



Tree Health Assessment Report
Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB 25-26

Prepared by Robbie Barwick, MCA, ISA

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February 6, 2025

Overview:

Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a burial ground allocated for Somerville armed-forces veterans. Access is restricted and there is not extensive foot traffic on this site. There are (2) small Japanese Maples at the entrance. There is also (1) Flowering Dogwood and (1) Crabapple in the interior of the park. The perimeter of the park consists mostly of Arborvitaes (labeled as Atlantic White-cedars in the inventory) used as a hedge row with approximately (5) mature volunteer deciduous trees growing amongst the hedge and through the fence.

General Tree Health

The interior Japanese Maples, Dogwood, and Crabapple are in fair to good condition and will be the focus of the work proposed here. The perimeter Arborvitaes all appear to be in good condition and successfully employed as a hedgerow screen. These trees were grouped and not inventoried as individual trees, and likewise they are not reported on individually on the attached sheet. The remaining deciduous trees are invasives/volunteers growing through the fence competing with the screening evergreens and are in poor to fair condition because of their location in and amongst the fence and lack of maintenance.



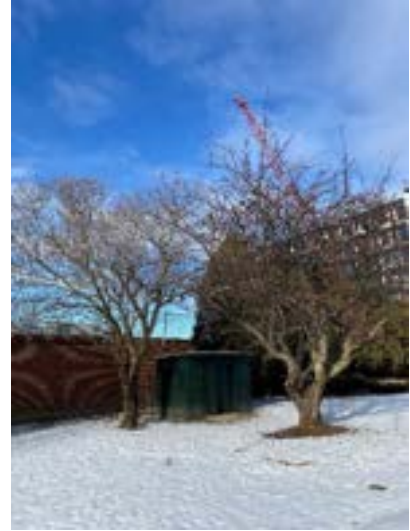
Deciduous trees and Evergreens at the rear, northern border

Soil Health

Soils here are characteristic urban soils. Light to dark gray sandy appearance with little differentiation in color or feel within the top eight inches of earth. Being a low traffic site, the soils seemed less compacted than other public sites in the area, and we could fully submerge our soil sample probe into most sampling spots. The perimeter soils did have a paler, sandier appearance and feel than the interior soils. No odor was detected in any of these soils. Results from a laboratory soil test show relatively low levels of Potassium and Calcium, but not significant enough for corrective measures at this time. We recommend monitoring these macronutrients in the future to ensure they haven't fallen below a critical level.

Pests and Diseases

The Crabapple 40522 located in the southwest portion of the property is very susceptible to common fungal issues including scab and rust. The adjacent Flowering Dogwood 40513 is also susceptible to common fungal issues including anthracnose and powdery mildew. Because a series of prophylactic, foliar sprays are not a practical option here due to restricted access and budgetary concerns, we recommend applying a systemic bark spray of Phosphite to both of these trees to help manage disease infection and increase their natural defense system.



Flowering Dogwood 40513 and Crabapple 40522

Other Corrections of Adverse Conditions



There is an Arborvitae located on the western border in the rear, northwest corner of the property that has chains around its trunk likely meant to correct a lean in this tree. The chain is starting to girdle the trunk of this tree as shown in the photo. We recommend the city remove or adjust the chains on this tree, and for any other corrective material used on the perimeter evergreens.

Arborvitae with chain girdling its trunk

Removal Needs

All trees in the park were issued a “low” risk rating based on a Level 1 TRAQ assessment. No removal recommendations at this time. Consider removing volunteer shade trees growing through the fence as budget allows over the next decade.

Pruning Needs

We recommend pruning both the Crabapple 40522 and Flowering Dogwood 40513 to remove all dead and broken branches, to raise them 3-5' off the small building structure underneath them, and to thin out the canopies for increased airflow and weight reduction. We also recommend pruning the (2) Young Japanese Maples located at the entrance to the site to remove deadwood and to improve structure.

The mature Mulberry 40653 located on the eastern border appears to have extensive low deadwood over the field but we suggest pruning to be a lower priority because there is very little traffic here and no significant targets at the time of this report. We are also recommending that the (3) Norway Maples and (1) Boxelder Maple, all located in the rear northern border, be pruned or removed as part of a 5-10 year goal because they are not part of this year's work plan in terms of scope or budget.

2025 Priorities:

- Pruning: Canopy cleaning and raising Crabapple and Dogwood
- Pruning: Canopy cleaning and improve structure in (2) Japanese Maples
- Systemic bark spray of Phosphite to Crabapple and Dogwood
- Remove chain from arborvitae

5-10 Year Priorities:

- Prune or remove volunteer border Maples and mature Mulberry growing through the fence to contain spread into Evergreen screen
- Prune Arborvitaes to contain spread and raise from the ground as needed.
- Monitor Calcium and Potassium levels



Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

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February 6, 2025
Proposal #: 85603

Job Site: 33
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Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/26/2024

Description of Services

- Work Plan for Veterans Memorial Cemetery March 24, 2025.

Park will need to be closed to the public (and gate open for our crew) from 7AM- 4PM for 1 business day on March 24 for the pruning work. We will post permits and arrange for sidewalk closing and police detail as needed on public streets. Gate must be opened for day to allow access. 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 lawn/grave surfaces.

- Pruning on Young-Mature deciduous ornamental 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

- **Fungal Leaf Disease and Canker Control** - Early season. Apply a systemic fungicide to the lower trunk and flare to help manage disease infection on the 18" Dogwood and 26" Crabapple on the left side of the Cemetery. [REDACTED]

2 x \$350 = \$700.00

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

Deposit Required: [REDACTED] Total: [REDACTED]
Deposit Received: [REDACTED]

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

Alden Johnson
Certified Arborist



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Tree List: Veterans Cemetary

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Site ID	Species	DBH	Recommendations	Condition - Overall	TRAQ-Risk	Cost	PHC cost
2	40513	dogwood; flowering (Cornus florida)	17.2	Prune to remove deadwood 1" and larger. Raise 3-5' off building. Thin to allow more airflow, reduce weight of larger extended limbs. Bark treatment with systemic fungicide to help with fungal disease	good	Low		
3	40522	crabapple: flowering (Malus spp.)	25.9	Extensive deadwood. Prune to remove deadwood 2" and larger. Bark treatment with systemic fungicide to help with fungal disease	Fair	Low		
4	40533	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Fair	Low - 2		
5	40541	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Good	Low - 1		
6	40551	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Fair	Low - 1		
7	40561	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Good	Low - 1		
8	40571	Elm	11.3	removed- update inventory	Dead	Low - 6		
9	40577	Maple: silver	32	removed- update inventory	Dead	Low - 2		
10	40597	maple: Norway (Acer platanoide s)	16.9	See report. nothing at this time.	Good	Low - 2		
11	40607	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Fair	Low - 2		
12	40652	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Good	Low - 2		
13	40653	mulberry: white (Morus alba)	14	See report. nothing at this time.	poor	Low - 3		
14	40654	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Good	Low - 2		
15	40614	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Fair	Low - 2		
16	40638	maple: Norway (Acer platanoide s)	6.1	See report. nothing at this time.	Poor	Low - 2		
17	40649	maple: Norway (Acer platanoide s)	12.2	See report. nothing at this time.	Fair	Low - 3		
18	40650	boxelder (Acer negundo)	32	See report. nothing at this time.	Fair	Low - 3		
19	40651	Thuja spp.	NA	None. Multiple plants.	Good	Low - 1		
20	40494	Japanese Maple	3	Prune to remove deadwood, improve structure	Good	low		
21	40503	Japanese Maple	3	Prune to remove deadwood, improve structure	Good	low		
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Veterans Memorial Cemetery Tree Map

