natural compounds to enhance soil structure, microbial activity and nutrient availability.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- **Debris Disposal:** Costs include removal and disposal of brush, logs and chipped debris generated from tree care operations.

[Redacted]

Thank you for considering Barrett Tree Service East, Inc. Sincerely,

Alden Johnson
Certified Arborist



This proposal is valid for 45 days, assuming there are no changes to the site (driveway, plantings, buildings etc. remain unchanged). All work performed in accordance with ANSI A300 Standards.

[Redacted]



Argenziano Schoolyard Tree List

Site ID	Species	DBH	Recommendations	Condition - Overall	TRAQ-Risk	Pruning	PHC
41395	stump (Stump)		6 gone	N/A	N/A		
41402	cherry: black (Prunus serotina)	3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1", reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape. Biostim	Good	Low		
41433	crabapple: flowering (Malus spp.)	2	Prune to remove deadwood, reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape, thin watersprouts, crossing interior branches.	Good	Low		
41441	crabapple: flowering (Malus spp.)	3.5	Prune to remove deadwood, reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape, thin watersprouts, crossing interior branches.	Good	Low		
41453	crabapple: flowering (Malus spp.)	3.9	Prune to remove deadwood, reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape, thin watersprouts, crossing interior branches.	Good	Low		
41464	cherry/plum: spp. (Prunus spp.)	5.3	Prune to remove deadwood, reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape.	Good	Low		
41474	cherry/plum: spp. (Prunus spp.)	6.4	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1", reduce spread 2-4' to contain within landscape.	Good	Low		
41532	birch: paper (Betula papyrifera)	5.9	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2" Raise to provide 2-4' from buildings, lights. Biostim	Fair	Low		
41412	birch: paper (Betula papyrifera)	4.6	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2" Raise to provide 2-4' from buildings, lights. Biostim	Fair	Low		
41423	birch: paper (Betula papyrifera)	3.5	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2" Raise to provide 2-4' from buildings, lights. Biostim	Fair	Low		
41426	Honeylocust: thornless (Gleditsia)	7.6	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1"	Good	Low		
41434	Honeylocust: thornless (Gleditsia)	7.1	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1"	Good	Low		
41442	Honeylocust: thornless (Gleditsia)	7	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1"	Good	Low		
41450	birch: paper (Betula papyrifera)	4.4	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2" Raise to provide 2-4' from buildings, lights. Biostim	Good	Low		
41460	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	8.3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41470	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	8.3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41481	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	6.7	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41491	juniper: spp. (Juniperus spp.)	3.7	none	Fair	Low		
41500	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	7.3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41511	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	7.4	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41520	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	6.5	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from building	Good	Low		
41746	juniper: spp. (Juniperus spp.)	3.4	Biostim	Fair	Low		
41751	juniper: spp. (Juniperus spp.)	3.3	Biostim	Fair	Low		
41754	planetree: London (Platanus x acerifolia)	10.1	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2". Raise to provide 2-4' from fence, 8-10' over driveway. Fix stubs.	Fair	Low		
41759	mulberry: white (Morus alba)	3	gone	Fair	Low		
41824	juniper: spp. (Juniperus spp.)	4.3	Biostim	Fair	Low		

Argenziano Schoolyard Tree List

juniper: spp.								
41836	(Juniperus spp.)	3.5	Biostim	Fair	Low			
41840	stump (Stump)	4	not found	N/A	N/A			
41853	stump (Stump)	5	not found	N/A	N/A			
juniper: spp.								
41866	(Juniperus spp.)	4.2	Biostim	Fair	Low			
juniper: spp.								
41879	(Juniperus spp.)	3.3	Biostim	Fair	Low			
juniper: spp.								
41892	(Juniperus spp.)	3.6	Biostim	Fair	Low			
juniper: spp.								
41902	(Juniperus spp.)	3.2	Biostim	Fair	Low			
juniper: spp.								
41911	(Juniperus spp.)	3.5	Biostim	Fair	Low			

Argenziano School Playground Tree Map

