

City of Cambridge

Richard C. Rossi • City Manager



Executive Department

Lisa C. Peterson • Deputy City Manager

City Hall • 795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts • 02139
617-349-4300 • fax: 617-349-4307 • tty: 617-492-0235 • www.cambridgema.gov

June 15, 2015

To the Honorable, the City Council:

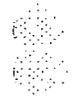
Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item Number 15-54, regarding a report on tree grates, empty tree wells and stumps in tree wells, received from Public Works Commissioner Owen O'Riordan.

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Rossi

Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

RCR/mec
Attachment





City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works

Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner

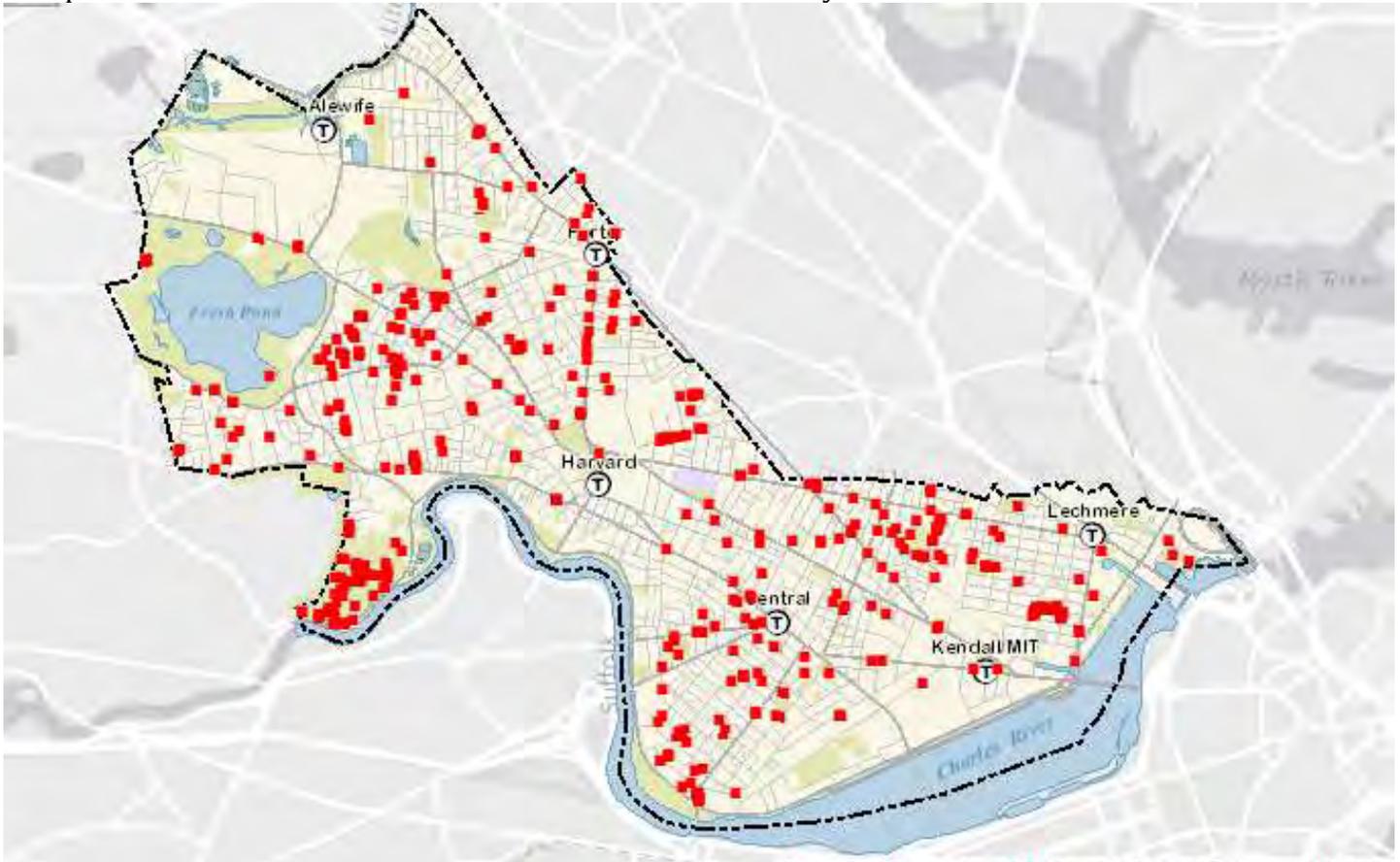
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
theworks@cambridgema.gov

voice: 617 349 4800
tdd: 617 499 9924

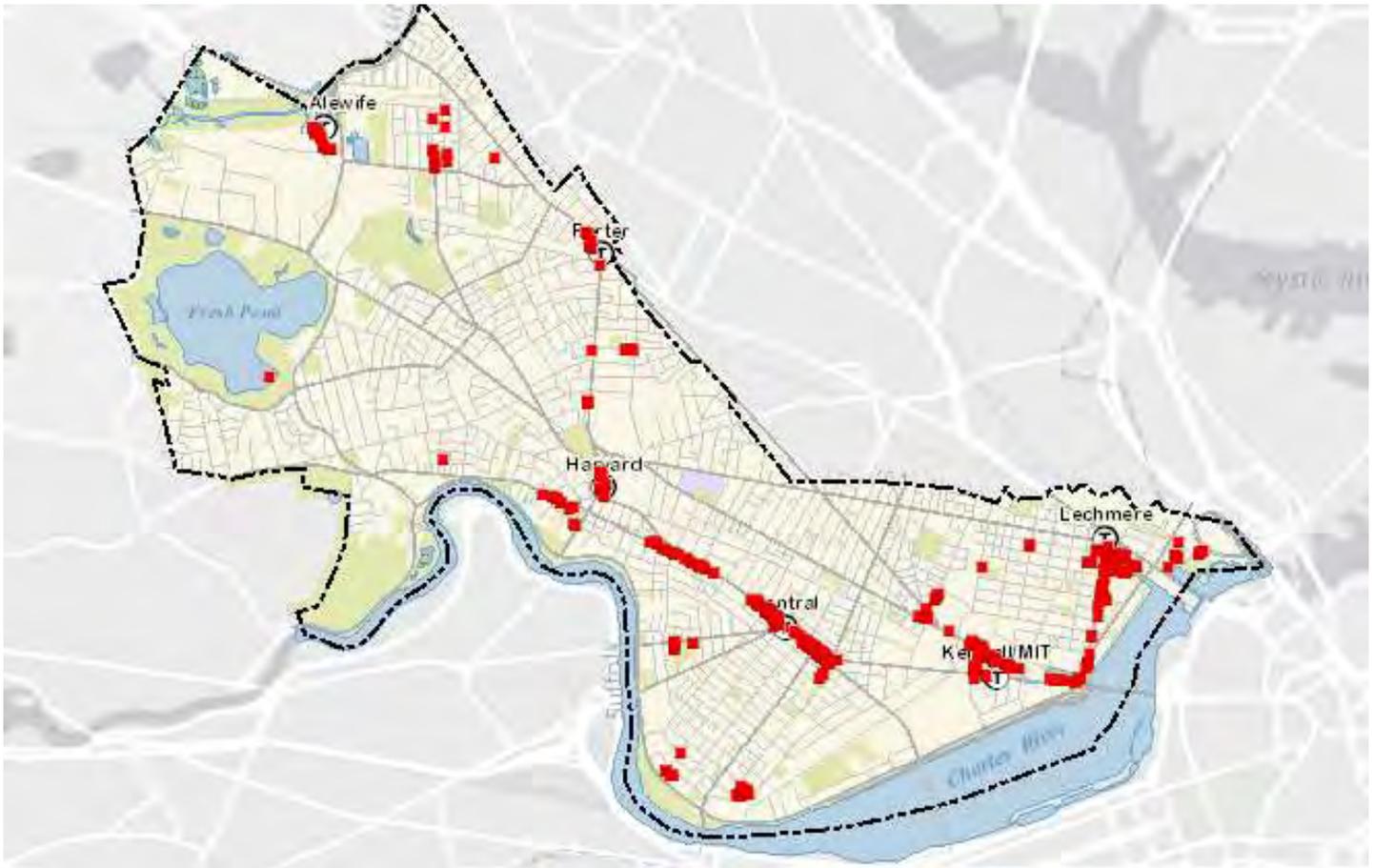
To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager
From: Owen O' Riordan, Public Works Commissioner
Date: June 2, 2015
Re: *Awaiting Report 15-54, Tree grates, empty tree wells and stumps in tree wells*

The Department of Public Works has developed a proposal to dedicate funds from the FY16 - FY20 operating and capital budgets to address the following challenges to the health and sustainability of our urban forest: empty tree wells, stumps remaining in tree wells, and tree grates that are adversely impacting trees.

Public Works has identified 758 empty tree wells throughout the City. While some of these wells are unsuitable for replanting due to sidewalk widths or other conditions, the Department has a plan in place to replant more than half of these tree wells over the next five years.



Empty Tree Well Locations in Cambridge



Tree Grate locations needing “urgent” attention in Cambridge

Three Hundred and Seventy Five trees (375) that are adversely impacted by tree grates have been identified throughout the City. Through the City’s Miscellaneous Street and Sidewalk contract, and in using an additional \$30,000 from the FY16 Complete Streets Program it is expected that all of those trees will be addressed by the end of 2017.

Proposed Funding

A large portion of the funding for planting empty tree well locations will be provided through the City’s Public Investment Budget. Through the City’s *Five Year Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction Program* and *Sewer and Stormwater Program*, 185 empty tree wells will be replanted as part of sidewalk reconstruction projects. The cost of this effort will be approximately \$123,000. It is expected that most of these trees will be planted in FY16 in areas where major sewer separation projects are ongoing.

In addition, \$420,000 will be taken from the Complete Streets Program capital budget to address additional empty or “stumped” street tree locations outside those areas where street and sidewalk work is anticipated between FY16 and FY20. We are proposing to dedicate \$150,000 from the Complete Streets Program specifically to this effort in FY16. The FY16 allocation will be spread between planting new trees (\$120,000) and removing grates from impacted trees (\$30,000). In years FY17 – FY20, \$75,000 from this appropriation will be directed toward addressing these issues. The funds in the out years will be primarily used to address empty tree wells.



City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works

Owen O’Riordan, Commissioner

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Additionally, Public Works’ operating budget will provide \$125,000 toward tree planting over the next five years which will result in approximately 175 trees being placed in empty tree wells. A similar amount of money may potentially be provided through the Tree Ordinance/Special Permit process, depending on projects, thereby adding approximately another 180 trees.

It should be noted that these figures do not include those additional trees that are to be planted on the various streets in our five year street and sidewalk program and in our sewer and stormwater infrastructure program nor does it include those trees that will be planted with the participatory budget funds. Finally it is important to note that we expect to lose between 130 and 150 trees each year over the next five years depending on the storm events.

Further information, tables and maps are available on the DPW web site at the following address;
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/urbanforestry/urbanforestrykeyInitiatives.aspx>

Implementation

Given that there are multiple programs both ongoing and projected within which these improvements will be made, different divisions within the Department of Public Works will be involved in managing different aspects of them. It is expected that the City Arborist, together with the City Engineer and her staff will manage the majority of this work, with the Superintendent of Streets and his staff and the Superintendent of Parks and his staff will manage some of the work as well.

Street Tree Well Portraits

Some Main Streets of Cambridge



1695 Massachusetts Avenue, October 18, 2014



Massachusetts Avenue, October 18, 2014



Cambridge Street (near CRLS), September 20, 2014



Cambridge Street, September 20, 2014



Cambridge Street (across from Hospital), July 14, 2015



Highland Avenue (across from Cambridge Hospital), July 14, 2015



Hampshire Street, September 20, 2014



Hampshire Street, September 20, 2014



NO STOPPING
←

TOW ZONE
NO PARKING
STREET CLEANING
8AM-10:30AM
FIRST WEDNESDAY
EACH MONTH
APPLICABLE TO ALL STREETS
EXCEPT SUNDAYS

PARKING
BY
PERMIT
ONLY
EXCEPT SUNDAYS
→
CITY OF HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire Street, September 20, 2014



Hampshire Street, September 20, 2014



Hampshire Street, September 20, 2014



Cedar Street, October 18, 2014



Cedar Street, October 18, 2014



PARRING
BY
PERMIT
ONLY

TOW ZONE
NO PARKING
EXCEPT STANDING
CARS
NOV 15 10:00 AM
NOV 15 10:00 AM
NOV 15 10:00 AM
NOV 15 10:00 AM

Off Cedar Street, October 18, 2014



Off Cedar Street, October 18, 2014



Cambridge Street (by Hospital), July 14, 2015



LOW ZONE
NO STOPPING
ANYTIME
←→

SPEED
LIMIT
25

Sherman Street, October 18, 2014



Sherman Street, October 18, 2014



Huron Avenue & Garden Street, September 9, 2015

30
MINUTE
PARKING
9AM-8PM
←
EX SA & SUN

TOW AWAY ZONE
NO STOPPING
→

ALMA BOUDREAU
CAMBRIDGE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
OBSERVATORY HILL BRANCH

Corner of Concord Avenue & Donnell Street, September 8, 2015



Mass Avenue and Church Street, September 9, 2015



Corner of Mass Avenue & Church Street, August 11, 2015



Church Street, September 9, 2015



RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR LEASE
617-262-6620
dartco.com

HARVARD SQUARE THEATRE

Church Street, September 9, 2015



ANTHROPOLOGI

TOW ZONE NO STOPPING ANYTIME ←

TOW ZONE NO PARKING LOADING ZONE →

Brattle Street, September 9, 2015



Brattle Street, September 9, 2015



Church Street, September 9, 2015



Brattle Street & Mt. Auburn, September 18, 2014

Details



Details: Massachusetts Avenue, October 18, 2014



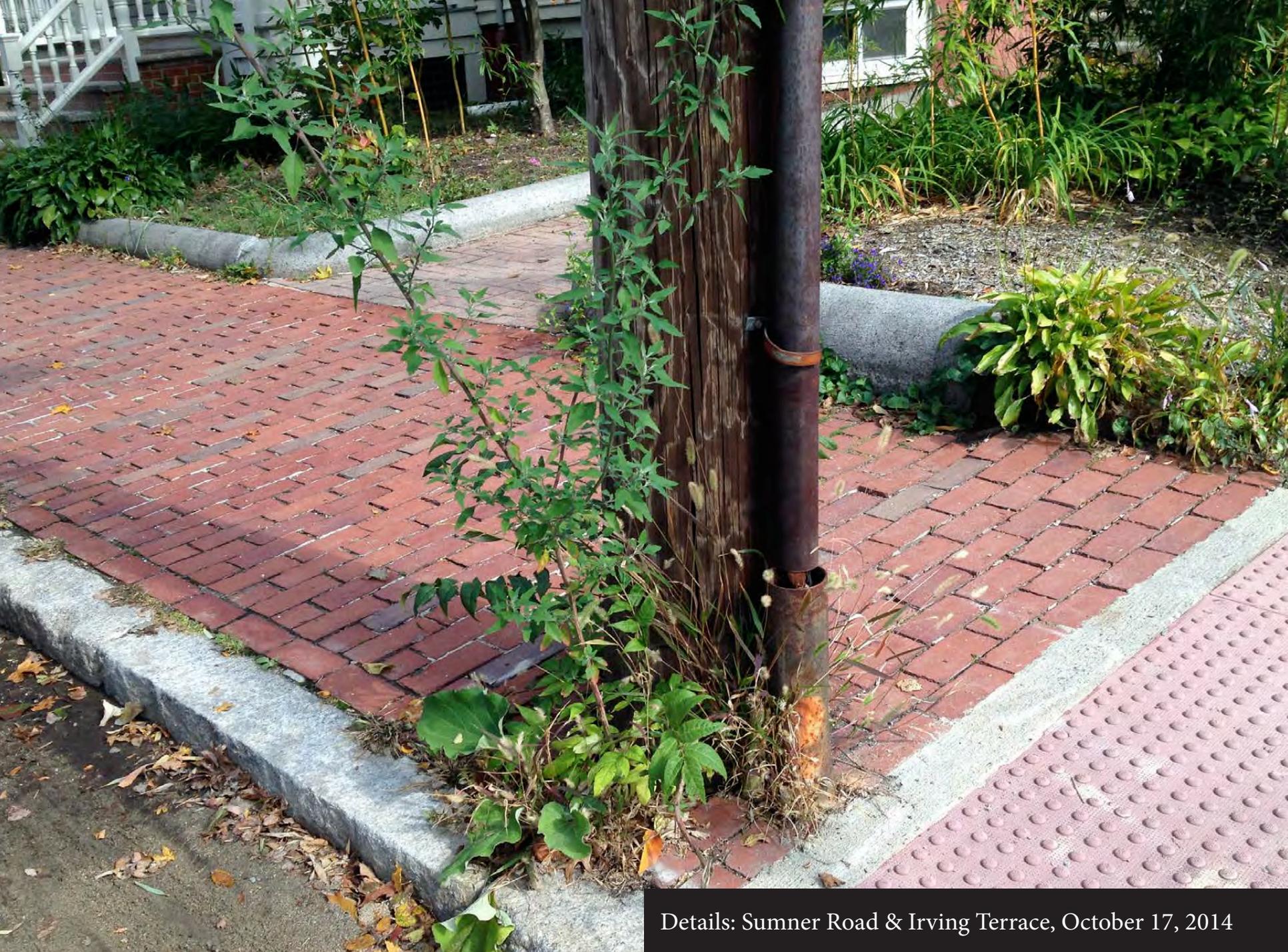
Details: September 20, 2014

NORRIS ST

← ONE WAY

Mary T.
Reed
Square

Cedar Street, October 18, 2014



Details: Sumner Road & Irving Terrace, October 17, 2014



Details: Huron Avenue, September 9, 2015



Details: Huron Avenue, September 9, 2015



Details: Church Street, September 9, 2015



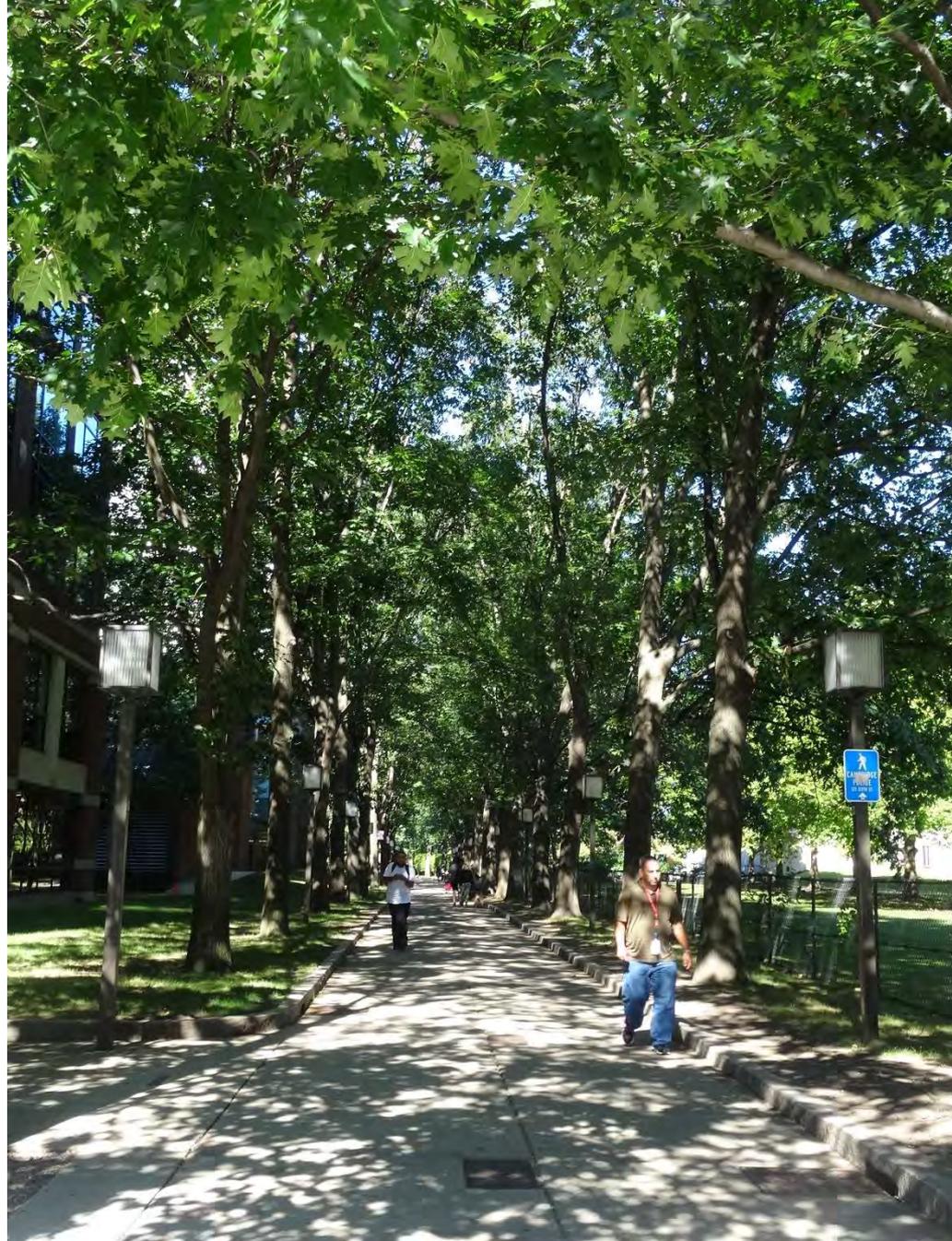
Mass Avenue, September 11, 2015

© Copyright 2015
Maggie Booz & Annette LaMond
with production assistance by Joe Moore

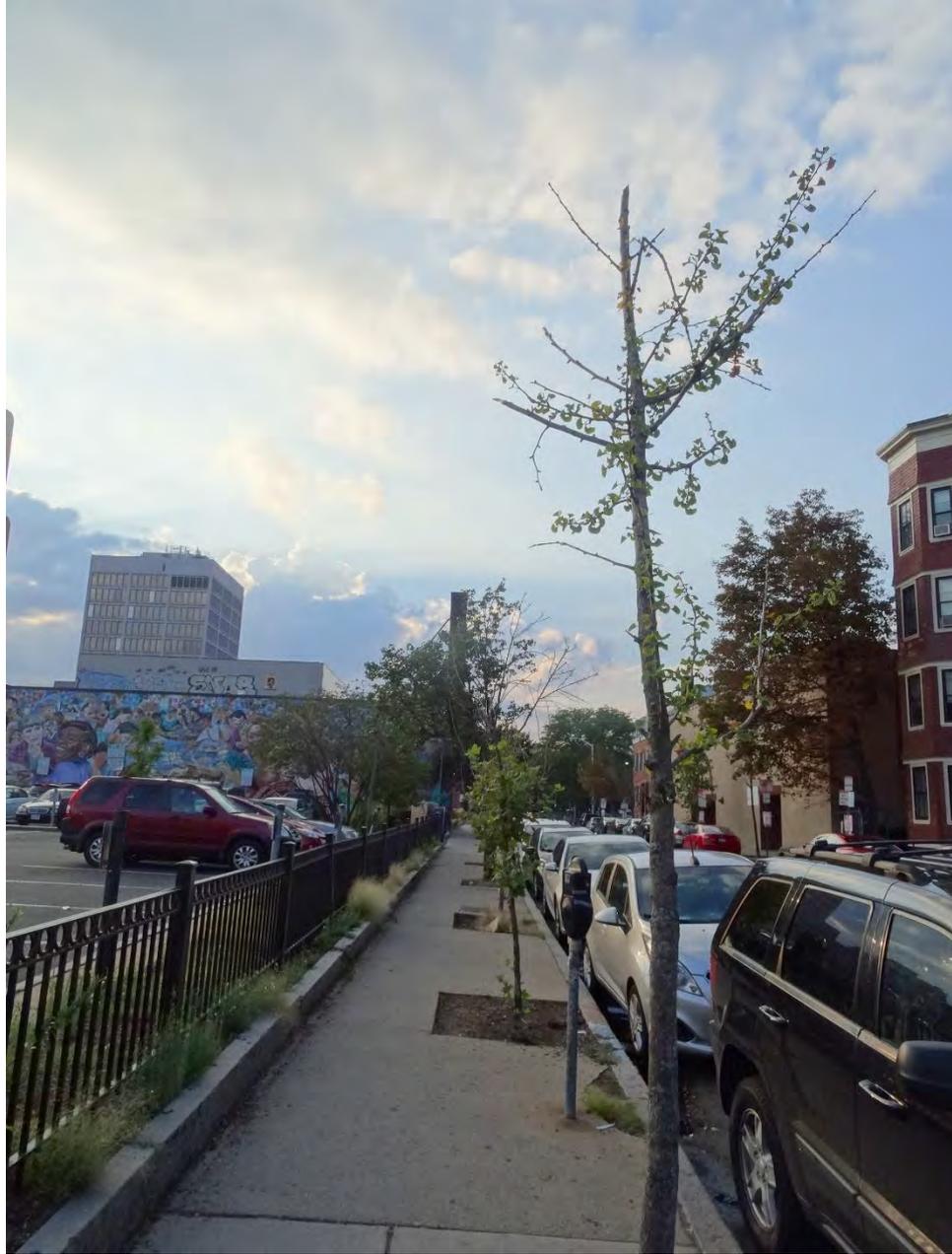
Enhancing Cambridge's Tree Canopy
Presentation to Committee on Health and Environment
September 16, 2015 – Florrie Wescoat, CPP



Willow, Cambridge Public Library



Pedestrian Path, W. Volpe Center



Bishop Allen Steet



Norfolk St., Central Square



Lafayette Plaza, Central Square



3rd Street, East Cambridge



6th and Charles, East Cambridge



Central Park, NYC



Columbia Street, Area 4



Kentucky Coffeetrees, East Cambridge



Market Street, Area 4

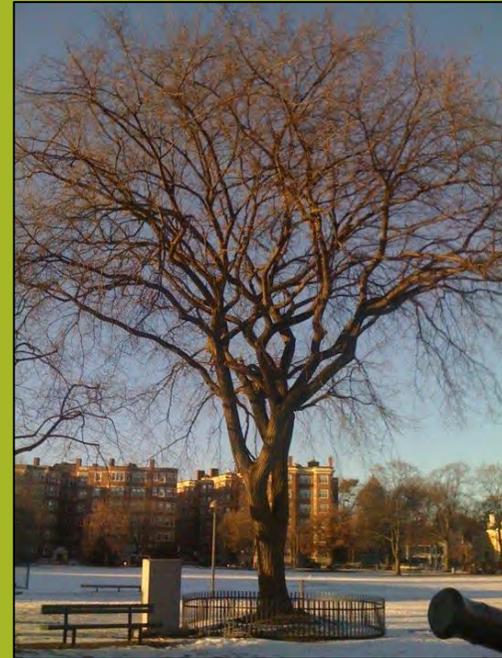


Broadway bus stop, Area 4

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAMS

PRESENTATION TO THE

CITY COUNCIL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



Sullivan Chamber of City Hall

795 Massachusetts Avenue

September 16, 2015

Presentation Overview

The City's Urban Forest

Our Organization

Community Partnerships

Major Program Areas

- Pruning

- Planting

- Construction Coordination

Special Projects

Strategic Initiatives



The City's Urban Forest

19,000 public trees—

- On streets
- In parks
- At the Cambridge Cemetery
- At City buildings and schools



Our Organization

Urban Forestry Division, Public Works

- City Arborist
- Forestry Supervisor
- 2 Working Supervisors
- 2 Tree Climbers
- 2 Forestry Workers
- 6 out of 8 are ISA certified arborists
- All staff undergo regular training related to safety and arboriculture



Our Organization

Responds to

- Service requests
- Hazards and weather emergencies
- Stump removals.

During FY15

- 953 service requests
- 83% completed in 180 days or less*

During FY16

- Plan implementation of new field work order system, to more efficiently schedule and track work.

*Service delivery goal= 180 days or less from time entered.



Community Partnerships

Committee on Public Planting (CPP)

Residents of the City meet with the City Arborist, CDD Rep, and DPW Engineering Rep on a monthly basis to discuss tree related issues in the City.

CPP reviews specs, provides advice, and reviews landscape plans

Advise on special projects, such as recent approaches to improved planting and watering, and suggestions for site improvements near Spaulding Cambridge.



Community Partnerships

- Support volunteer opportunities, such as those sponsored in coordination with EarthWatch.
- Work with businesses and organizations to support local landscapes
- Participate in special events, such as Arbor Day and the Cambridge Science Festival



Tree Pruning

- 6 year maintenance pruning cycle
- 2 pruning contracts (Street Tree and Park/Cemetery)
- City Arborist continuously meets with pruning contracts to ensure quality of work is maintained throughout full contract period.



Tree Pruning

- Eversource has 4 year pruning cycle.
- City Arborist meets with Eversource arborist and pruning contractor prior to the start of work in the City.
- City Arborist emphasizes the importance of proper pruning, and pruning the minimum necessary to maintain safe electrical service for the City.

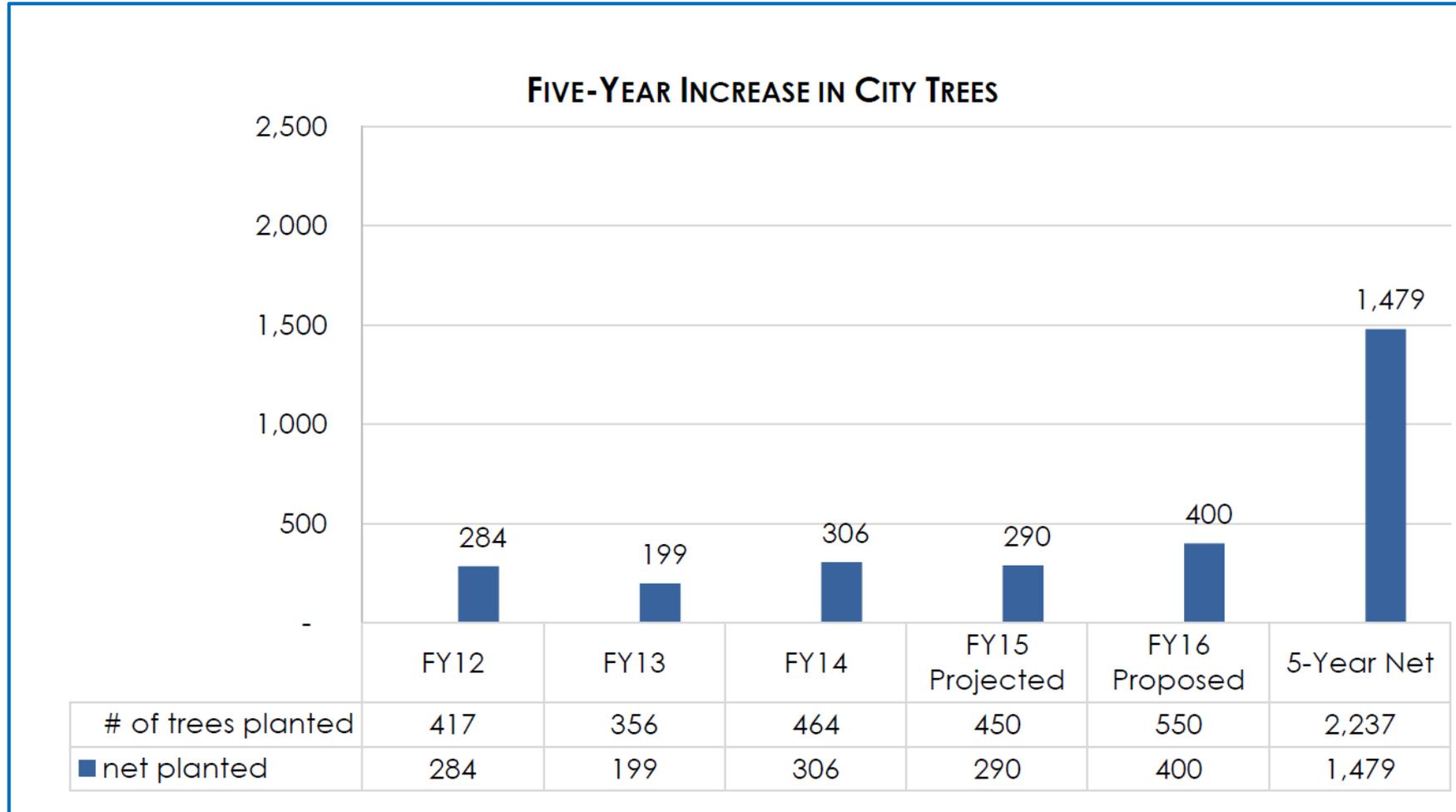


Tree Planting

- Maximize number of trees planted through City planting contracts, sidewalk construction projects, and park renovations.
- Leverage private development planting and fees paid to planting fund.
- Maximize long-term health and survival of new plantings.
 - Proper planting
 - Watering
 - Construction management



Tree Planting



Tree Planting

Planting Standards

- City Arborist makes sure all trees installed in the public right of way or on City property are done in accordance with current industry standards.
- City Arborist makes sure species diversity is maintained in order to help avoid major canopy loss due to pest or disease



Tree Planting

Participatory Budgeting

...Will add 100 new trees and tree wells to neighborhoods that need them the most: East Cambridge, North Cambridge, Wellington/Harrington, Area IV/Port, and Cambridgeport.

The \$120,000 allocation also includes watering the trees for two years; 100 hoses so residents, businesses, and school children can volunteer to water the trees; and signage with each new tree with instructions on how to best care for the tree. At least 50 of the new trees will be planted near public or subsidized housing and in low-income neighborhoods.



Tree Planting: Watering

For the past 5 years, gator bags have been installed with each new tree in the City.



September 16, 2015

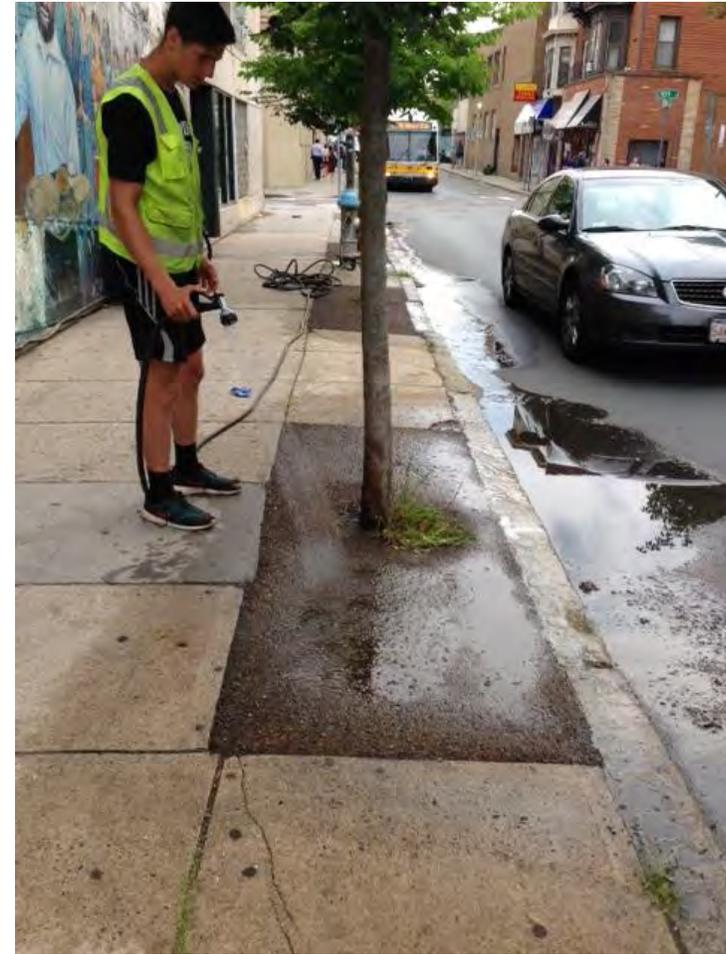
New signage has been added to gator bags to help encourage residents and business owners to water trees



Cambridge City Council Health & Environment Committee
Public Works Urban Forestry Presentation

Tree Planting: Watering

For the past 4 summers, the DPW has employed Water-By-Bike/Tree Ambassadors to help care for the young street trees throughout the City



Construction Coordination

- City Arborist regularly meets with contractors regarding tree related concerns.
- Contractors are continuously reminded about the importance of trees in the City.
- Contractor may not alter any root larger than 2" inches without the City Arborist's permission.



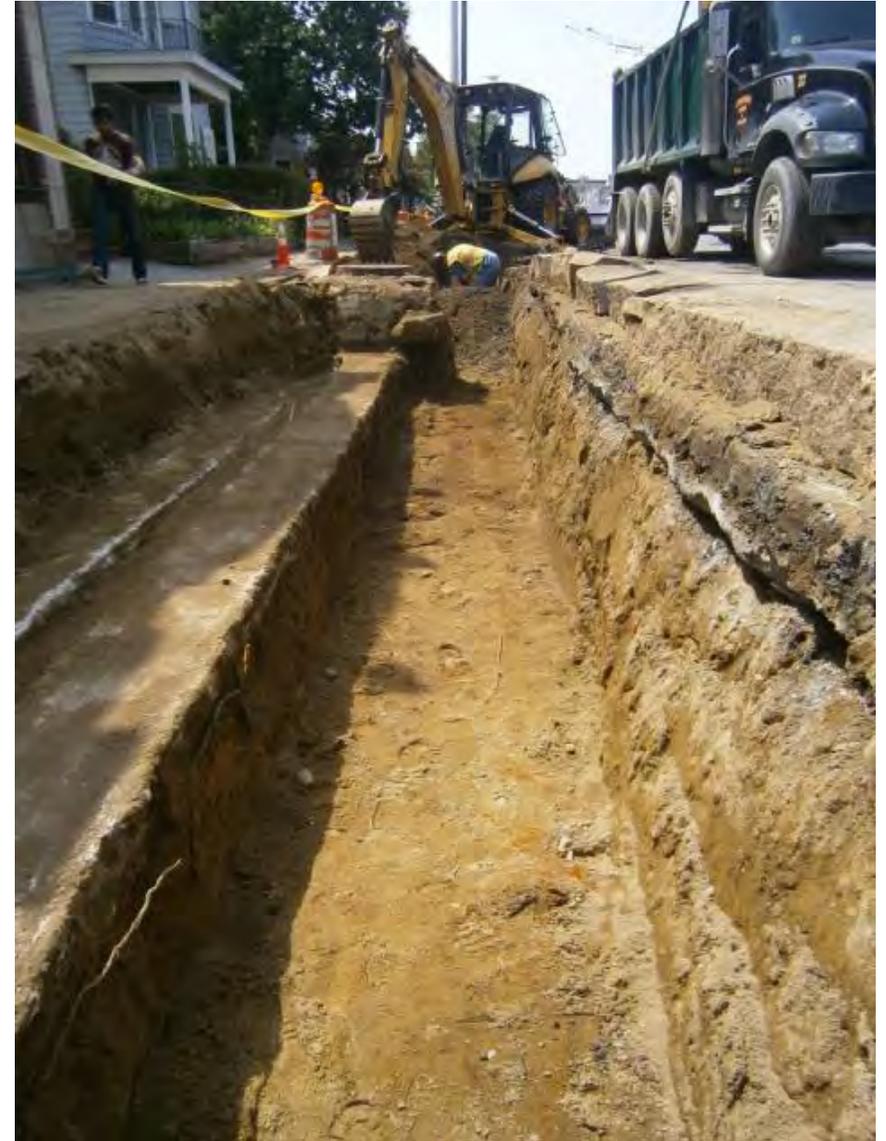
Construction Coordination

Engineering Division is now creating expanded tree areas utilizing Sand Based Structural Soil (SBSS)

Larger soil volume should help trees develop larger calipers and live longer in harsher planting environments.

Projects include :

- Main Street
- Mass Demonstration Block
- Huron A, Huron B, Concord.



Construction Coordination: Western Ave Project



September 16, 2015



Cambridge City Council Health & Environment Committee
Public Works Urban Forestry Presentation



Construction Coordination: Flexi-Pave



September 16, 2015



Cambridge City Council Health & Environment Committee
Public Works Urban Forestry Presentation



Special Projects: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

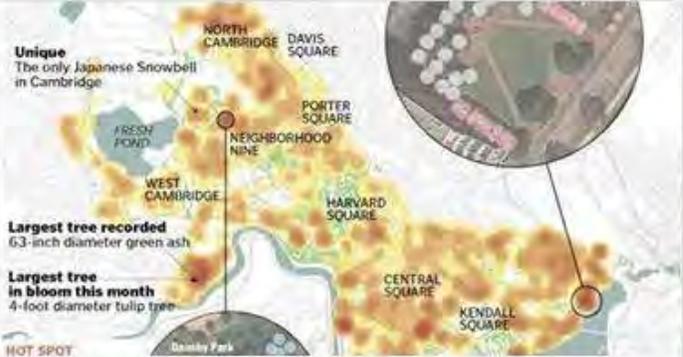
- 1st municipality in New England to institute an EAB management program
- About 750 ash trees treated with an organic labeled product call TreeAzine every other year
- Removed roughly 50 ash tree rated in poor condition, and could be more susceptible to EAB infestation
- Hung traps in the City to help identify if and when EAB will arrive in the City



Special Projects: Mapping

 Casey Trees shared a link.
about a minute ago

"For the past seven years, the City of Cambridge Department of Public Works has been sending interns out on a task that sounds tedious for an ordinary person but potentially magical for a budding arborist: find, identify, and map every tree on public land."



Unique
The only Japanese Snowbell in Cambridge

Largest tree recorded
63-inch diameter green ash

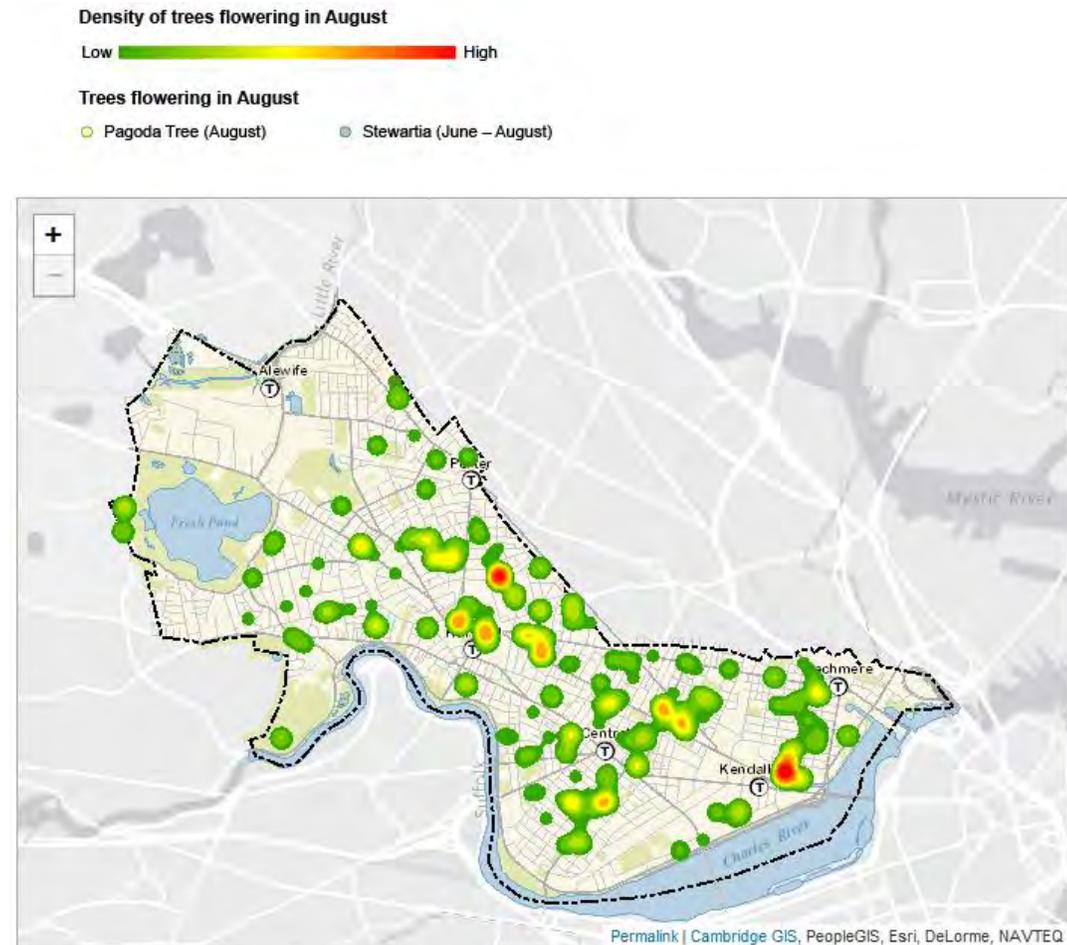
Largest tree in bloom this month
4-foot diameter tulip tree

HOT SPOT

A tree map of Cambridge - The Boston Globe
www.bostonglobe.com

...Tens of thousands of trees and a bit of data cleanup later, the city now has an exhaustive database of all the trees in its care. The resulting...

Like · Comment · Share



Strategic Initiatives

Strategic initiative #1—
Remove existing stumps and replant these locations

Strategic initiative #2—
Plant new trees in suitable empty tree wells

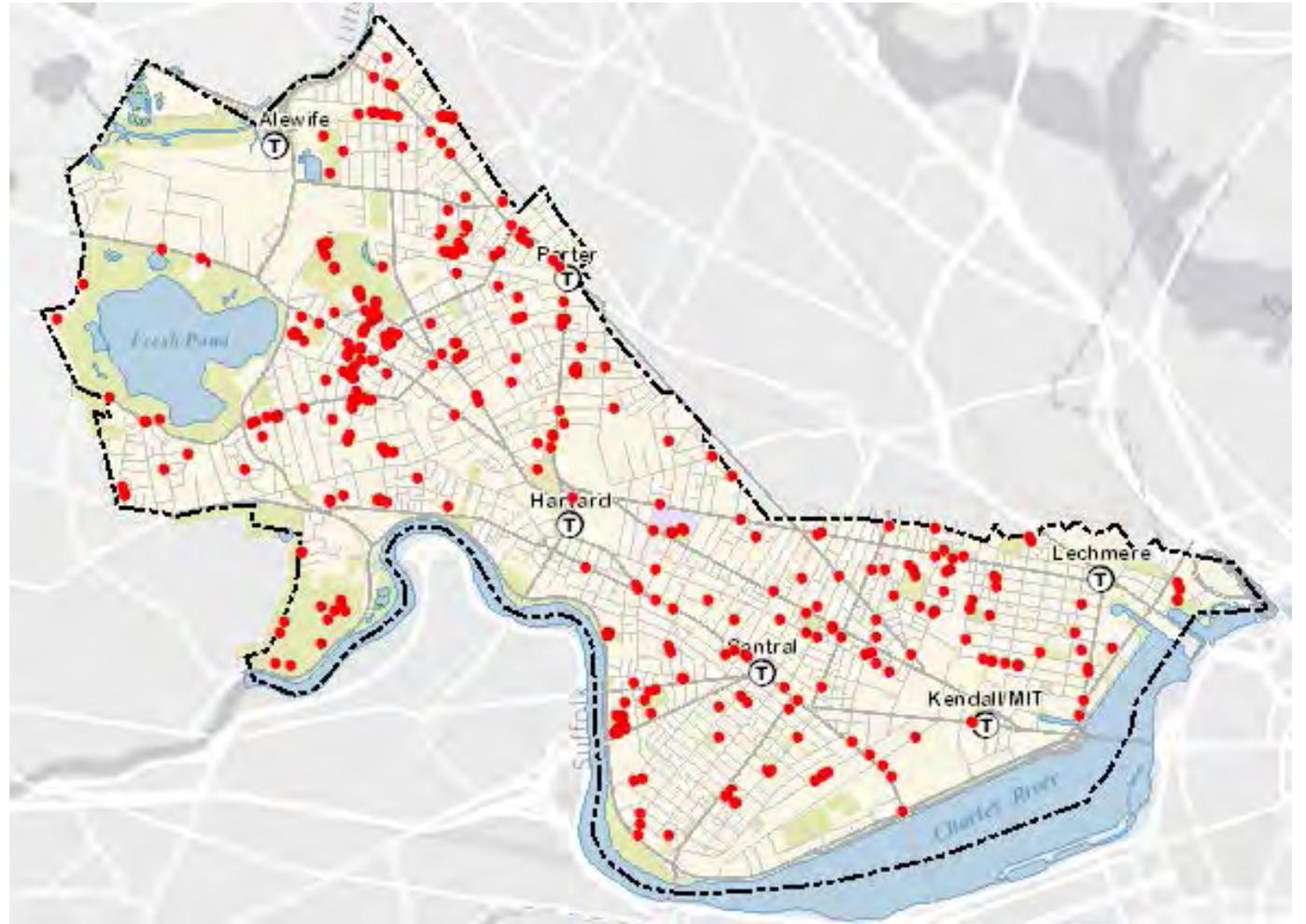
Strategic initiative #3—
Resolve existing tree grate issues throughout the City.

Strategic initiative #4—
Identify potential new tree wells



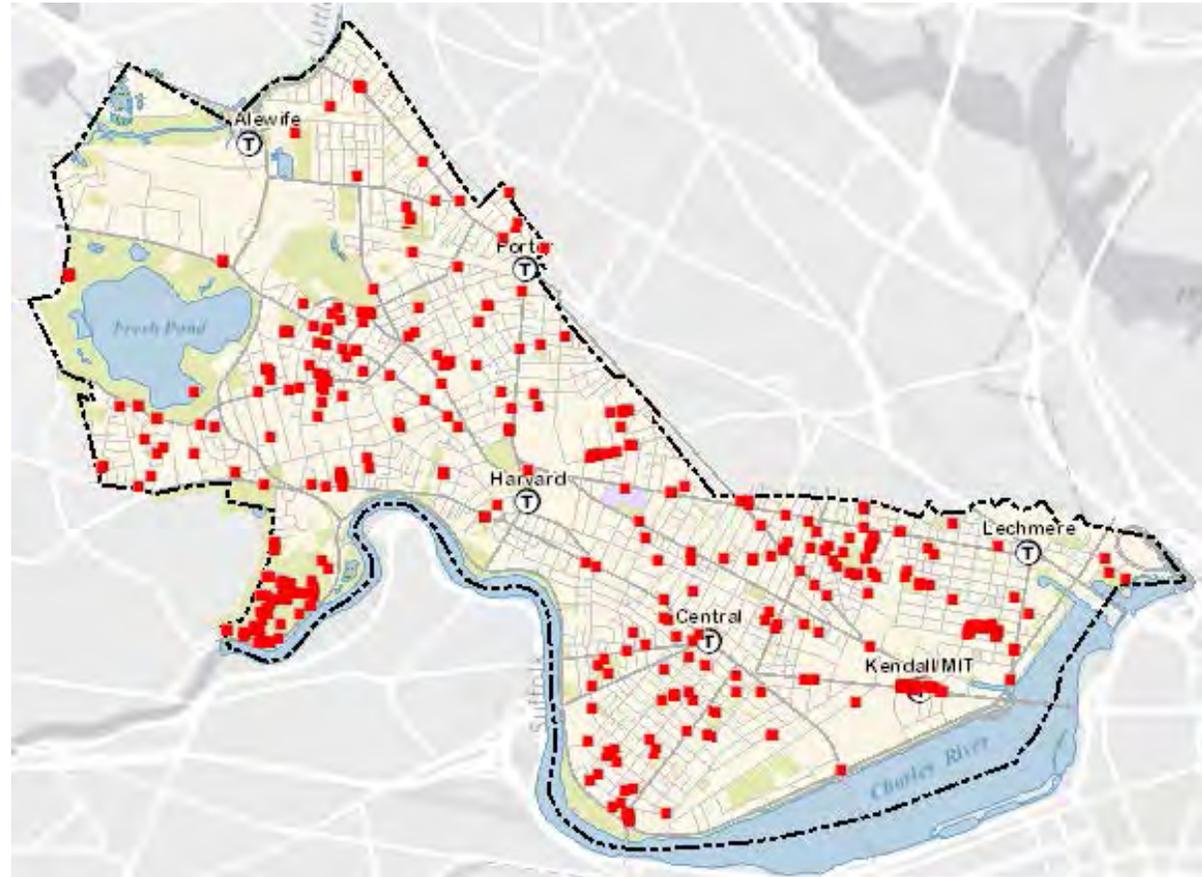
1—Remove existing stumps and replant these locations

Involves the removal of 372 stumps to prepare planting sites.



2—Plant new trees in suitable empty tree wells

Involves 404 empty wells/
planting sites



3—Resolve existing tree grate issues throughout the City

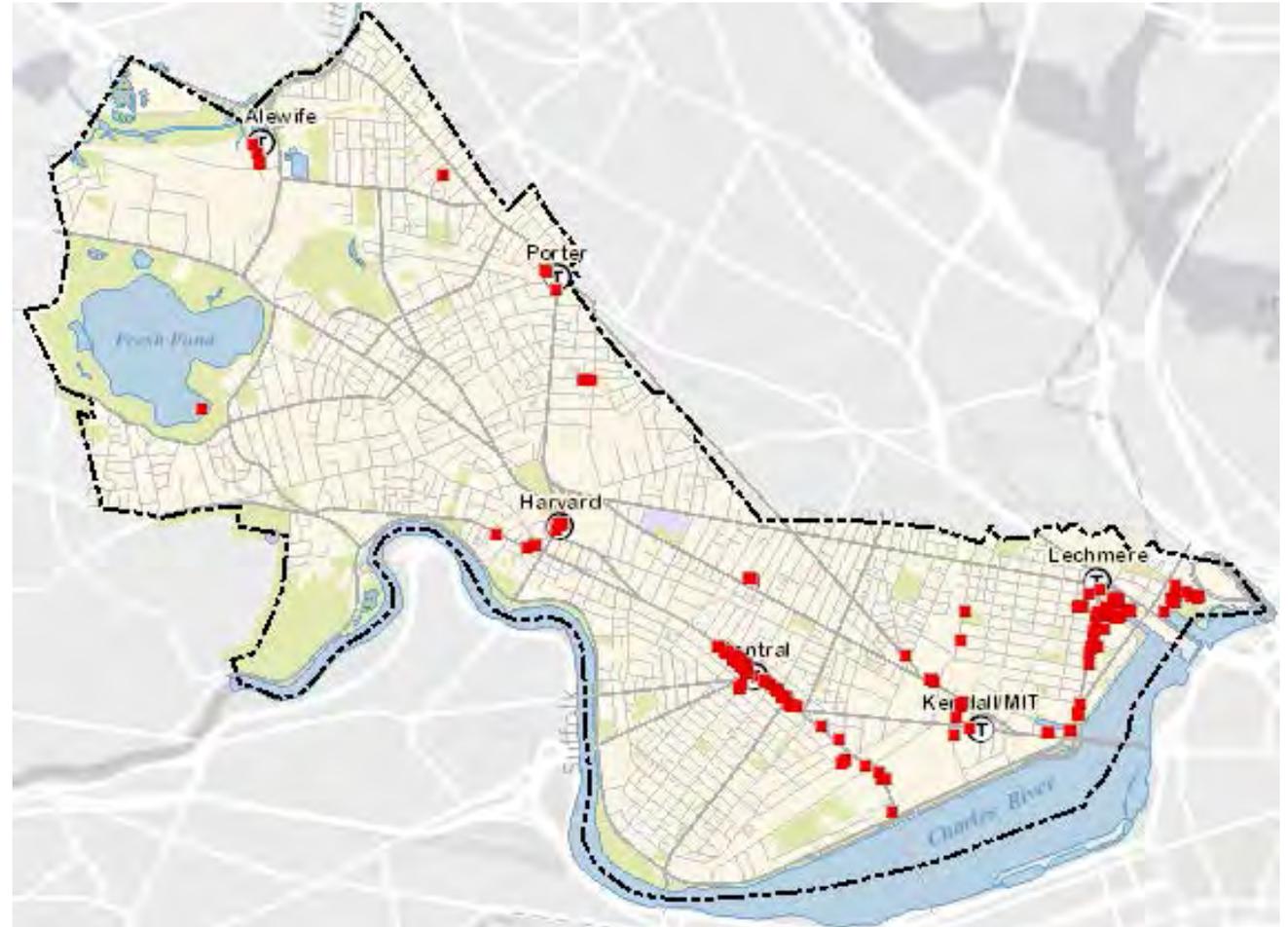
As of 5/15/15 –

375 priority tree grate removal locations

As of 9/9/15 –

165 priority tree grate removal locations

210 Priority tree grates have been removed



4—Identify potential new tree wells

During summer 2014, the Forestry Division identified approximately 2,600 potential new tree wells.

The Forestry Division will continue to identify new potential tree wells over the next several years.



Working Toward Continuous Improvement

Long-term commitment to excellence recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation:

Tree City USA award for the 23rd consecutive year

Prestigious Growth Award for the 8th consecutive year.

Sterling Award for 10 Years of participation in the Growth Program



For Additional Information

Please visit:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/urbanforestry>

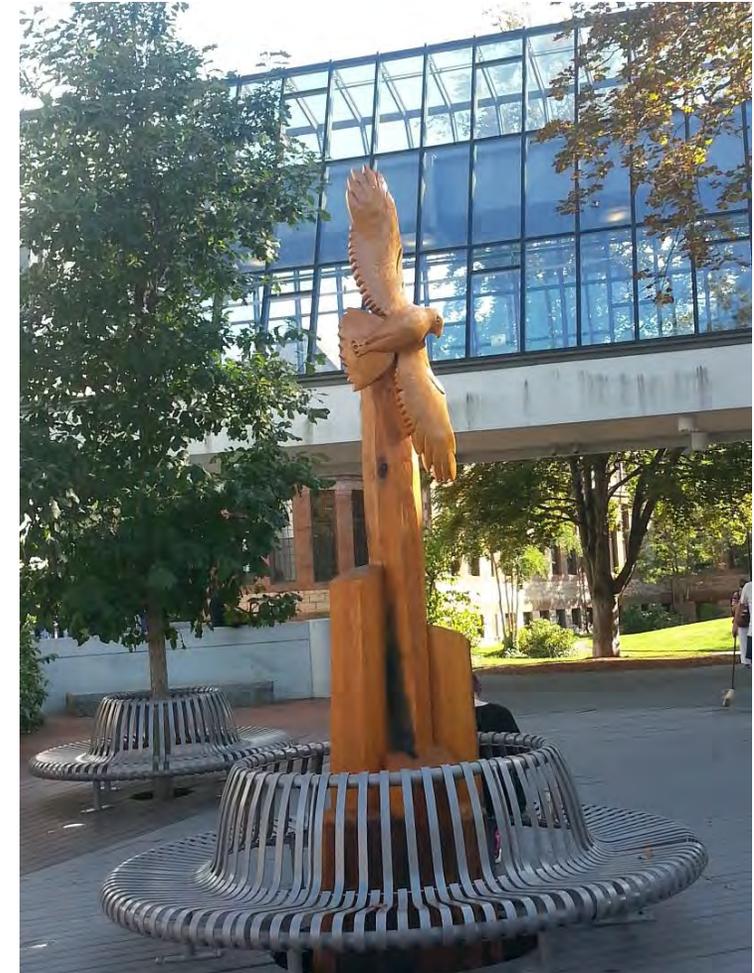
Or contact Us:

David Lefcourt, City Arborist

dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov 617-349-6433

Owen O’Riordan, Commissioner of Public Works

ooriordan@cambridgema.gov 617-349-4802



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Energy and Environment

Scientists have discovered that living near trees is good for your health

By **Chris Mooney** July 9

In a new paper published Thursday, a team of researchers present a compelling case for why urban neighborhoods filled with trees are better for your physical health. The research appeared in the open access journal Scientific Reports.

The large study builds on a body of prior research showing the cognitive and psychological benefits of nature scenery — but also goes farther in actually beginning to quantify just how much an addition of trees in a neighborhood enhances health outcomes. The researchers, led by psychologist Omid Kardan of the University of Chicago, were able to do so because they were working with a vast dataset of public, urban trees kept by the city of Toronto — some 530,000 of them, categorized by species, location, and tree diameter — supplemented by satellite measurements of non-public green space (for instance, trees in a person's back yard).

They also had the health records for over 30,000 Toronto residents, reporting not only individual self-perceptions of health but also heart conditions, prevalence of cancer, diabetes, mental health problems and much more.

“Controlling for income, age and education, we found a significant independent effect of trees on the street on health,” said Marc Berman, a co-author of the study and also a psychologist at the University of Chicago. “It seemed like the effect was strongest for the public [trees]. Not to say the other trees don't have an impact, but we found stronger effects for the trees on the street.”

Indeed, given the large size of the study, the researchers were able to compare the beneficial effect of trees in a neighborhood to other well-known demographic factors that are related to improved health, such as age and wealth. Thus, they found that “having 10 more trees in a city block, on average, improves health perception in ways comparable to an increase in annual personal income of \$10,000 and moving to a neighborhood with \$10,000 higher median income or being 7 years younger.” (Berman notes that self-perception of health is admittedly subjective, but adds that it “correlates pretty strongly with the objective health measures” the study considered.)

Indeed, the finding wasn't limited to self-perceived health. For cardio-metabolic conditions — a category that includes not only heart disease but stroke, diabetes, obesity and more — the study similarly found that an increase of 11 trees per city block was “comparable to an increase in annual personal income of \$20,000 and moving to a neighborhood with \$20,000 higher median income or being 1.4 years younger.”

[Environmentalists face challenges trying to plant in less-green neighborhoods]

The results are powerful because of the size of the study, however, because they are “correlational,” as scientists put it, they cannot definitively identify the precise mechanism by which trees seem to improve health. However, there are some obvious possibilities, including one explanation that seems likely to at least partly account for the results. This is that trees are known to improve urban air quality by pulling ozone, particulates, and other pollutants into their leaves and out of the air, and thus, partly protecting people from them.

But that's not the only possible explanation. Others, says Berman, include stress reduction that comes from being around greenery — a mental effect that translates into physical benefits — or the possibility that being around trees somehow increases one's propensity to exercise. He also suggests that air quality improvement alone may not be able to explain why people subjectively *perceive* their health to be better when they live around more trees, in addition to the improvements seen in other health measures — implying a possible psychological factor.

“People have sort of neglected the psychological benefits of the environment,” said Berman. “And I think that's sort of gotten reinvigorated now, with these kinds of studies.” Particularly beneficial to the research has been the availability of satellite techniques to precisely quantify the amount of green space in a given residential area, he said — and the ability to combine that kind of data with large health databases.

It's important to note that while the research was conducted based on data from the city of Toronto — which being in Canada, its citizens have universal health care — that is not necessarily a problem, as health disparities still exist in Toronto. “Canadians with lower incomes and fewer years of schooling visit specialists at a lower rate than those with moderate or high incomes and higher levels of education despite the existence of universal health care,” the study notes.

One interesting finding — that street trees seemed to have a more beneficial effect than private or backyard trees — may be explained by the fact that they are “more accessible to all residents in a given neighborhood,” the paper notes.

The researchers are not shy about using these results to make policy prescriptions — they think it would be well worth the cost to plant more urban trees. “Ten more trees in every block is about [a] 4% increase in street tree density in a dissemination area in Toronto, which seems to be logistically feasible,” the study notes.

“I’d feel pretty confident to say to a municipality, increase the number of trees by 10” per block, said Berman.

Also in Energy & Environment:

New research suggests nature walks are good for your brain

Why the Earth’s past has scientists so worried about sea level rise

Many Americans still lack access to solar energy. Here’s how Obama plans to change that

For more, you can sign up for our weekly newsletter [here](#), and follow us on Twitter [here](#).

From: Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc
Cc: Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee - 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting
Attachments: 20150809_173225.jpg; 20150809_173454.jpg; 20150809_173745.jpg

Pre-S: [View attached 8/9/15 photos of Granite St. "barely-trees"](#)

Dear Councillors Cheung, Chairman, Carlone, Mazen and McGovern:

In anticipation of your Committee's very welcome, upcoming public hearing, I have some thoughts and suggestions. I hope that this time around they'll get some traction.

I've often expressed concerns, publicly and one-on-one, about City tree policies and practices, both generally and also about specific ailing or failing trees. For example, in 2010, I suggested that the City establish an Abutters' "Tree-Guardianship Program" that went nowhere. (As an example, please **read my 7/18/10 Email, copy below, to Lisa Peterson and David Lefcourt, Cc to City Council,....** In which I suggested that City personnel might pursue this in connection with the Western Ave. project.)

Here are some specifics for consideration by your Health and Environment Committee and by the Committee on Public Planting.

1. **Green-Canopy:** The City's goal of "growing" our green canopy for environmental, cooling and aesthetic reasons is laudable. So, why allow abutters to veto those policies when abutters don't own the sidewalks or the public ways? That's similar to the longstanding *bricks v. concrete* option that really makes our sidewalks a mess. But, abutters' "no-street-tree" option has much worse consequences.
2. **Leafletting:** Why not leaflet (pun intended) abutters of young trees (when they're planted and later) on how/when to care for their young street trees so they thrive? I've been told that that is routinely done. But, we've never received any such written information when the City has planted our 3 newish street and "back-of-sidewalk" trees in the last several years, nor have at least 3 of our neighbors.
3. **Tree-Buddy Program?** Why not adopt an official, Adopt-a-Tree or Tree-Buddy Program to encourage, induce and remind abutters (including business, offices and institutions) to properly care for and water their street trees? How about including a brochure with real estate tax bills or some other regular City mailing, as is done with snow-removal notices? Or, even a separate mailing, as with Scholarship Program solicitations?
4. **More Water Trucks and Placement/Replacement of Gator Bags on Young Trees:** The bicycle watering brigade is a nice concept but, putting it mildly, doesn't suffice.
5. **4 Granite St. Trees – Actual Case in Point (View attached photos:** Planting young trees is certainly good, but allowing them to languish is bad. That's so even if the contractor has a replanting obligation. My particular "case study" is the young or immature trees on Granite St., abutting Morse School and the CitySprouts garden. Conservatively, I'm guessing those trees have been replanted 3 – 4 times during the last 10 – 15 years, most recently when the street was redone a few years ago. But, they just languish and/or die. So, the trees look bad > worse > dreadful! And, we also lose all that growth-capacity and have to start from scratch with starter-trees. In this case, I have previously suggested that Morse School or the City Sprouts program be charged with keeping the trees watered. How about it?
6. **Empty Tree Wells and Stumps:** Do replant trees, but only if there's a funded and staffed program dedicated to regular maintenance, protection and watering to keep the new trees healthy until they can survive. Dead and severely damaged and ailing trees (like those in front the of the Central Sq. P.O.) are worse than none at all.

Bottom Line: Continually replacing poorly maintained trees is pointless, wasteful and disheartening. Let's really get on this case and improve the environment and look of "Our Fair City."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Hare
172 Magazine St. (1 block from Granite St.)

P.S. David Lefcourt: Please forward this to the Committee on Public Planting members.
Donna Lopez: Please include this as part of the Official Record.

From: Carol O'Hare [mailto:c.burchardohare@att.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 4:20 PM
To: Lisa Peterson; Lefcourt, David
Cc: Council@CambridgeMA.GOV; citymanager@CambridgeMA.GOV; Susanne Rasmussen; Jeff Rosenblum; [residents' names omitted]
Subject: Young Street Trees - Abutters' "Guardianship"? (especially during dry periods)

Dear Commissioner Peterson and Mr. Lefcourt:

Since the DPW planted our new young tree in front of our home on Magazine Street, we have been watering it (using the Tree Gator it came with) and will add more mulch to keep it moist. So far, it seems to be holding on relatively well.

However, sad to say, I've noticed other young trees that are not faring so well. And, I have a suggestion. Maybe you're already engaged in something akin to it. If so, great! If not, here it is for your consideration.

The DPW's "Residential Street Tree Planting and Care" brochure, which I received through my mail slot when the DPW planted our young tree, inspired me. How about asking abutters of young street trees to be their "guardians"? Especially, given the number of young trees the City planted this year after the abundant spring rains and in also recent years, it seems that the City should continue to remind abutting property owners, at least, that the young trees (those planted both this year and in prior years) need our ongoing help. In such a notice, the DPW could advise people in greater detail than is contained in the brochure about how and when to care for their street trees (both with and without soaker bags), including advice about amounts of water, watering hours and seasons, duration of watering, mulching, not raising the soil level, not planting competing plants, fertilizer (or not), etc.

Perhaps the City could mail such reminders to property owners, just as is done with the notices about our obligation to remove snow and ice. The trees are reflect an investment (dollars, time and effort) and are, as well, a way to beautify, cool and increase the green canopy of our City and reduce our carbon footprint.

For Exhibit A to this email, I suggest that you make a site visit to the mostly pathetic or deceased young trees on Granite Street in front of the Morse School. Of the eight trees, one is completely dead. Four are seriously ailing, including one with a Tree Gator that never seems to filled even though, ironically, there's an active CitySprouts garden just over the fence. The other three are green, but I wouldn't describe them as thriving. It may be that those particular trees are especially stressed due to additional salt and traffic in front of the school, but they're just around the corner from my home and are, I think, a good object lesson for doing something to address this problem.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Hare

P.S. Susanne and Jeff: Perhaps you will consider incorporating this tree "tree guardianship" concept into the public process accompanying the Western Avenue reconstruction project.







Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT F-2

From: Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 3:59 PM
To: Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc
Cc: Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Webster, David; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna; 'Bob Simha'
Subject: Update & > Info: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee - 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting
Importance: High

Dear Councillors Cheung, Chairman, Carlone, Mazen and McGovern:

I realize it is campaign season when you're must be way overbooked. But, I really do hope that (if you have not already done so) you will take the time to **read the 6 specific, achievable goals I suggested in my Saturday, 9/12 email to you and City personnel**. A number of residents have written to me in agreement.

Update re Granite St. Trees: This morning I noticed that 2 (I think) of the Granite St. trees that I wrote you about and sent photographs of have been removed. I've learned from a neighbor that this happened on 9/3 or 9/4. I do hope in this case (and others like it throughout the City) that we won't have to experience yet another round of the usual: plant replacement young tree > dying tree > dead tree > replant replacement young tree.

Another Suggestion for Consideration - Runnels: Following up on my 9/12 emailed suggestions your Committee, Bob Simha* made his won suggestion about "runnels":

"Here is an example of how to keep trees alive in our climate..the Spaniards have been doing this for a long time...By capturing the rain water in the runnels rather than letting it runoff into the sewers several goals are achieved...water conservation, tree watering , healthier trees , lower cost maintenance ..etc . I have seen these in action...they really work

....
http://www.localecologist.org/2008/02/runnels-in-cordoba-sevilla-and-madrid_19.html"

*Mr. Simha served as the Director of Planning for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1960 to 2000. In that capacity, he was responsible for the planning and development of the MIT campus. During the period of his service at MIT, the campus grew from 4.5 million square feet to 9 million square feet and its related commercial research and development facilities built adjacent to the campus at Technology Square and University Park. He was deeply involved in the creation and financing of the Kendall Square Urban Renewal area.

Again, thanks for your time and consideration.

Carol O'Hare
172 Magazine St.

Cc: **David Lefcourt:** Please forward this to the Committee on Public Planting
Donna Lopez: Please file this with the Official Record.

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Feb 19, 2008

Runnels in Cordoba, Sevilla, and Madrid



Coincidentally I saw the runnels, or channels designed for irrigation in the garden (read [here](#)), at La Mezquita de Cordoba, Spain pictured in *Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape* by Nigel Dunnett and Andy Clayden. I travelled in Spain before reading the book which I borrowed from the Berkeley Public Library. Although I did not photograph runnels in Cordoba, I did photograph runnels in Patio de los Naranjos (courtyard of the orange trees) in Sevilla , pictured above and below, and in Parque del Buen Retiro in Madrid.

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- Updated: 10 Most Common Street Trees in NYC
- Co-benefits of playground water timers
- Happy Groundhog Day



Dunnett and Clayden use the term gully

instead of runnel. They write,

In the Moorosh garden of the Mezquita, Cordoba (Spain), water is channelled through a series of gullies to each orange tree set within the cobbled patio. Water was a valuable and scarce resource that needed to be used widely. The flow of water can be regulated by inserting timber boards into slot sets within the rills.



Parque del Buen Retiro

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 - Bird watch: Berries and buds attract robins and ce...
 - Outdoor space for small dwellings
 - Super Tuesday Results

From: Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc
Cc: Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Webster, David; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna; 'Doug Brown'
Subject: Doug Brown's 6 points re trees: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting
Importance: High

Dear Councillors Cheung, Chairman, Carlone, Mazen and McGovern:

Below is a copy of **Doug Brown's 9/15 concise email**. **He lists 6 specific, tree-related questions, issues, concerns and suggestions. I hope you'll have time to read it before your afternoon hearing.**

I'll attend your the hearing, and I hope other residents do, too. But, as you know, for many people, it's difficult, if not impossible, to attend public hearings and meetings during the day.

Carol O'Hare

From: Doug Brown [mailto:douglas_p_brown@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 10:43 AM
To: 'Carol O'Hare'; 'Bob Simha'; 'Arthur Strang'; 'Pebble Gifford'; lkeyes@mit.edu; ket@taylorpartners.com; ajglassman@hotmail.com; 'Michael Brandon'
Cc: 'Doug Brown'
Subject: RE: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee - 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting

Thanks, Carol. Someone really should attend this and ask the question of why the City's 5-year Plan fails to make any progress towards replacing all missing street trees. By my math, they propose to replace 80 trees per year over the next 5 years, at the same time that they estimate losing 130 trees each year. Last I checked, you can't eliminate a 700+ tree backlog by planting 80 trees and cutting down 130 every year. The math just doesn't add up. Other issues with trees:

- Allowing homeowners to opt out of street trees. Trees are for the public good. Pick your own species of tree: sure. But you should not be allowed to opt out of having a tree in front of your house.
- No ongoing maintenance, even when notified (your photos are perfect examples. I have others.). Can missing/damaged trees be added as an option in the iReport app?
- Tree inventory not updated in real time, so I'm not even sure if the cited 758 missing trees is accurate
- Not data in the tree inventory as to the current health/condition of trees
- Like double poles, stumps need to be removed with 90 days, and replanted within 1 year
- A general perception that replacing a 27" tree with a new 2" sapling is in some way equivalent. It's not. When trees larger than 20" are cut down, they should be replaced with larger specimens (4" perhaps?) That would restore the location to its previous condition faster, and the added cost of larger trees would perhaps

incent the City to think twice before removing larger trees.
-Doug

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT C

From: Inmanstreet103@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:54 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: tree meeting, comments

Dear Ms. Lopez,

Council member Craig Kelley suggests sending any comments residents might like to contribute about trees and their maintenance in Cambridge to you, if we can't make the meeting.

I would like to attend but in case I can't, I would just like to say, I support a combination of tree planting and care, especially watering, always done in concert, because planting trees without a plan to help them through the tough first years is a waste, of money and trees. I also think the City cannot rely entirely on abutters to do the right thing. Many people like to construct gardens in their tree wells, whether there is a tree there or not, and the raised soil and competition from annuals is not best for the trees.

Thank you so much for noting my comments.

Megan Brook 103 Inman St.

From: Jan Devereux <jan.devereux@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Carol O'Hare
Cc: Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc; Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Webster, David; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna; Bob Simha
Subject: Re: Update & > Info: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee - 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting

I especially like the suggestion of "runnels" -- perhaps those could be piloted along New St. when it is reconstructed and which is prone to flooding at the entrance to the mall parking lot.

Jan

On Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 3:59 PM, Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Councillors Cheung, Chairman, Carlone, Mazen and McGovern:

I realize it is campaign season when you're must be way overbooked. But, I really do hope that (if you have not already done so) you will take the time to **read the 6 specific, achievable goals I suggested in my Saturday, 9/12 email to you and City personnel**. A number of residents have written to me in agreement.

Update re Granite St. Trees: This morning I noticed that 2 (I think) of the Granite St. trees that I wrote you about and sent photographs of have been removed. I've learned from a neighbor that this happened on 9/3 or 9/4. I do hope in this case (and others like it throughout the City) that we won't have to experience yet another round of the usual: plant replacement young tree > dying tree > dead tree > replant replacement young tree.

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http://www.localecologist.org/2008/02/runnels-in-cordoba-sevilla-and-madrid_19.html"

*Mr. Simha served as the Director of Planning for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1960 to 2000. In that capacity, he was responsible for the planning and development of the MIT campus. During the period of his service at MIT, the campus grew from 4.5 million square feet to 9 million square feet and its related commercial research and

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT I

From: Karney, Charlotte E. <charlotte_karney@harvard.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:45 AM
To: Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc; Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Webster, David; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Oh for some trees on Granite Street

Good morning,

I am so glad that the issue of abandoned tree wells is coming before the city council. I am sorry that a commitment at work makes it impossible for me to attend your hearing tomorrow.

I live on Granite Street, and about eighteen years ago, when the Morse school was renovated several large, fine old trees were taken down to facilitate the work. At that time the city arborist assured me that trees would be planted both in the Morse grounds and along the street. Since then one tree has been planted on the Morse grounds (and another large tree has been taken down). On the left side of the street the trees have been butchered by the utility company, and on the right there has been planting after planting of sickly small trees, nearly all of which have failed.

Please could there be a comprehensive planting of appropriate trees along this street. I will undertake to water them.

I whole heartedly support what Carol O'Hare has written to you.

Best wishes,
Charlotte Karney
41 Granite Street

From: Michael Hawley <mike@media.mit.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Rossi, Rich; City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna; Cheung, Leland; Carlone, Dennis; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc; Peterson, Lisa; Maher, David; Toomey, Tim
Subject: trees — and everyday infrastructure

Mr. Rossi, and Councilors:

The City's Five-Year Plan includes replacing 80 trees per year, but estimates losing 130 trees per year. Isn't that a net LOSS of $50 \times 5 = 250$ trees? On top of a deficit of 750+ trees already missing?

I question these numbers and so should you.

I studied with care the City Arborist's published GIS maps, and took a stroll around East Cambridge. I counted DOZENS of stumps and empty tree wells, none of which were noted in those maps.

And, folks: these stumps are not trivial. For instance:



Come on! That's a 14 foot stump! It has been there for years. It's right smack in front of a beautifully restored historic house with a plaque — a dignified home that won prizes for quality renovation. There are several great big stumps that have been there longer than the residents in some cases. Oy!

The real problem isn't just scrambling to make a five-year plan that replenishes our trees.

The problem, in a word, is: NEGLECT.

Together, trees, sidewalks, streets, lighting, signs, poles & wiring constitute a vitally important public place. We should think of this fabric as more like a public park. And there's no question that in concert, beautiful trees, sidewalks, streets, lighting, signage, etc really can be beautiful — so beautiful that residents are inspired to repair their houses. Except when, unmaintained, it all decays to become an eyesore and public nuisance.

Even if one element, like trees, is attended to, if the rest are neglected and left to rot, all the negatives will continue to compound. Unhappy trees, broken sidewalks, crumbling streets, lousy poles, rusting signs, crummy lighting, all add up insidiously to places that dampen spirits instead of lifting them.

Here's what one observes in East Cambridge. Doubtless true of many neighborhoods in the city:

- **trees**: dozens of stumps and empty wells (not marked on the city arborist's GIS map). Typical tree wells are untended — just a sloppy, irregular hole in the walk, full of rocks and weeds, and, of course, garbage. Because if it looks like a dump, people will throw litter into it. A few (very few) residents tend to the trees in front of their homes, and a few high-traffic areas have metal grates (which, in fact, are questionable), but most of the tree wells are frankly in a shambles. In places, it really is sad.

- **sidewalks**: over time, portions of historic (and beautiful) brick sidewalks were replaced with concrete, because concrete seemed "cheaper" than bricks or pavers. But the concrete cracks, becomes uneven, a safety hazard. It's not compatible with trees. When tree roots push up brick, the roots can be shaved and sealed, and the brick pavers replaced. But concrete cracks and becomes uneven. And not just because of tree roots: normal freezing/thawing cycles make sidewalks buckle. And when they do, for an even cheaper repair, asphalt is dumped in. The result is a pathetic mess. If we continue to make mediocre repairs to sidewalks instead of fixing them properly, let alone beautifully, we'll wind up with a mess.

- **utility poles**: in Cambridge, our wired infrastructure is a nightmare and we all know it. The poles are overburdened with a rat's nest of wiring. Loose wires often dangle right down to the street (they are commonly coiled and tied to street signs or trees!). When a pole fails, the infamous "double pole" is attached to it. These things are hideous, dangerous — and illegal. And then, as a final kick in the groin to the neighborhood, a ridiculously overpowered and ugly LED light is bolted to the top. Folks, this is intolerable.

- **streets**: when road crews came to East Cambridge this summer, we thought they were going to repave the cracked, potholed streets. Instead, they laid down patches. This is like stitching rags on top of holes in a pair of jeans that have already fallen apart — and is about as effective not to mention ugly. In many places, you'll see pavement patches that stop short of big cracks and potholes. Or patches that cover most of the street but stop a foot short of the curb. They couldn't just pave to the edge? Thermal cycles will crack the patches. Snowplows will tear up the cracked edges. Someone may have thought they were saving money, but it's only going to cost more in the long run — while disfiguring the neighborhood in the process.

- **utility "graffiti"**: every ten feet or so, some worker with a can of neon krylon spray-paints hobo marks on the sidewalk or pavement. On historic Third Street, the old brick sidewalk is ruined with these marks. They're everywhere! It's a disgrace. How would you like it if someone painted these marks on the walkway to your front door? There is simply no excuse for trashing our streets and sidewalks this way. This practice should be banned. A SWAT team should be assigned to clean up this mess. Underlying infrastructure should be mapped properly.

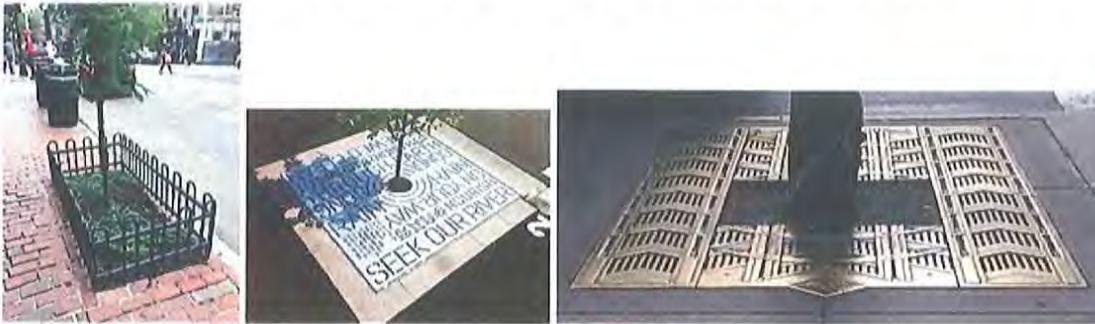
A few pictures help to make the point more clear:

First Street, north side (Galleria Mall side): typical urban tree grates.
And just across the street? Tree wells are basically weedy garbage dumps.



And one may think the tree grates are a good thing, but unless they are well designed, they tend to be problematic. Trees usually have too little space and roots hit the hardscape. The grates have openings that are too small, and aren't enlarged as the tree grows. The metal compresses the roots.

Compare with tidy fencing and larger, earthy, minimally gardened treatments.
Or large grates, properly sized, with more compelling designs and materials.



But those are not East Cambridge.

By contrast, residential neighborhoods are blighted with tree wells typically like this:



Don't forget the nasty paint marks absolutely everywhere:



Or our state of the art utility wiring?



Streets in America are paved with gold? Hardly.

These patches arguably do a better job of disfiguring a neighborhood. Is it really too much to ask that the pavement be taken to the curb, and that essential safety stripes be immediately repainted?



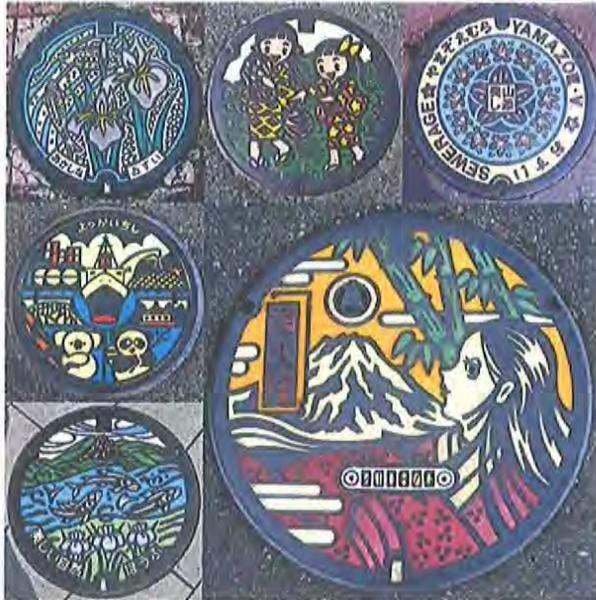
All of this sadly adds up in a terribly negative way. It just looks like people could care less. It's really a shame.

Well, we can fix this.

I think the start of a solution is for the City to assign a swat team to tackle these issues in a holistic and more comprehensive way. Don't start by asking: "How many trees should we plant to keep up with the pace of replenishment?" Instead, ask: what should we do to restore the basics in a first class way. The arborist can't do it in isolation. Even if the arborist succeeded wildly, we'd have beautiful trees

surrounded by shitty double poles in broken sidewalks. The arboreal teams will do an even BETTER job if they are inspired (not dragged down) by having the rest of our neighborhood fabric brought up to a first-class level.

To finish, I note an example from Japan. In the 1980's, the country sought to fix their rotten infrastructure. It was something nobody much cared about — until a bureaucrat came up with the clever idea of letting each municipality design its own manhole covers. It took off, and suddenly, utility plates and manhole covers became works of art:



You don't see people throwing garbage on these, or surrounding them with "utility graffiti." Needless to say, workers take special care with these. They pave around them beautifully, so that the lovely metal covers are framed with pavers or pavement in an appropriately dignified way. And instead of a city scape littered with rusting garbage, spray painted with splats of neon krylon, there are actually these beautiful elements in the most mundane aspects of everyday infrastructure. Something like 85% of Japanese municipalities have jumped on this bandwagon. Bands of tourists, called "drainspotters," visit just to photograph them.

I'd like to suggest that we look for approaches like this for our trees, our utility covers, our lights, our sidewalks. Instead of neglecting these essential elements of everyday life, let's design them beautifully, and give them the TLC they deserve, so that future generations will be inspired to cherish them instead of neglecting them, and dumping on them.

Michael Hawley

From: Doug Brown <douglas_p_brown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:48 AM
To: Mazen, Nadeem; Carlone, Dennis; Cheung, Leland; McGovern, Marc
Cc: Rossi, Rich; Peterson, Lisa; O'Riordan, Owen; Webster, David; Lefcourt, David; Lopez, Donna; Carol O'Hare; FPRA Google Group
Subject: Comments in advance of today's Health & Environment Committee hearing on Street Trees

Dear members of the Health & Environment Committee,

Please allow me to submit the following comments in advance of today's committee meeting on the matter of street trees. As a resident of Huron Village, I have seen firsthand the sorry state of many of our street trees. Sadly, the five year plan proposed in the City's recent report does little to improve the situation.

In short, the City's plan fails to make any progress towards replacing all missing street trees. By my math, it is proposed to replace 80 trees per year over the next 5 years, at the same time that it is estimated we will lose 130 trees each year. Perhaps I am missing something, but last I checked, you can't eliminate a 700+ tree backlog by planting 80 trees and cutting down 130 every year. The math just doesn't add up. Other significant issues with our street trees:

Allowing homeowners to opt out of street trees is problematic for many reasons. Trees are for the public good. Pick your own species of tree: sure. But you should not be allowed to opt out of having a tree in front of your house when trees are proven to reduce flooding, reduce heat island effects, and improve air quality for all residents.

Ongoing tree maintenance by the City, even when notified by residents, seems absent in many cases. To facilitate the reporting and tracking of issues, can missing/damaged trees be added as an option in the City's iReport app?

The City's tree inventory is not updated in real time. As such, there is no way to know whether the 758 missing trees cited in the report is an accurate number as of today, particularly when my own Huron Village neighborhood seems to lose another tree every day.

In addition, there is no data in the tree inventory as to the current health/condition of trees. This data is critical for assessing the current condition of our urban canopy.

Just like state law requires of double utility poles, stumps need to be removed with 90 days, and replanted within 1 year.

Finally, there seems to be a general perception that replacing a 27" tree with a new 2" sapling is in some way equivalent. It's not. When trees larger than 12" are cut down, they should be replaced with larger specimens (4" perhaps?) That would restore the location to its previous condition faster, and the added cost of larger trees would perhaps incite the City to think twice before removing larger trees for any reason other than public safety.

Sincerely,
Doug Brown
VP, Fresh Pond Residents Alliance

P.s. Please file this email along with the official record of the meeting. Thank you.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT L

From: Carolyn <carolyn_shipley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Carlone, Dennis; McGovern, Marc; Mazen, Nadeem; Cheung, Leland
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Cambridge Health & Environment Committee - 9/16/15 hearing re tree issues & role of Committee on Public Planting

Dear Councillors: I do not have the time in my busy schedule to write a detailed report to you regarding the health of trees in Cambridge and the actual number of empty tree wells, sick and dying trees, as well as cemented over tree wells.

I hope to be able to do that sometime soon.

What I can tell you is that I checked the City's list of empty tree wells published recently and found many empty tree wells not on their list.

>>Their list is in no way complete.<< Please do not accept their list as final.

Surely, you know about the dead trees in front of the Central Sq. Post office, and two or three along the Pleasant St. side of the P.O. that are dying. This is unacceptable for such a prominent location. Since this location is near city hall, I hope that you have noticed.

Alvin Thompson Plaza - that's on River St. next to the First Baptist Church - I counted 8 dead or dying trees. That's is unacceptable. They have been showing signs of disease for at least a year now.

The policy of the city to allow property owners to nix the planting of trees in front of their property has to be made null and void! One property owner on Western Avenue took four trees out of urban forest simply because he doesn't like trees! You probably know who he is. He was also responsible for the removal of four beautiful and perfectly healthy Callery Pear trees on Gilmore Street. That was an abomination. David Lefcourt and an arborist from Sav-a-Tree both proclaimed the trees to be healthy!

There are many other dying trees, empty tree wells, etc., but I do not have the time to list them here today.

The state of the city trees is very poor. I really don't know how the city got the designation of being a Tree City a couple of years ago.

The policy of removing more trees than are planned to be replaces is unacceptable, bad for the environment. No rational explanation was given for this carnage of our trees.

The city also has to take into account the trees that are being removed by private property owners due to construction, as well as trees the city is removing in places like the Harvard Sq. common.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Shipley
15 Laurel Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

To Ms. Lopez: Please enter my letter into the official record. Thank you.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT M

From: Laura Nash <laura.nash11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:26 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Cc: Tom Beale; Maggie Booz
Subject: street trees in Cambridge

I am writing to express my commitment to the continued expansion of public space tree planting in Cambridge and also my concern about the process of consultation and maintenance of tree wells and tree plantings. I was personally involved in the effort to see that the Harvard Lampoon's offer of \$10,000 for street trees on Mt. Auburn street be taken seriously, and be implemented with full consultation with the public planting committee and its high standards. While I'm delighted that the trees were planted, the selection of species and actual planting and watering issues were not up to standard. The trees were shallow, the allee effect (a historic feature of the street in years past) was somewhat spoiled by the use of elm and locust. The wells were not deep enough for these trees and almost at once there was construction on the street that put several in dire straits, with root balls thoroughly exposed and heavy equipment leaning on the young trees. They are not thriving.

I would remind the committee that the Harvard Square Business Association, of which the Lampoon is a member, received extremely strong support of these trees from its members, especially from the businesses adjacent to the wells. Some even took over the watering of the ones in front of their stores. As former president of Cambridge Plant & Garden Club, former head of the Garden committee of Friends of Longfellow House, and current board member of Mount Auburn Cemetery, I have personally been a longtime supporter of public green space and hope that the city's use of resources toward that end be more thoughtful and responsible in its execution.

Yours sincerely,
Laura Nash

--
Laura L. Nash, Ph.D.
11 Buckingham Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: 617 868 7557
Mbl: 617 794 5464
laura.nash11@gmail.com

From: esla@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Health and Environment Public Hearing

Dear Ms. Lopez, This letter is in support of the Committee on Public Planting's efforts to improve the quality of Cambridge's tree canopy. I am a registered landscape architect and serve on the board of Green Cambridge, the Board of Overseers for Boston's Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Executive Committee of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects. With the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, we are working to improve tree planting standards as well as developing state of the art tree maintenance protocols for Boston and

Brookline. This summer has been particularly hard on our already stressed trees. Everywhere, there are signs of trees sorely in need of attention.

Trees are an integral part of the Cambridge experience. They play a leading and critical role in the livability of our City. We would be well served by renewing our commitment to extending and invigorating of our green canopy. In order to achieve this goal, as I see it, staffing increases are merited. A city such as ours would benefit from an expanded landscape staff (2-3 arborists, an additional project manager and perhaps even a master gardner) to nurture and oversee this invaluable resource of ours.

I am on currently on my way back from Chicago. For years, Chicago has been involved not only in an aggressive and ambitious tree planting program but in instituting a rigorous landscape maintenance regime. The result of her efforts is truly inspiring and can serve as a motivation for our City to do better by our trees!

Thank you,

Elena Saporta, ASLA, RLA, LEED AP

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device