



Tree Health Assessment Report
Quincy Street Park

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB 25-26

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Jan 10, 2025

Overview:

Quincy Street Park is a small, neighborhood park with boardwalk pathways and several sitting areas. It is home to (6) medium to large sized Sycamore Maples and (1) Norway Maple that will require maintenance until they can eventually be phased out for more desirable species. It also houses several smaller ornamental shade trees that are establishing themselves to be the future predominant canopy cover in this park, including Blackgums, Sweetgums, a European Hornbeam, and Kousa Dogwood. Note: there are (2) young *Sophora japonicum* and (1) young Hackberry in the Norwest corner of the park that are not included in the tree inventory and thus outside the scope of this report.

General Tree Health

The (6) Sycamore Maples and (1) Norway Maple are all in poor to fair condition due to extensive stem cankering and lack of maintenance for structure. The other remaining trees are mostly young-establishing trees in fair to good condition and should fare well here due to the presence of boardwalks lessening traffic/compaction and leaf litter being allowed to remain over the root zones of the trees.

Soil Health

There was limited soil compaction here likely because of the presence of boardwalks. It would benefit the trees greatly if the boardwalks were maintained to encourage visitors to stay on them. We could submerge the soil-sample probe into the ground fully under most trees. Due to the presence of undisturbed leaf litter left over the soil throughout most of the park, soil amendments are a lower priority as some of this organic matter will be cycled into the soil. No odor was detected the soil.

The Soil Test results show calcium levels in these soils to be significantly above optimum, which could potentially affect soil pH or some nutrient availability. We recommend monitoring in the future and not adding any additional calcium, such as limestone, to the soil until testing indicates it's necessary. “

Finally, the lead level value from the soil test shows a level significantly higher than the upper “optimum range” value of 22ppm. (Please see attached Soil Report) The test results showed a lead value of 62.2ppm in Quincy St. Park, a value much higher than other Somerville sites we’ve sampled. UMass Extension’s comment on this reads, “The lead in this soil is elevated. It is recommended that soils with elevated levels of extractable lead (greater than 22 ppm) be tested for Total Sorbed Lead.” We recommend further testing for Total Sorbed Lead to determine risks associated with potential “environmentally available” lead in the park.

Pests and Diseases

The Sycamore and Norway Maples here have potentially compromising stem cankers that are common on these species, usually from fungal or bacterial infections. No treatment is recommended, but we will prune these trees to reduce leverage on the cankered main stems.

Other Corrections of Adverse Conditions

We recommend removing and disposing of a paper wasp nest in the Kousa Dogwood 41050 (misidentified as a Cornelian Cherry Dogwood in the inventory).



Wasp nest in Kousa Dogwood 41050

Removal Needs

All trees in the park that were listed on the inventory were issued a “low” to “moderate” risk rating based on a Level 1 TRAQ assessment and do not require removal at this time. However, there are approximately a half dozen invasive volunteers along the southern border, including Sycamore Maples, one Mulberry, and one Elm growing out of the fence. We recommend removing these trees by cutting them as close to ground level as possible so that they do not continue to grow and interfere with desirable, planted species.



Invasive volunteers along southern fence

Pruning Needs

We recommend pruning all medium-sized, establishing deciduous trees here to remove deadwood and to improve structure. We also recommend pruning the remaining, larger Sycamore Maples and Norway Maple to remove deadwood, to reduce leverage on cankered main stems,

and to raise 10-14' from the ground so that the younger, planted trees below can receive sunlight and space to grow. See photo below.



Larger Sycamore Maples potentially shading out smaller, planted trees below

2025 Priorities:

- Pruning: Canopy cleaning, raising, structure pruning
- Removing volunteers on Southern border
- Removing wasp nest in Kousa Dogwood
- Fixing boardwalk to lessen traffic over root zones
- Test for Total Sorbed Lead

5-10 Year Priorities:

- Removing Sycamore and Norway Maples to replant more desirable species
- Improving soil health by maintaining boardwalk and maintaining mulch rings around establishing trees, especially near the front of the park near Quincy St.
- Monitor soil Calcium/nutrient levels



Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

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January 22, 2025
Proposal #: 85602

Job Site: 32
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Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/26/2024

Description of Services

- Work Plan for Quincy Street Park Pruning March 20, 2025.

Park will need to be closed from 7AM- 4PM for 1 business day on March 20 for the pruning 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, staying off the raised pathways. 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 12/26/2024

Description of Services

- Remove (7) volunteer Norway maple and Elm volunteers Growing through the fence along left property line. Cut as low as able. (scheduled as skilled arborist labor)

[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] Total: [Redacted]

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

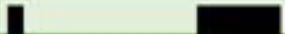
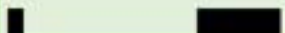
Alden Johnson
Certified Arborist



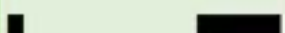
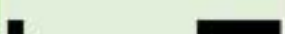
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Quincy Park Tree List

Site ID	Species	DBH	Recommendations	Condition	TRAQ	Pruning Cost
41036	hornbeam : European (Carpinus betulus)	2.3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Good	Low	
41050	dogwood: cornelianc herry (Cornus mas)	1.8	Different species: Cornus kousa. Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, reduce to contain spread 1-3'. Remove and dispose of paper wasp nest.	Good	Low	
41062	mulberry: white (Morus alba)	1	not found	Fair	Low	
41073	blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)	3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Fair	Low	
41088	sweetgum : American (Liquidam bar styraciflua)	3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Good	Low	
41095	blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica)	3.5	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Good	Low	

Quincy Park Tree List

41105	juniper: spp. (Juniperus spp.)	1.4	None	Good	Low	
41115	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	13.7	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Poor	Moderate	
41124	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	12	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Fair	Moderate	
41132	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	12	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Fair	Moderate	
41140	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	10.2	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Fair	Moderate	
41149	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	13.7	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Fair	Moderate	
41158	maple: Norway (Acer platanoide s)	8.4	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise To provide clearance from building and to provide airflow and line of sight as well as space for new trees	Poor	Low	

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41159	maple: sycamore (Acer pseudopla tanus)	10.5	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 2", reduce leverage on cankered main stems. Raise 10-14' off ground o provide clearance from building and younger planted trees below.	Fair	Moderate	 
41164	sweetgum : American (Liquidam bar styraciflua)	3.3	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Good	Low	 
NA	Misc	1-3"	Remove (7) volunteer Norway maple and Elm volunteers frowing through the fence along left property line.	growing into fence	low	 
41167	sweetgum : American (Liquidam bar styraciflua)	3.7	Prune to remove deadwood greater than 1". Prune to improve structure, raise canopy over time.	Good	Low	    

Quincy Park Map



Soil Test Report

Prepared For:

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Sample Information:

Sample ID: H8898

Order Number: 77651

Lab Number: S241224-105

Area Sampled:

Received: 12/24/2024

Reported: 12/30/2024

Results

Analysis	Value Found	Optimum Range	Analysis	Value Found	Optimum Range
Soil pH (1:1, H ₂ O)	6.9		Cation Exch. Capacity, meq/100g	17.9	
Modified Morgan extractable, ppm			Exch. Acidity, meq/100g	0.2	
Macronutrients			Base Saturation, %		
Phosphorus (P)	10.4	4-14	Calcium Base Saturation	92	50-80
Potassium (K)	103	100-160	Magnesium Base Saturation	5	10-30
Calcium (Ca)	3297	1000-1500	Potassium Base Saturation	1	2.0-7.0
Magnesium (Mg)	113	50-120	Scoop Density, g/cc	1.05	
Sulfur (S)	29.1	>10	Optional tests		
Micronutrients *			Soil Organic Matter (LOI), %	4.8	
Boron (B)	0.4	0.1-0.5			
Manganese (Mn)	7.6	1.1-6.3			
Zinc (Zn)	24.0	1.0-7.6			
Copper (Cu)	0.6	0.3-0.6			
Iron (Fe)	6.8	2.7-9.4			
Aluminum (Al)	40	<75			
Lead (Pb)	62.2	<22			

* Micronutrient deficiencies rarely occur in New England soils; therefore, an Optimum Range has never been defined. Values provided represent the normal range found in soils and are for reference only.

Soil Test Interpretation

Nutrient	Very Low	Low	Optimum	Above Optimum
Phosphorus (P):				
Potassium (K):				
Calcium (Ca):				
Magnesium (Mg):				