

Use the tree ID numbers and the map to see which trees are being pruned, removed, etc.



**Tree Health Assessment Report**  
**Somerville Junction Park**

Somerville Parks Tree Health Program

IFB #20-19

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December 11, 2019

## **Overview:**

Somerville Junction park is a passive park that is home to 16 total deciduous and evergreen shade and ornamental trees. The park plan is open with turf and shrubs occupying most of the space, with some larger trees grouped in the northern corner and southwest fenceline.

### General tree health

The grouping of White pines, Mulberry and Cherry in the northern corner of the park is so densely populated that the trees are in direct competition, but are otherwise in fair health and display average vigor. The two small ornamental trees in the center of the park are in fair health. The cottonwood on the southern central fence line has good vigor but as a soft-wooded, fast-growing species may be problematic long-term, and has some stem cankers on the lower sprouts. The *Prunus* on the south border is heavily infested with black-knot. There is no effective remedy for this fungal disease at this stage, short of tree removal

### Soil Health

The soil throughout the park is moderately compacted. A thin 1-2" layer of darker organic soil covers a layer of light-colored gravel/clay mix from 2-6" below grade. No odor. Soil test results showed macronutrient and pH levels in normal healthy ranges for woody trees and shrubs, no soil amendments needed at this time.

### Pest treatment

None at this point. Black knot in *Prunus* #40733 is a fungal disease that is well established and past a point where control or pruning can be effective. Removal of the tree will not remove risk of transfer of the disease either as neighboring trees on private property are also infected.

### Other correction of adverse conditions

Select removal and pruning of crowded trees in the northern corner to create more space and reduce competition is recommended. Mulch should be added around the base of the 2 ornamental trees in the center of the park to limit soil compaction, weed growth and mower damage. Our Level 1 TRAQ assessment of all trees results in a "low" risk rating.

### Removal needs

Removal of (2) 6" diameter White Pines in the northern corner to limit encroachment and allow more room for Black Cherry and surrounding White Pines to grow.

### Pruning needs

Ornamental trees in the park center should be pruned to improve structure. Large Mulberry in the northern corner of the park should be pruned aggressively to allow more light to the surrounding trees. Large cottonwood should be pruned to improve structure, promote central leader and raise low water sprouts.

**2020 Priorities:**

- Remove declining tree to allow more space for trees to grow in the northwest corner
- Prune to Canopy clean, raise, improve structure of deciduous ornamentals, Cottonwood

**Future priorities:**

- Removal/replacement of black knot-infected *Prunus*
- Planting of more trees if site permits



### Accredited Tree Care by Certified Arborists

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December 11, 2019  
Proposal #: 37463

Job Site:  
Somerville Parks Tree Health Program  
IFB#20-19  
Various Locations  
Somerville, MA 02143

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### Tree and Shrub Care Recommendations on 12/5/2019

Description of Services

#### - Somerville Junction Work Plan

- **Map:** See attached

**Schedule and sequence:** We plan to complete the pruning and removal work proposed during the hours of 7AM-3PM over the course 1 business days to be named in February-March 2020.

**Crew and Equipment:**

*Pruning work* 2 person crew, including a certified arborist, bucket truck and wood chipper.

*Removal work:* 3 person crew with a certified arborist, bucket truck and chipper

**Park Closures:** no need to close park.

**Traffic and Pedestrian Management plan:** Allow for vehicular traffic and pedestrians to safely pass the work site. Use proper signage, cones and caution tape to clearly identify the work site, and utilize a police detail to ensure safety. Written plan to be submitted to city traffic engineer for approval prior to work.

**Equipment access** All truck access will be on road surfaces. All other access will be on foot.

#### - (2) 6" diameter White Pines in the north corner (#40705, 40670)

**Tree Removal & Stump Grinding** - Take down, dispose of brush, logs and chipped debris generated from removal operations. Grind stump and exposed flare 4-6" below grade; backfill and remove excess grinding debris. Machine will grind up to 4-6" from adjacent immobile objects. We will not remove other inorganic debris, nor are we responsible for damage to unmarked irrigation and underground non-utility services.)



**- 18" diameter Mulberry (#40695) in the northern corner:**

**Canopy Raising** - Selective pruning to remove the first 2.5" and (2) 8" diameter limbs over the park and neighbor's driveway to limit encroachment and allow room for the Black Cherry and remaining Pines.

**- Multistem Serviceberry (#40722) and Hornbeam (#40719) in the center of the park:**

**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.

**- Multistem Serviceberry (#40722) and Hornbeam (#40719) in the center of the park:**

Install 6' diameter mulch rings.

**- 14" diameter Cottonwood (#40728) on the southern fence line**

**Structural Pruning** - Selective pruning to improve branch architecture and encourage strong central leader by making (1) 4" diameter cut in the smaller co-dominant top of the tree.

**Canopy Cleaning** - Selective pruning to remove declining, dead and broken branches greater than 2" in diameter

**Canopy Raising** - Selective pruning to remove low suckers up to 14' off the ground.

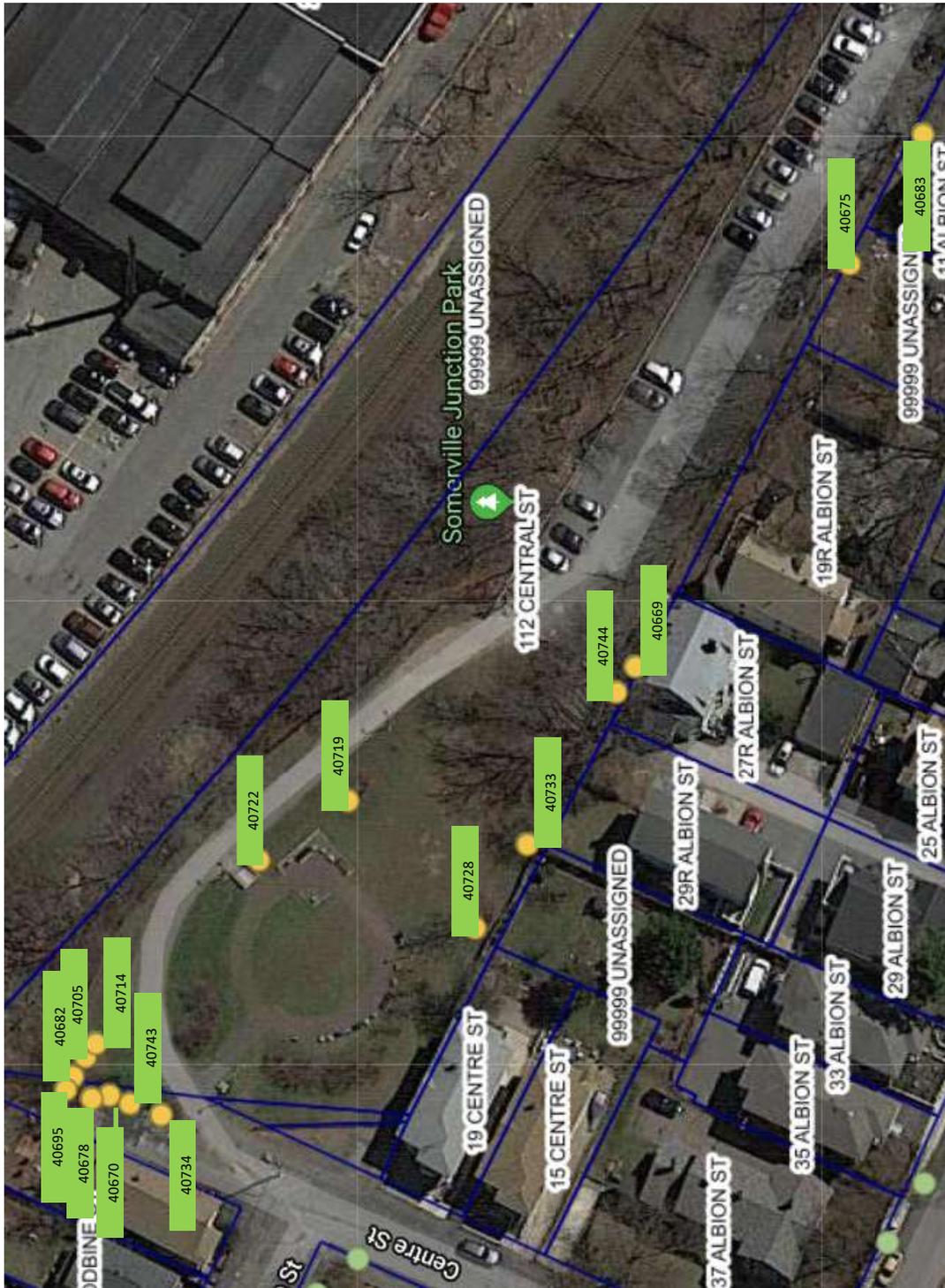
**9" diameter Prunus (#40733) along the southern fence line**

**Canopy Raising** - Selective pruning to provide a 4-6 foot envelope of clearance off the park. Includes removing the first 4" and 2" stems.

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





# Somerville Junction Park

Site ID	Species	DBH	Work Recommended	Condition - Risk Rating	
<b>Somerville Junction. Starting Northwest, moving east</b>					
	pine: eastern white				
40734	(Pinus strobus)	9.4	Not included in scope	Good	Low
40678	stump (Stump)	18	Not included in scope	N/A	N/A
	mulberry: white				
40695	(Morus alba)	17	Canopy Raising	Fair	Low
	cherry: black				
40682	(Prunus serotina)	8.3	Not included in scope	Fair	Low
	pine: eastern white				
40670	(Pinus strobus)	5.6	Tree Removal, grind stump		
	pine: eastern white				
40705	(Pinus strobus)	5.7	Tree Removal, grind stump	Fair	Low
	pine: eastern white				
40714	(Pinus strobus)	7.6	Not included in scope	Fair	Low
	serviceberry: spp.		Structural Pruning, Mulch Ring		
40722	(Amelanchier spp.)	2.1	Installation	Fair	Low
	hornbeam:				
40719	American (Carpinus caroliniana)	4.7	Structural Pruning, Mulch Ring Installation	Fair	Low
	cottonwood:				
40728	eastern (Populus deltoides)	13.1	Structural Pruning, Canopy Clean & Raise	Fair	Low
	cherry/plum: spp.				
40733	(Prunus spp.)	9	Canopy Raising	Fair	Low
	maple: Norway		parking lot area, Not included in		
40744	(Acer platanoides)	6.4	scope	Poor	Low
	maple: Norway		parking lot area, Not included in		
40669	(Acer platanoides)	22.2	scope	Poor	Moderate
	maple: Norway		parking lot area, Not included in		
40675	(Acer platanoides)	17	scope	Fair	Low
	tree-of-heaven		parking lot area, Not included in		
40683	(Ailanthus altissima)	4.1	scope	Poor	Low