



Urban Forestry Public Hearing

Background & Framing

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Michael F. Glavin, OSPCD Executive Director

Brad Rawson, Director of Transportation & Infrastructure

Vanessa Boukili, Ph.D / MCA, Urban Forestry & Landscape Planner

October 3, 2018

Urban Forestry is Important to Somerville for Many Diverse Reasons

<https://www.somervillema.gov/urbanforestry>

1. Stormwater Management
2. Residential Heating & Cooling
3. Air Pollution Mitigation
4. Traffic Calming
5. Wildlife Habitat
6. Carbon Sequestration
7. Noise Attenuation
8. Visual Privacy
9. Merchant Revenues
10. Property Values
11. Resident Happiness



Our Open Space & Recreation Plan Directs City to Develop Urban Forestry Plan

http://ifa.somervillema.gov.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/OSRP_Final-BOOK.pdf



2016 - 2023 ACTION PLAN FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

This Seven-Year Action Plan proposes a prioritized action and schedule for each goal listed in Section 9. A responsible department is identified for each action.

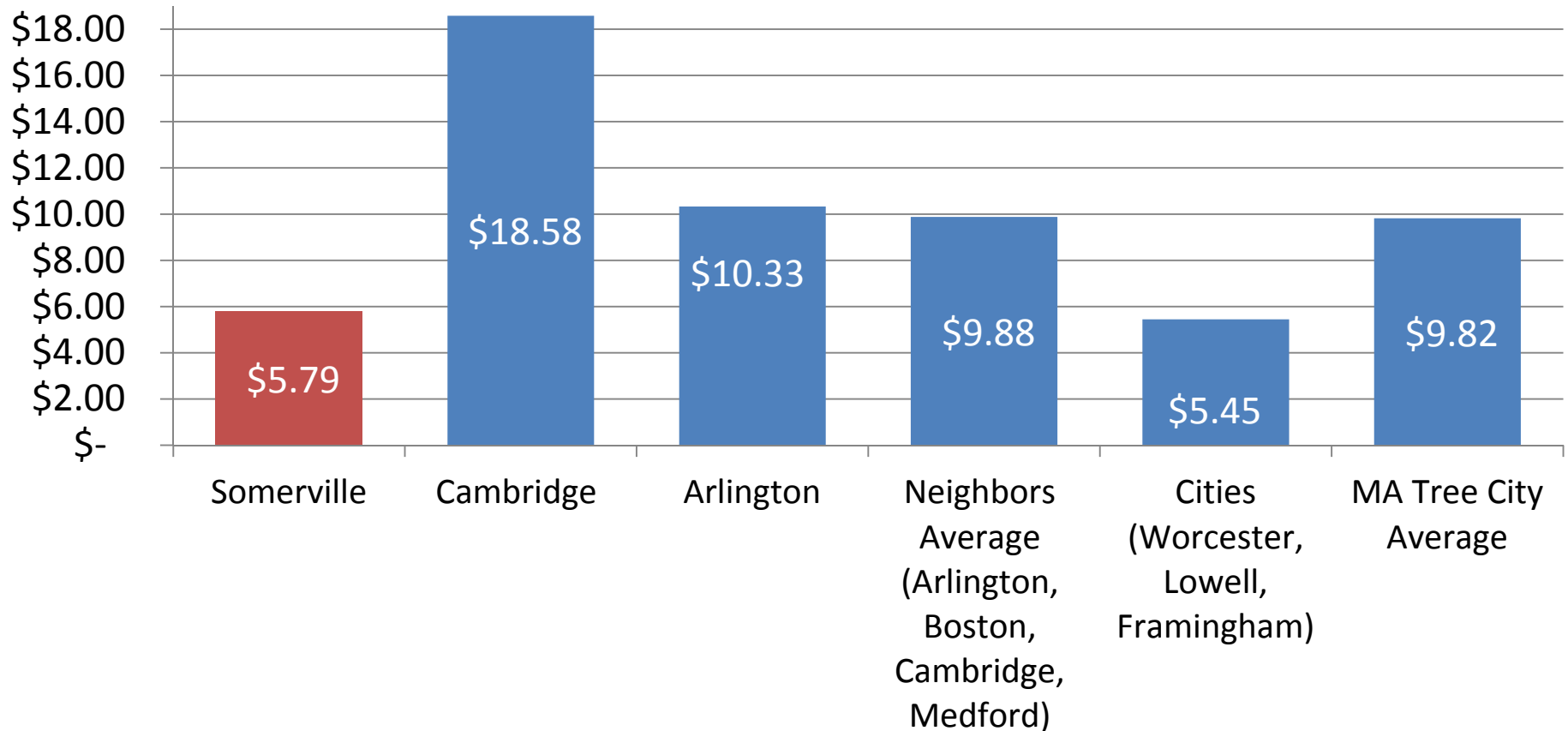
GOAL3: DEVELOP AN URBAN FORESTRY PLAN

Strategy	Action	Responsible Lead	Funding Source	Proposed Completion	Priority
3.1 Develop a five-year Urban Forestry Management Plan (2018-2023)	3.1.1 Update the 2009 Davey Tree Report and map existing tree canopy.	OSP/CD / DPW		2018	1
	3.1.2 Develop a plan to add at least 150 trees per year with CDBG, City, or other funds.			2016-2023	1
	3.1.3 Develop a plan for protecting the health of existing trees.			2018	2
3.2 Develop best-practices guidelines around proper tree planting and maintenance, to be utilized by contractors and existing City tree programs (i.e., DPW and OSP/CD).	3.2.1 Draft "Somerville Tree Manual" for distribution to City tree programs	OSP/CD / DPW		2023	2
	3.2.2 Conduct workshop(s) for DPW on tree program goals and best-practices.	OSP/CD		2016-2023	1
	3.2.3 Assemble an "Urban Forestry Committee" composed of residents and City liaison.	OSP/CD			2
3.3 Increase educational outreach to residents and business owners about the benefits of trees in Somerville.	3.3.1 Increase visibility of the City's Urban Forest Initiative (i.e., print materials, web presence, point of contact)	OSP/CD	TBD	2021	2
	3.3.2 Conduct workshops / presentations for community groups and residents about Somerville's "green infrastructure initiatives."			2016-2023	3



City's Forestry Program Can Be Compared with Peer Cities Using 2016 DCR Data

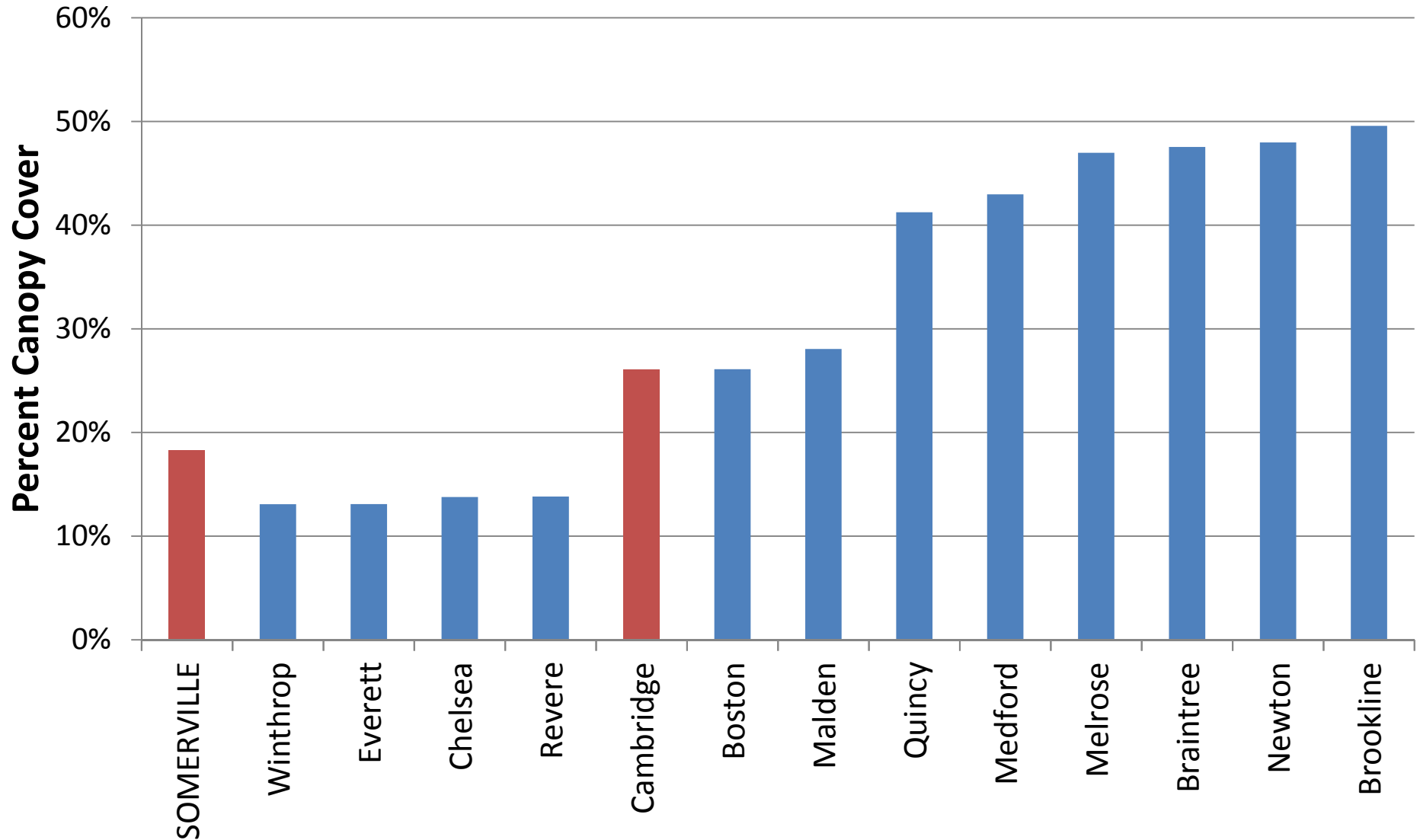
Note: graph shows municipal forestry spending per capita



- Source: DCR, Tree City USA, 2016
- Caveat: different spending methodologies in each city. For example, some cities include volunteer hours, utility pruning as part of overall program cost

Somerville Tree Canopy Can Be Compared with Peer Cities Using 2014 MAPC Data

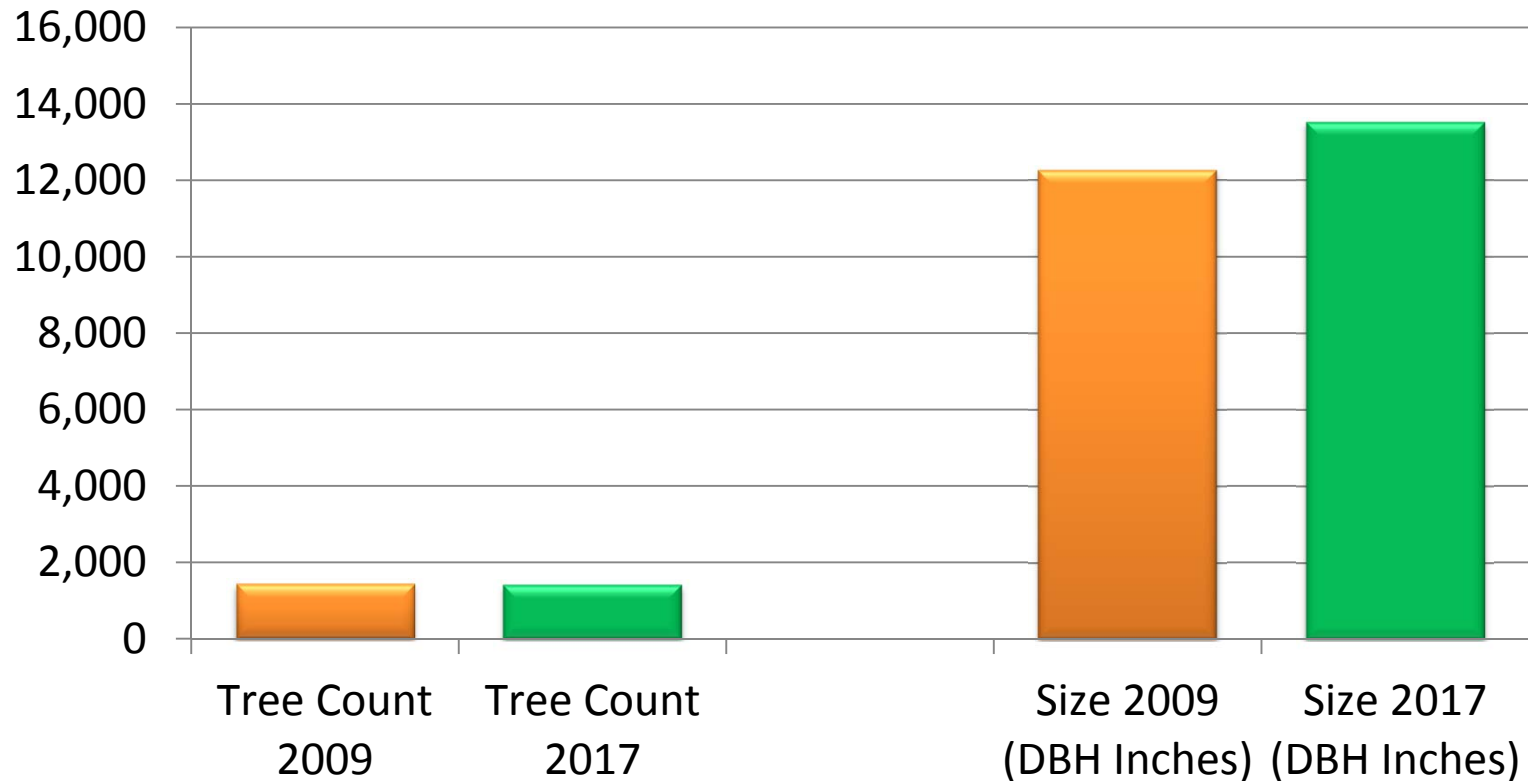
Note: data include all public and private trees



City Tree Inventory Update Allows Comparison of Our Urban Forest Over Time

Note: data include only public street trees

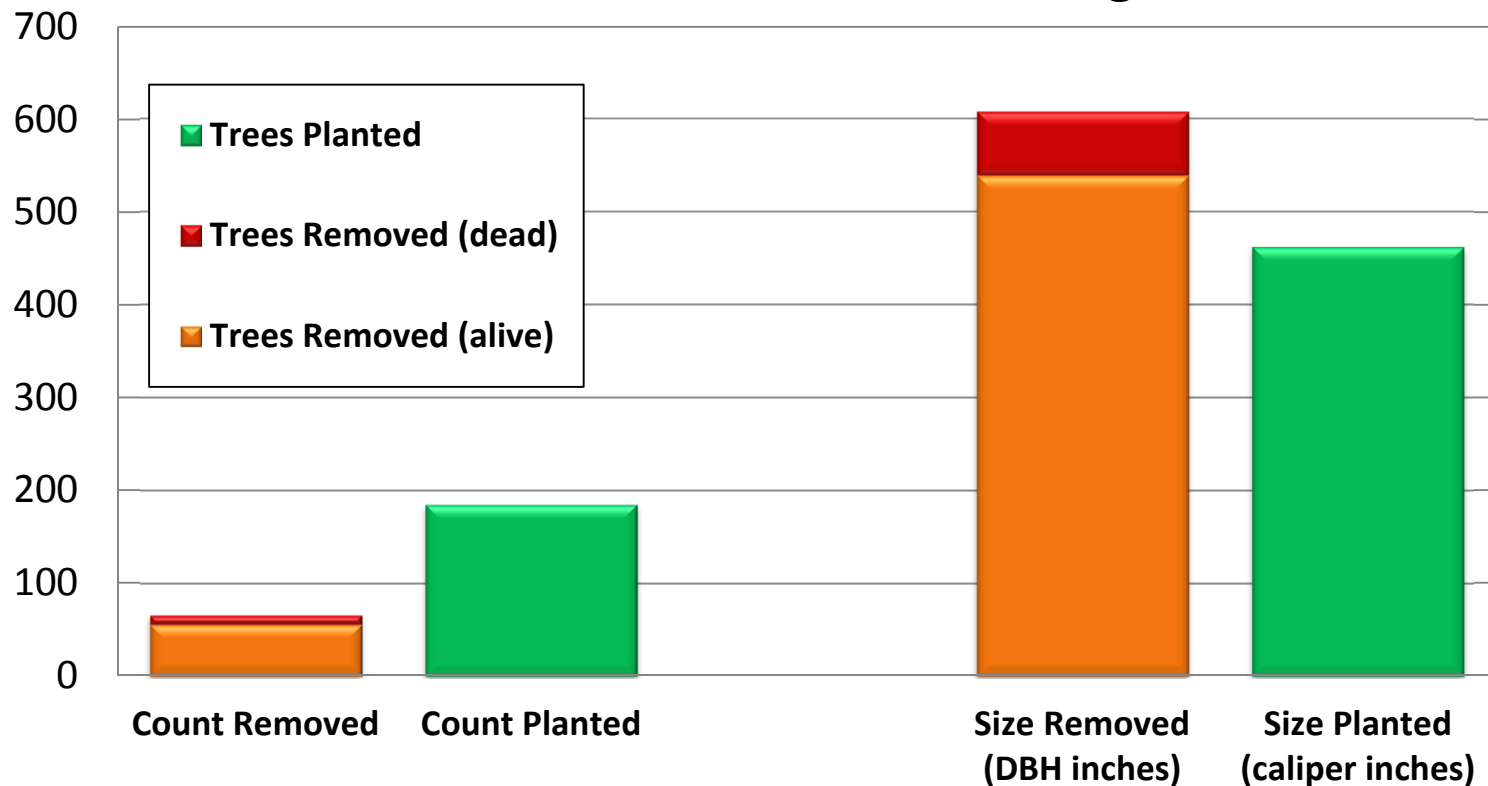
Ward 1 (East Somerville) 2009-2017 Change in Street Tree Inventory



Large Capital Projects Have Created Challenges for Net Caliper Change

Note: data include only public trees

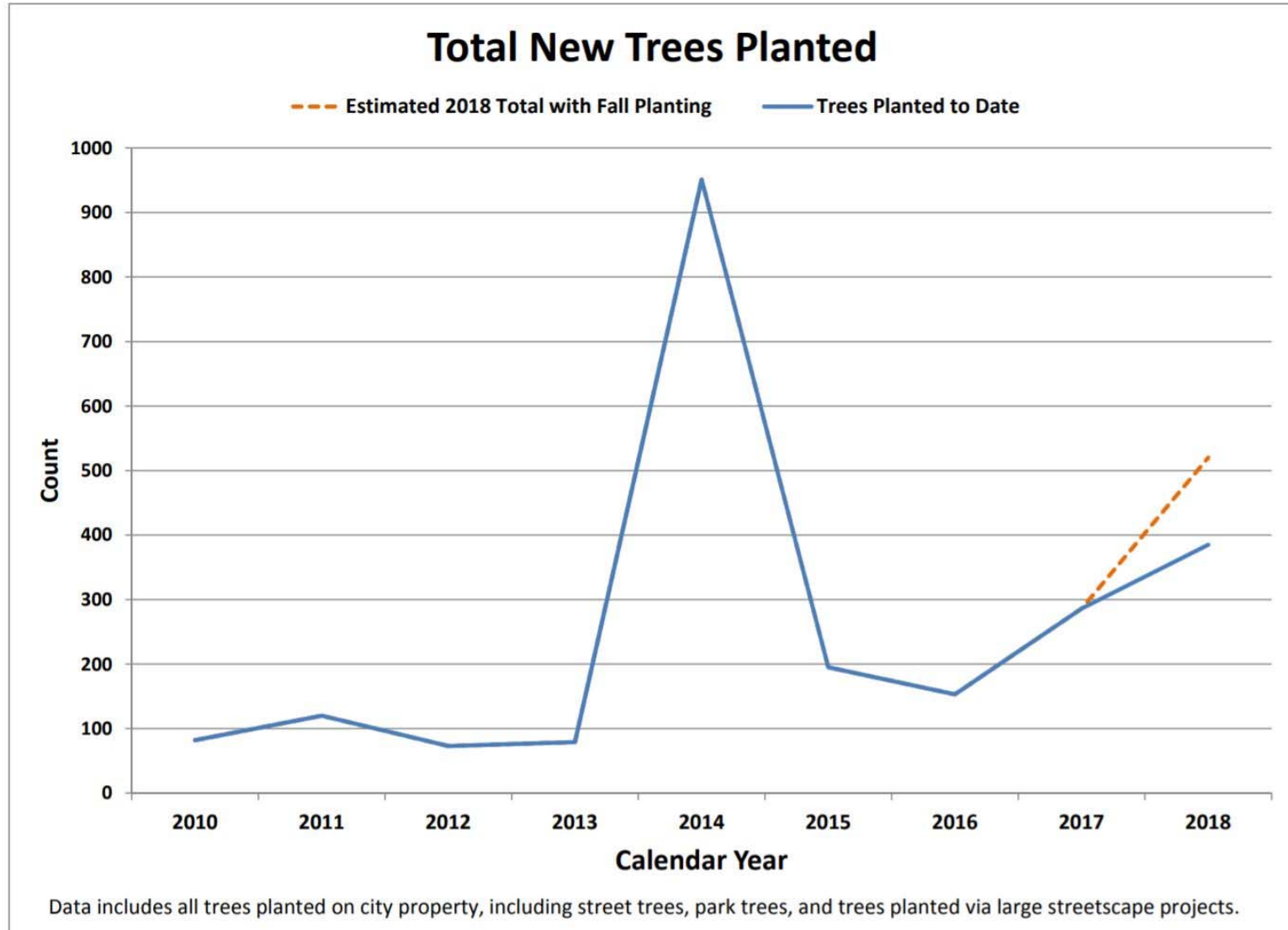
Beacon Street Reconstruction Project, 2016-2019 Tree Removal vs. Tree Planting



Almost three times as many trees are being planting along the street compared to the number of trees removed. The combined caliper inches of the planted trees is over 75% of the diameter of trees that were removed. After just a few years of growth we predict the combined caliper size of these newly planted trees will be greater than the combined size of the removed trees.

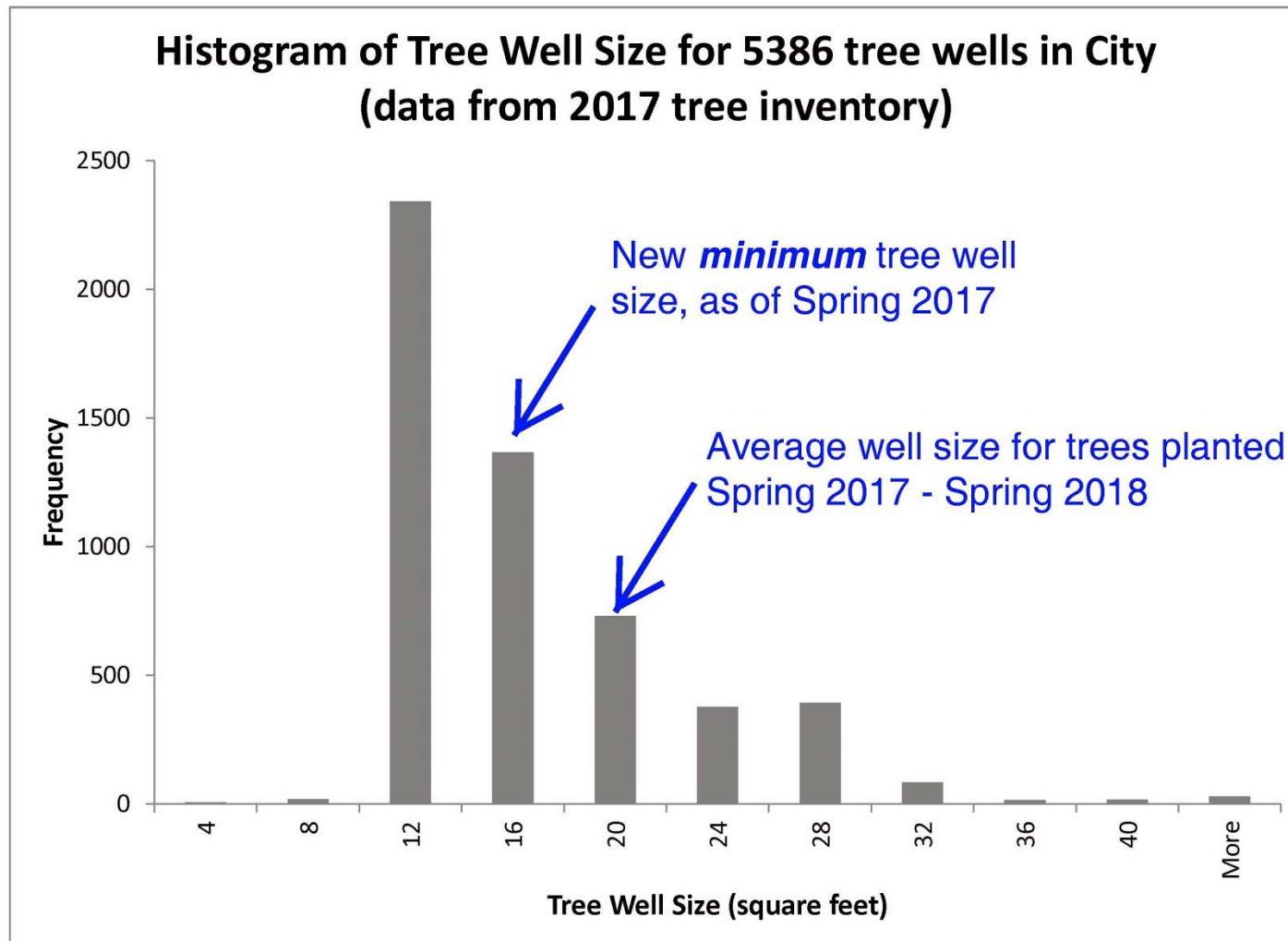
City's Street Tree Planting Program Shows Rapid Improvement Since 2015

Note: new staff arrived late 2016



City's Street Tree Planting Program Has Improved Quality Control Since 2015

Note: new staff arrived late 2016



City Website Overhaul Has Improved Public Information, Education & Advocacy


<https://www.somervillema.gov/urbanforestry>

OSPCD - Urban Forestry

Home > Departments > Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) > OSPCD - Urban Forestry

About the Urban Forestry Division

The Urban Forestry Division manages, plans and cares for Somerville's more than twelve thousand public trees. Somerville's urban forest offers countless ecological, economic, and health benefits to the community. Trees remove carbon dioxide and harmful pollutants from the air, cool city temperatures, reduce storm-water runoff, all while increasing property values and beautifying urban landscapes.



Tree Planting Map

Videos

Emerald Ash Borer


How You Can Help

Data

Documents

Spring 2018 Tree Planting Map

The City of Somerville is planting more than 120 trees during the 2018 Spring planting season. The map below shows details about the placement and species of these trees.



Contact

Vanessa Boukili
Urban Forestry & Landscape Planner / Conservation Agent

Hours
Monday - Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Phone
(617) 625-6600 ext 2516

Email
trees@somervillema.gov

Address
City Hall
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

[View Map >](#)

[VIEW ALL STAFF CONTACTS >](#)

Additional Resources

[Forms & Information](#)



Fall 2018 Activities Include Community Engagement, Operations & Policy Work

- 1. Complete citywide public tree inventory**
 - Manage consultant data collection for ~6,000 trees
- 2. Form City Urban Forestry Committee**
- 3. Young Tree Management**
 - Inspect 300 trees from 2017 and 2018 planting cycles
 - Enforce warranty for any dead / dying young trees
- 4. Fall 2018 Street Tree Planting**
 - Inspect and mark sites for ~80 trees
 - Manage contractor and supervise plantings
 - Plan and manage volunteer tree plantings for ~50 trees
- 5. Emerald Ash Borer Management**
 - Continue monitoring and public outreach / education
- 6. Citywide Tree Operations**
 - Respond to daily 311 workflow for inspections, pruning, removal and storm response