



Tree Health Assessment Report
Corbett-McKenna Playground

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB 25-26

Prepared by Robbie Barwick, MCA, ISA

Alden Johnson, MCA, ISA, TRAQ

Jan 21, 2025

Overview:

Corbett-Mckenna Park is a small, recreational park with a basketball court, playground, and benches. Within the property, there are (8) young to mature-aged deciduous shade and ornamental trees, including 4 Lindens, 2 Zelcovas, and 2 Cherry Trees.

General Tree Health

Despite the Lindens and Zelcovas having limited root zones, being planted in tree pits, these trees are in fair health given their urban environment. We noted that Linden #42639 pictured below, located on the eastern border near Munroe Street, is exhibiting slightly stunted growth relative to the other Lindens and has more weeds growing around the base coming up through the metal grate. All four Lindens have metal grates around their trunks. Limited root area and reflected heat are likely the main stressors in this park.



Linden #42639

Soil Health

All of the trees, except for the two Cherries, are planted in tree pits. Despite the protection of the grates around the Lindens, soil under the Lindens and Zelcovas is relatively compacted. Where we could access the soil through the grates and under the Zelcovas, the soil-sample probe only penetrated 3-4 inches into the ground. The soil here is typical urban soil with a dark gray, sandy appearance. However, the soil around the two Cherries (#42589 and #42599) located in the northern border near Prospect Hill Pkwy, is much less compacted being located in a planting bed with no foot traffic. The soil under the Cherries has a good amount of organic matter due to fallen leaves being left over the root zones. No odor was detected in any of these soils. Soil test results indicated relatively low levels of Calcium and elevated levels of Zinc and Iron. No corrective measures are necessary at this time, but monitoring these levels in the future is prudent.

Pests and Diseases

None were noted at the time of the report. Of note though, Lindens are prone to aphid feeding during the growing season which has the potential to produce sooty mold on playground structures and subsequently bring in stinging insects.

Other Corrections of Adverse Conditions

All trees in the park were issued a “low” risk rating based on a Level 1 TRAQ assessment. It should be noted that the roots of Linden #42622 located near the southern border have started to raise the metal grate creating a potential tripping hazard. We recommend removing these grates for access to the root zone so soil health can be addressed through root crown examination, mulching and soil amendments.



Linden #42622 raising grate

Removal Needs

No removal recommendations at this time.

Pruning Needs

We recommend pruning all trees to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches in all trees. The Zelcova # 42632 located near the southeastern border has an exposed girdling root that we recommend pruning out. See photo below.



Zelcova #42632 with exposed girdling root

2025 Priorities:

- Pruning: Canopy cleaning and raising. Root pruning one Zelcova
- Removing grates to address soil health

5-10 Year Priorities:

- After grates are removed: eliminate weeds, address compaction, put mulch or weed barrier down
- Due to limited space and lack of significant organic matter in most of these soils, we recommend applying an organic bio-stimulant as a soil amendment to enhance soil structure, microbial activity and nutrient availability after grates are removed.



Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

Malik Drayton
City of Somerville
1 Franey Rd
Somerville, MA 02143

Home:
Mobile:
Office: 617-625-6600
e-mail: Cmiller@Somervillema.gov
Alt e-mail: Jhoward@somervillema.gov

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Job Site: 28
Malik Drayton
IFB 25-26 Somerville Parks Tree Health
Program
Corbett McKenna park
42 Munroe St
Somerville, MA 02143

Phone:
Email:
Alt Phone:

Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/18/2024

Description of Services

- Work Plan for Corbett McKenna Park Pruning March 19 2025.

Park will need to be closed from 7AM- 4PM for 1 business day for the pruning awork. 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.

- 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.

Payment due upon completion of work. 1 ½% per month, 18% per year on unpaid balances.



Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/18/2024

Description of Services

- 18" Zelcova on left side of park (#42632):
Prune to Sever/remove section of girdling surface root

[Redacted]

- Post No Parking signs: [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]



Corbett McKenna Park List

Site ID	Species	DBH	Recommendations	Condition - Overall	TRAQ-Risk Rating	Cost
42622	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	12.5	Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42632	zelkova: Japanese (Zelkova serrata)	18	Root pruning. Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42636	zelkova: Japanese (Zelkova serrata)	16.5	Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42639	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	8.1	Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42640	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	10.1	Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42589	cherry/plum: spp. (Prunus spp.)	9.9	Prune to raise 8-10' off sidewalk, 14' off the street ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to fix stubs and breaks, dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Good	Low	
42599	cherry/plum: spp. (Prunus spp.)	10.3	Prune to raise 8-10' off sidewalk, 14' off the street ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to fix stubs and breaks, dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
42611	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	12.5	Prune to raise 8-10' off ground, 4-6' off play structures, lights, fences. Prune to remove dead, diseased, broken branches greater than 1.5" in diameter, crossing and rubbing branches	Fair	Low	
	permits					



Corbett-McKenna Park

