



**Community Preservation Act Funding
Request
January 16, 2018**

**Somerville Community Path
Ecological Planting Considerations.**

Community Preservation Committee

Community Path Ecological Plantings - Budget Request

- Community Path Drainage Improvements previously approved by the CPC: \$75,000
- Additional funds requested here: \$15,000
- Total: \$90,000

Why should this additional work be included as part of the scope of work for the Community Path drainage improvements? What is included?

The Somerville Community Path is loved as one of Somerville's largest open spaces. It is also one of the few forested landscapes in the city where visitors have contact the natural world, and where there are opportunities for bird habitat and natural flora and fauna.

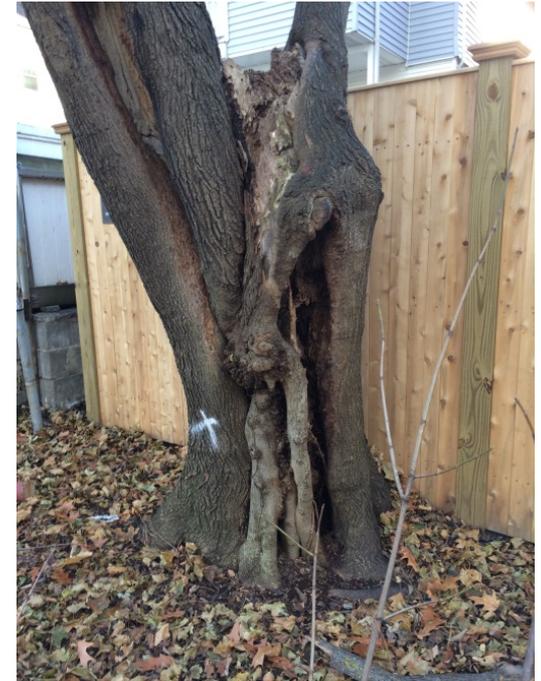
The funding for these additional improvements will help to ensure the long term ecological health of the path.

Included are:

- 1) A strategy for the removal of invasives plants like Japanese knotweed which are now established and are continuing to expand.
- 2) An analysis the composition of the tree canopy, and make recommendations for to improve it's health and biodiversity.

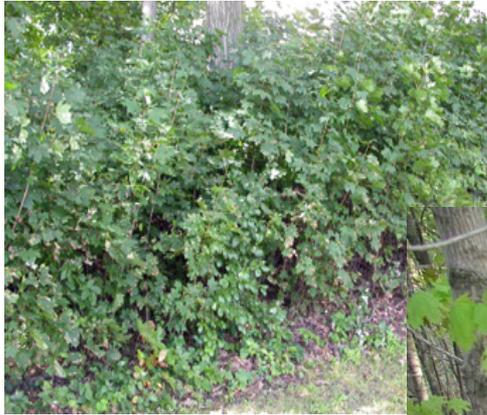
What are the existing conditions on the path that will be addressed?

- Many weak and unhealthy trees
- A lack of biodiversity among the tree species and understory plant layers
- Expanding stands of Norway Maple, Japanese Knotweed, Black Swallowwort, Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, and Bittersweet



- What are the invasive species that will be addressed with the funding?
- What do they look like?

Norway Maple - *Acer platanoides*



Japanese Knotweed - *Reynoutria japonica*



Black Swallowwort - *Vincetoxicum nigrum*



Oriental Bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*



Garlic Mustard - *Alliaria petiolate*



Phragmites - *Phragmites australis*



Why is it important to incorporate these changes.

- Preservation of natural character and biodiversity are goals of the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Contact with nature has been tied to health in many studies. Time spent in and around tree-lined streets, parks, and playgrounds is linked to objective, long-term health outcomes including a reduction in depression and anxiety disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obesity and migraines.

Thank you for your consideration

