



Tree Health Assessment Report

Lou Ann David Park

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB 25-26

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February 13, 2025

Overview:

Lou Ann David Park is a medium-sized, passive park that is adjacent to basketball courts and a privately-owned public space. There are approximately (17) deciduous shade trees here, consisting mostly of establishing Tulip Trees and (8) mature Lindens. In addition, it also contains a newly-planted grouping of (9) Gingko Trees located in the center rear of the park.

General Tree Health

The mature Lindens on this site have been subject to construction activity, including grade changes and likely compaction from construction vehicles/equipment. They are showing signs of stress including approximately 10-20% dieback in the canopy. They are also encroaching into nearby buildings and structures. With the exception of one problematic Boxelder Maple, the remaining trees are in relatively good health and are in need of pruning to improve their structure for future success.



Linden canopy exhibiting dieback likely due to stress from construction

Soil Health

The soils sampled here were dark gray, mostly sandy soils characteristic of urban environments. Moderate compaction was evident in some of our sampling sites, likely due to the foot traffic in this park, garden beds had very little compaction and more organic matter. No odor was detected in any of these soils. The results from a laboratory soil test show no significant deficiencies or anomalies in nutrients or pH.

We recommend applying an organic biostimulant as a soil amendment to the root zone of most trees in this park: the (7) construction-damaged Lindens located in the eastern portion of the park (Note: we cannot apply biostimulant to Linden 202820 located on the northern border near Broadway because there is Poured-in-Place surrounding it's trunk.), the Tulip Trees receiving a structural prune, and the newly planted trees including the Gingko grouping located in the southern portion of the park and (1) Oak 202824 located in the southeast corner of the park. This soil amendment consists of a blend of humic acids, kelp extract, and natural compounds that will aid in enhancing soil structure, nutrient availability, and vitality for these stressed and/or establishing trees.

Pests and Diseases

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

Other Corrections of Adverse Conditions

None noted at time of report.

Removal Needs

There is a triple-leader Boxelder Maple 202823 (approximately 26" total DBH) located in the northwest corner of the park that has been growing into the fence surrounding a utility unit. It is showing poor structure and significant decay in the trunk as evidenced in photos below.

Therefore, we recommend removing this tree down to the trunk. We will not be able to stump grind this tree due to its proximity to the fence and multiple pieces of metal already present throughout the trunk. Thus, it will likely sprout and require maintenance-pruning in the future to keep the sprouts at bay.



Boxelder Maple 202823 with poor structure growing into fence

Pruning Needs

For all (8) Lindens located in the eastern portion of the park, we recommend canopy-cleaning, and pruning to provide clearance from park pathways and the neighboring building. For all (7) Tulip Trees scattered throughout the park, we recommend pruning to improve structure, provide clearance from buildings, and canopy-raising to lessen interference with pedestrians. Of note, Tulip Tree 202843, pictured below, located near the eastern border close to Broadway has codominant stems and needs extra structural attention.



Tulip Tree 202843 with codominant stems

2025 Priorities:

- Pruning: Canopy cleaning, raising, clearance.
- Pruning for structure on Tulip Trees
- Removing Boxelder Maple
- Biostimulant to stressed Lindens and recently-planted trees

5-10 Year Priorities:

- Maintenance pruning to contain sprouts from Boxelder stump
- Replacement plantings to provide shade to utility structure after Boxelder removal
- Pruning all trees on a 3-5 year pruning cycle,
- Annual soil treatments on construction-stressed trees.



Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

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Job Site: 38
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Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 2/13/2025

Description of Services

- Work Plan for Lou Ann David Park Pruning March 25-26, 2025.

Park/Pathways will need to be closed from 7AM- 4PM for 2 business day on March 25-26 for the pruning and removal work. We will post permits and arrange for sidewalk closing and police detail as needed on public streets. Truck access will be limited to sidewalk /street. Trees within park will all be accessed by climbers or a mobile lift on weight dispersal padding. 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 2/13/2025

Description of Services

- **Multistem Boxelder (#202823) 26" total diameter growing into and over the utility box:** [REDACTED]

Tree Removal - Take down and cut stump low to grade as equipment allows, dispose of brush, logs and chipped debris generated from removal operations. Note: per discussion w project manager this stump cannot be ground due to proximity to fence and utility. We will cut as low as able.

[REDACTED]

- **Bio-stimulant Application** - Early season. Treat soils within the critical root zone (typically within the dripline) of select trees detailed in park list with an organic liquid blend of humic acids, kelp extract and natural compounds to enhance soil structure, microbial activity and nutrient availability. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Post No Parking signs** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Total: [REDACTED]

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

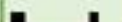
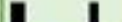
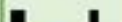
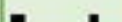
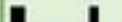
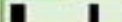
Alden Johnson
Certified Arborist



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



Lou Ann David Park Tree List

Site ID	Species	DBH (in)	Recommendations	Condition	TRAQ	Pruning	PHC
202820	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	15.88	Some dieback in crown. Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", declining tips, raise 10-10' of walkway and park area.	Fair	Low		
202821	Linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	14.74	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 8-10' of walkway and park area, 3-4' off signs, wires. Reduce spread and leverage on main union through a series of (6-10) 2-3" weight reduction cuts. Biostim	Fair	low		
202822	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.56	Biostim	good	low		
202823	Boxelder (Acer negundo)	multistem total 26"	Remove. Growing through the fence, over utilities	poor	moderate		
202824	oak: bur (Quercus macrocarpa)	2.08	Biostim	good	low		
202825	Ginkgo	1.61	Biostim	N/A	low		
202826	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.67	Biostim	good	Low		
202828	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.8	Biostim	good	low		
202829	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	4.82	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	good	low		
202830	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	2.05	Biostim	good	low		
202831	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.91	Biostim	good	low		
202832	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	3.87	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	good	low		
202833	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	3.17	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	good	low		
202834	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.08	Biostim	good	low		
202836	ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)	1.81	Biostim	good	low		
202837	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	4.93	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	good	low		
202838	Ginkgo	1.62	Biostim	good	low		

Lou Ann David Park Tree List

202839	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	12.16	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 8-10' off the building, 10-12' of walkway and park area. Biostim	Good	low	
202840	Yew (Taxus)	6.66	Prune to contain 1-2' all around.	good	low	
202841	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	14.19	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 10-10' of walkway and park area. Biostim	Good	low	
202842	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	2.33	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	Good	low	
202843	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	5.1	competing leader raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. (co-dominant stems) biostim	Good	low	
202844	tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)	4.85	Prune to improve structure, raise low non-permanent branches to encourage a higher canopy tree. biostim	Good	low	
202845	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	11.85	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 8-10' off the building, 10-12' of walkway and park area. Biostim	Good	low	
202846	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	13.67	than 2", raise 8-10' of walkway and park area, 3-4' off lightpost. Remove crossing, redundant interior growth) Biostim	Good	low	
202827	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	17.5	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 8-10' of walkway and park area. Remove crossing, redundant interior growth) Biostim	Good	low	
202835	linden: littleleaf (Tilia cordata)	18.82	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", raise 8-10' of walkway and park area. Remove crossing, redundant interior growth) Biostim	Good	low	

Lou Ann David Park Tree Map

