

ATTACHMENT A

Environment Committee Meeting

Department of Public Works
Parks and Urban Forestry Division
Urban Forestry Program

Thursday, September 30th, 2010

Outline

- Forestry Staff
- Applicable Statute and Ordinance
- Tree Pruning
- Tree Planting
- Tree Removals
- Tree Protection
- Tree Inventory
- Other Responsibilities

Forestry Department Staff

- City Arborist
- Forestry Supervisor
- 2 Working Supervisors
- 2 Tree Climbers
- 3 Forestry Workers

Applicable Statute and Ordinance

- Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87
 - Mandates a Tree Warden for every municipality
 - Explains how trees can be pruned and removed
 - Explains protocol for tree removal hearings
 - Allows Tree Warden to issue fines for damage to City owned trees
- Chapter 8.66 of the Cambridge Municipal Code, Tree Protection
 - Any project of 25,000 square feet or more is required to implement a "Tree Protection Plan" approved by the City Arborist
 - For every caliper inch removed from property, caliper inches must be replanted and/or payment into tree fund must be made

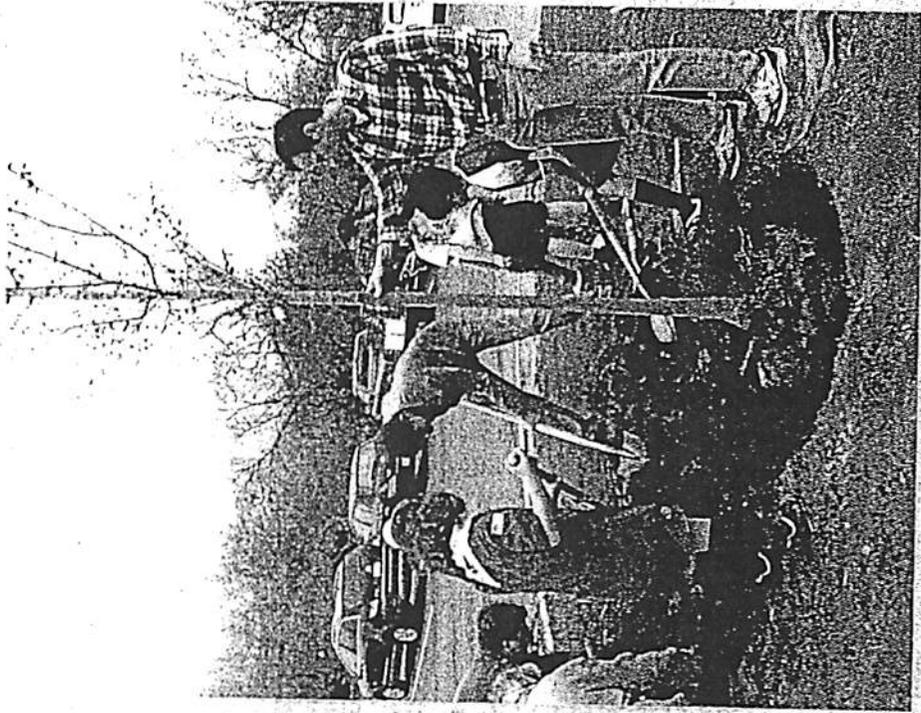
Tree Pruning

- City maintains roughly 17,000 City-owned trees (Street, Parks and Cemeteries)
- In-house Forestry crew handles most service requests and emergency calls
- City has 2 pruning contracts:
 - Street Tree Pruning Contract
 - City is on a 6 year pruning cycle
 - Work to be completed in Neighborhood 10 then Area IV
 - Parks and Cemetery Pruning Contract
- Pruning is done according to ANSI A300 & Z133 Standards



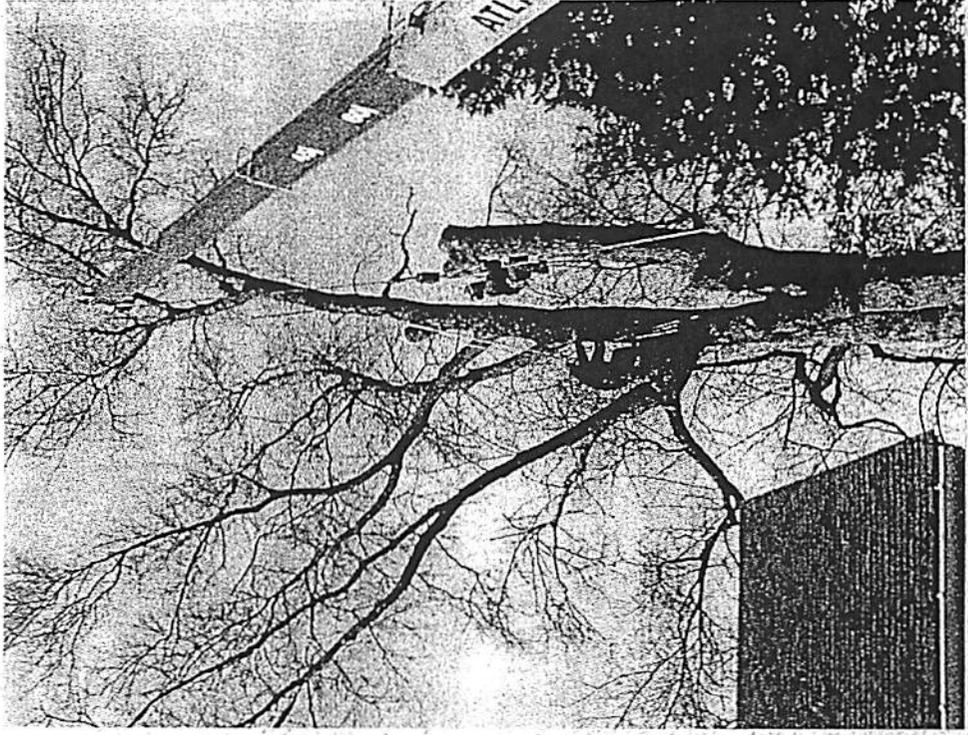
Tree Planting

- City plants between 300-500 trees per fiscal year
- City Council FY11 Tree Planting goal is 300 trees
- City Arborist works with Engineering Dept. to maximize tree planting opportunities through Street and Sidewalk Improvement Projects
- City promotes tree diversity to minimize potential threats from pests, diseases and environmental issues
 - 25 different species or cultivars will be planted this Fall
- City offers “Back of Sidewalk” planting program for residents



Tree Removals

- City removes approximately 100 trees per fiscal year
- In-house Forestry crew handles most of the tree removals
- Trees removed by either Tree Hearing process (MGL Chapter 87) or by Tree Emergency
- Reasons for removal (but not limited to):
 - Dead, cracks, decay, cavities, disease, storm damage, root and/or canopy dieback, vandalism, construction damage, road construction/streetscape improvements



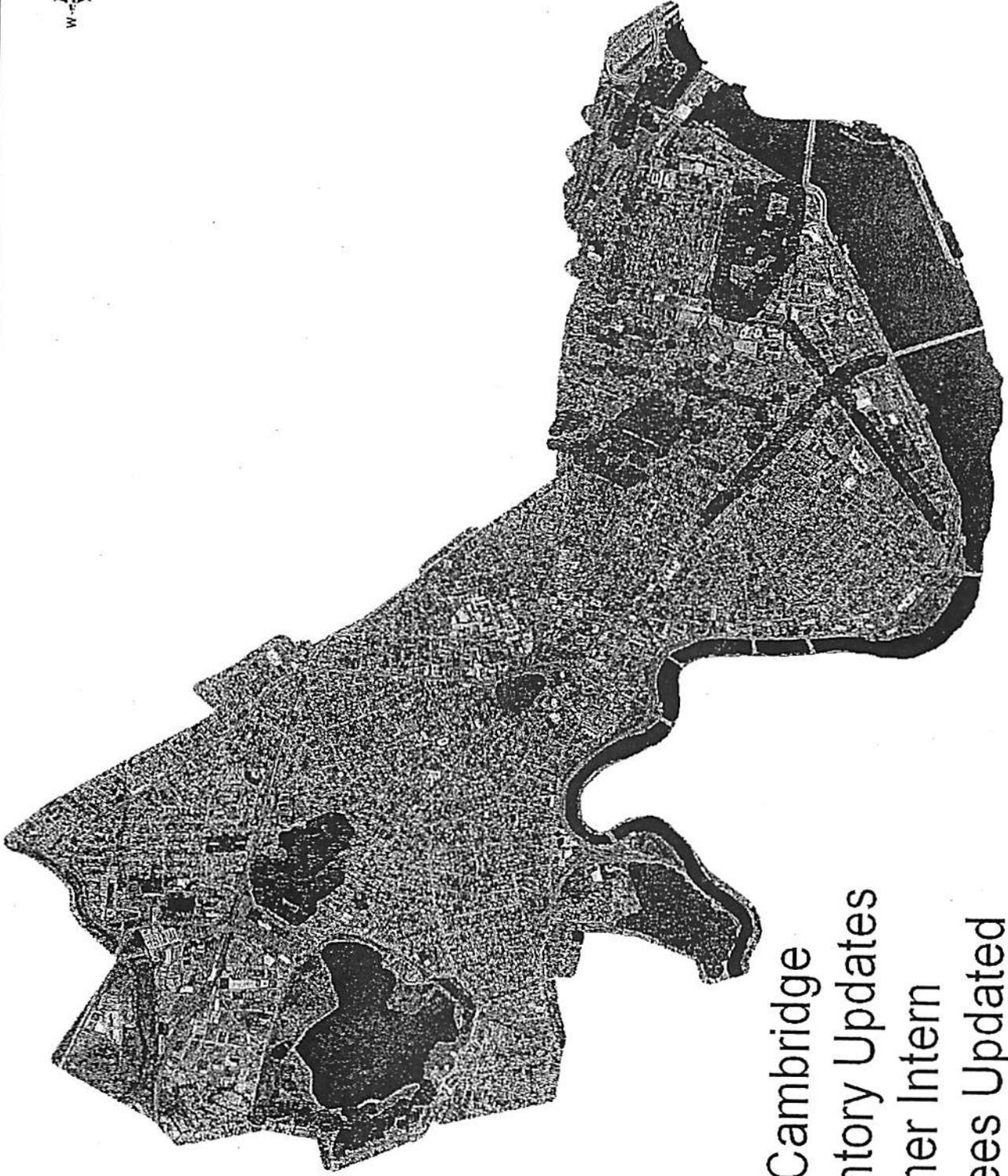
Tree Protection

- All City owned trees are to be protected during the course of the construction process
- Contractors can be fined for damage to City trees as stated in MGL Chapter 87

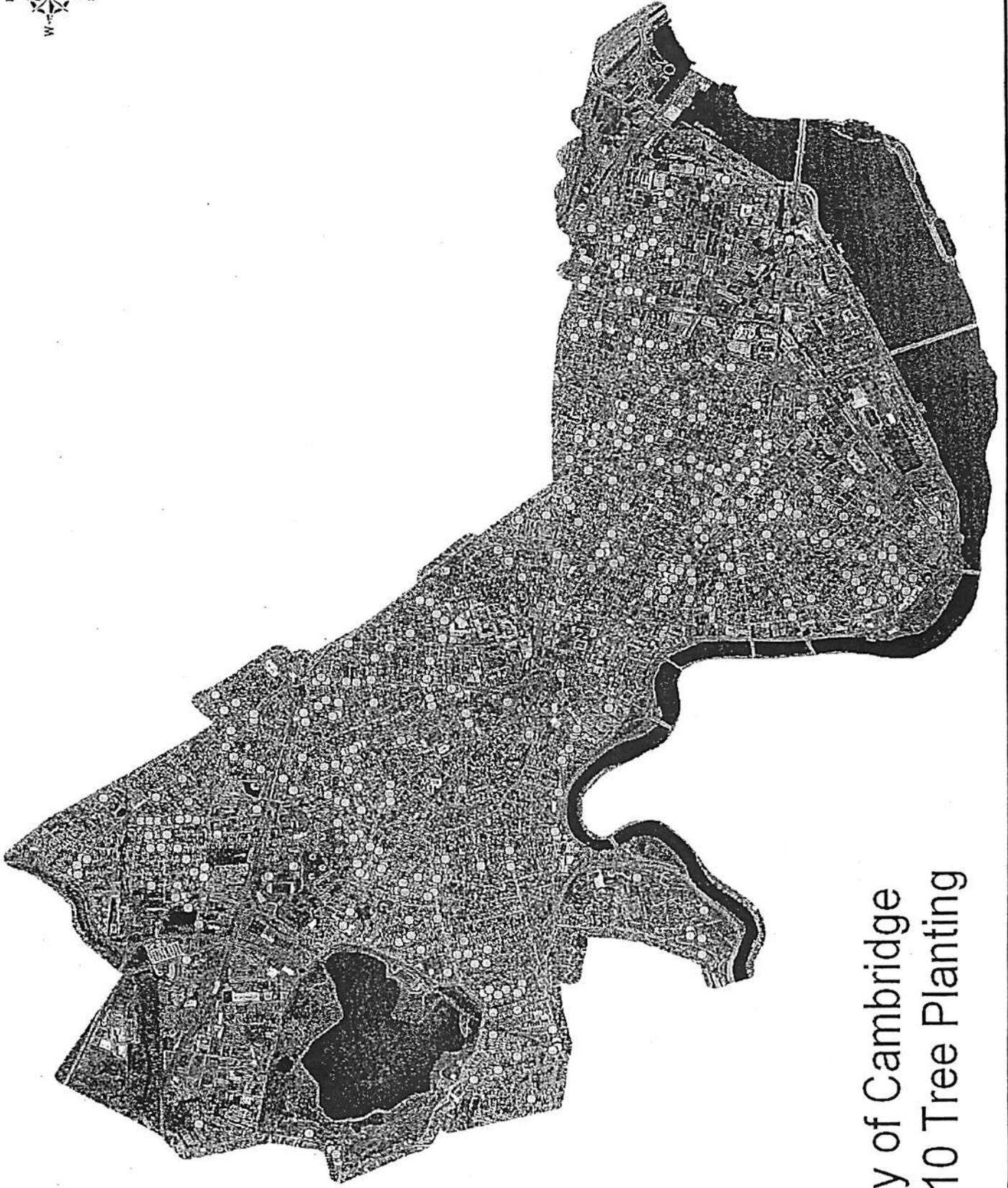
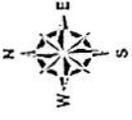


Tree Inventory

- The City's tree inventory is computerized and maintained using ArcGIS
- City Arborist utilizes and updates inventory on a weekly basis
- City hired summer intern to work on updating inventory
 - Intern updated 4,227 trees (adding roughly 1,500 new trees to the inventory)



City of Cambridge
Tree Inventory Updates
Summer Intern
4,227 Trees Updated
7/4/10 - 8/27/10

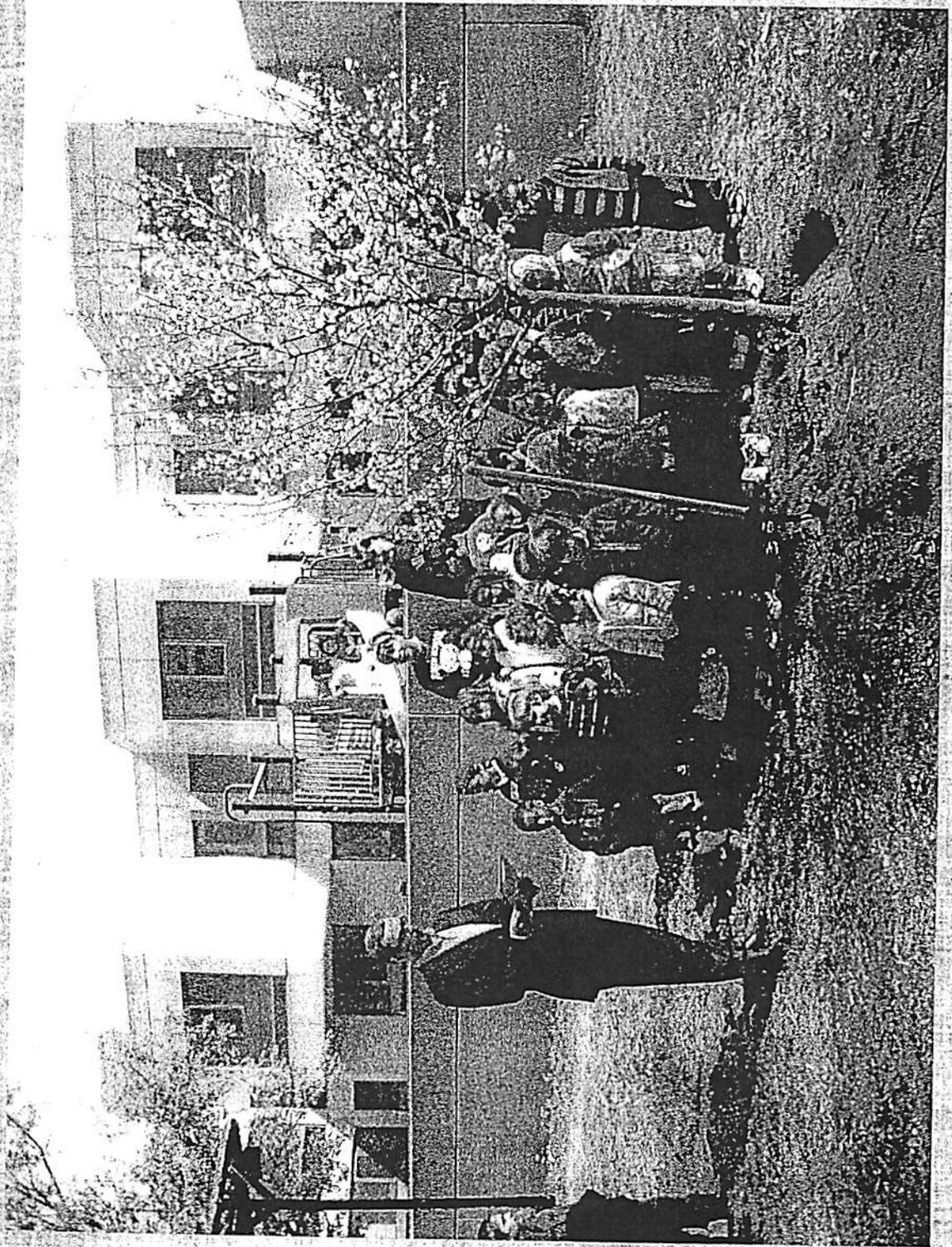


City of Cambridge
FY 10 Tree Planting

City Arborist: Other responsibilities (but not limited to):

- Responding to service requests from residents
- Work with contractors to minimize tree damage during construction process
- Staying aware of potential pest and disease infestations
- Work with other departments and divisions
- Organize annual Arbor Day event
- Member of the Committee on Public Planting
- Apply for Tree City USA (18th year) and Growth Awards (3rd year in a row) through the Arbor Day Foundation

Arbor Day 2010 – Tobin School



Questions?

David Lefcourt

City Arborist

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ATTACHMENT B

RE: Tree Protection

One of the most important environmental issues of our time in Cambridge will come before Ma. Superior Court soon after being heard by DEP in 4 days of Hearings in 09, i.e. the protection of our 100 year floodplain, and our only forest in the city, a small river floodplain forest of 7 acres, which has acreage in Cambridge and most in Belmont. Because the outcome has not been determined, Cambridge has the opportunity to continue to influence this case as well- by speaking up for our forest and largest adjacent wetlands, where no environmental impact studies downstream on Little River and surrounding lands have been undertaken by the developer or the city. In this time with devastating floods, and wind damage from poor land protection, and because of the global warming trends, we should not side step this important regional issue for our city and its residents, both human and non-human. The "Uplands" development will impact more deeply in Cambridge than in Belmont as it is downstream from the proposed 300 unit site. "Adaptation" planning for Mass. has already begun by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), and Cambridge must as well. The Alewife area of floodplain was surrounded this past March as an Island and inundated from the river to Route 2 except for the tiny blip of upland where the huge building complex on the forest is planned. We all will have to make adaptation plans, because there is no choice, but the planning is 'timely' to say the least. The animals only have the upland area when such floods as this past year occur. Coyote and deer use the uplands, assessments have shown. There exists a "wetlands study" officially paid for by the City but never published.

(See last week's Belmont news *from links below* from BU Environmental Law Professor Emeritus.)

I did not receive notice of this Hearing, despite our organization's deep involvement in the trees of Cambridge.

I will certainly attend and ask Henrietta's assistant to put the silver maple forest studies and protection on the agenda as well as plantings of new trees, and hopefully Gilmore. We will be asking that Cambridge give no more permits to the developer for the Uplands. Cambridge gave the developer his first permit before the case had been decided by the Belmont Conservation Commission which was fighting the development in behalf of the town and its residents. In addition, we will ask that Cambridge require downstream environmental wetlands impact studies, as they expect to receive their sewer and other permits from Cambridge.

I hope to hear that the Gilmore trees are re-considered with a Hearing.

Thanks for letting me know, Judy, and best of luck on preserving some of our valuable neighborhood trees.

Justice for nature should not have to come to this. Individual citizens and organizations have only so much strength.

The country of Ecuador has a national law whereby ecosystems have their own rights. (Years of being pillaged by the large oil companies).

Other places are following suit.

I wonder if they are enforced.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/belmont/news/opinions/x861578752/Moore-and-Baram-State-should-shield-towns-from-poor-land-uses>

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/belmont/news/opinions/x863066969/King-Imminent-disaster-at-the-Uplands>

Ellen Mass
President
Friends of Alewife Reservation
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ATTACHMENT C

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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

2010 SEP 23 P 3:09
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Leland Cheung
City Councillor

Honorable City Clerk:

Attached for submission into Communications and Reports from City Officers is the city of Somerville's Tree Preservation Ordinance for my colleagues' review.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leland Cheung".

Leland Cheung
City Councillor

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-____
IN THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN: _____

TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Whereas, trees are recognized as an asset to the community, providing a more healthful and beautiful environment in which to live.

Whereas, trees and other vegetation provide oxygen, shade, protection from wind, glare and noise, wildlife habitat aesthetics, and a priceless psychological counterpoint to the man-made urban setting.

Whereas, trees are economically beneficial in attracting new residents, visitors and industry.

Whereas, when grown on the right place and of proper varieties, trees enhance the value and marketability of property and promote the stability of desirable neighborhoods and commercial areas.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen, in session assembled, that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville is hereby amended by adding the following as Chapter 12, Article V:

Section 12-100. Establishment of Somerville Tree Committee

A Somerville Tree Advisory Committee charged with advising with respect to the management and maintenance of existing and new public shade trees shall be established, consisting of the following:

- 1) the Mayor or his or her designee;
- 2) a representative selected by the Board of Aldermen, to serve for a term of three years;
- 3) a representative of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development,
- 4) the Tree Warden;
- 5) one member of the Somerville Garden Club, or similar organization, to serve for a term of three years, selected by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Board of Aldermen.

Such tree committee shall have no authority to interfere with the daily operations or conduct of business by the Tree Warden or City Arborist.

Section 12-101. Criteria for Removal

A public hearing may not be initiated under G. L. c. 87, s. 3 to remove a healthy public shade tree, unless, the Tree Warden finds in writing that there is a public health, safety, or welfare basis for removing the public shade tree, including, but not limited to, hardship to a property owner, economic development, facilitating the development of affordable housing, pedestrian access enhancement, transportation improvement, or public project development. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the cutting, trimming, or removal of trees in accordance with G. L. c. 87, s. 5.

Section 12-102. Notice Requirements

In addition to notice under G.L. c. 87, s. 3 for removal of a public shade tree, notice shall be given by the City by electronic notification, when feasible, and first class mail to all owners of real property located within 150 feet of the public shade tree proposed to be removed at least fourteen days before the public hearing. Notice shall also be given by placing notice on the City website and Cable Wheel at least fourteen days before the public hearing. In the event that a public hearing is initiated under G. L. c., 87, s. 3 at the request of anyone other than the City, the requesting party shall pay for all costs of mailing and advertising, such costs to be determined by the City Clerk. The City Clerk may waive the costs if the requesting party demonstrates to the City Clerk that payment of the fee would cause financial hardship. Guidelines for determining financial hardship shall be established by the City Clerk. Applications for financial hardship shall be provided by the City Clerk.

Section 12-103. Tree Replacement

Any healthy public shade tree removed at the request of a property owner, or agent thereof, shall be replaced within one year from date of removal. The replacement tree shall be of such size and species as specified by the Tree Warden.

Section 12-104. Tree Replacement Fund

(a) Establishment: There shall be established a tree replacement fund which shall be held in a separate identifiable account and administered in accordance with applicable provisions of General Laws. Any payments into the tree replacement fund required by this Article shall be deposited in the tree replacement fund and shall be used in accordance with subsection (c) hereof.

(b) Payment for Planting Replacement Tree: Where a healthy public shade tree is removed at the request of a property owner, or agent thereof, for the purposes of economic development, as determined by the Tree Warden, the requesting party shall

make a contribution to a tree replacement fund in an amount deemed equal to the cost to replace the tree, which cost shall be determined by the Tree Warden or his designee, based on standards set forth by Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers,, plus the value of the tree to be replaced, which value shall be determined by the Tree Warden or his designee, based on standards set forth by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers..

(c) Maintenance of Tree Replacement Fund: The tree replacement fund shall be maintained in a separate account in accordance with state law. All sums deposited into such fund shall be used solely for the purpose of buying, planting and maintaining trees in the City.

Section 12-105. Compliance with State Law

All public shade tree hearings shall comply with the applicable requirements set forth in G. L. c. 87, s. 3.

Approved:

President