

WGC TREE PROTECTION PROGRAM

ROOTS OF TREES

“Root growth drives all other tree functions –

Like tree growth, leaf/fruit/seed production

Branching and defense”

Bartlett Tree Brochure

FALL 2019 DAWN REDWOODS / PAVILION PROTECTION PLANTING

To prevent vehicle traffic onto roots of Dawn Redwoods and into 1911 historic Pavilion. City Gardener Rob Carroll suggested creating a berm or mound in the center of the 4 Dawn Redwoods; placing the GCA/WGC Founders Fund Award-plaque-boulder in the center of the berm; relocate Arboretum Introductory Sign a little farther to the left to avoid blocking nice view of Pavilion.

Attending two different planning meetings and garden clean-up: Rob Carroll, Arboretum Co-Chairs Cacky Hodgson, Ellen Ruell, Barbara Athy, Linda Robbins, Martha Kelleher, Donna Rose, Kathy Michie, Ted Robbins.

All members agreed to Rob Carroll’s plan.

September 25, 2019 on site consultation with Jeff Hehman and associate.

October 19, 2019 First Phase of protective planting was completed. Plants were selected to complement the color of the roof and the flare of the roofline; all low-growing plants: dwarf Sweetspire, *Itea virginica* ‘Little Henry’ (summer curving flowering branches, red fall foliage); dwarf Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ (red berries in fall); Threadleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis* ‘Red Elf’ deep red flowers in summer, a “living mulch;” Catmint, *Nepeta racemosa* ‘Walker’s Low’ (complement gray/green in plaque-boulder and roof trim, a “living mulch”); Japanese Sedge, *Carex* ‘Everlime’ complement sloping of berm; Heuchera cv. to complement color of roof. *Pulmonaria longifolia* ‘Majeste’ gray/white leaves complement trim of roof. Five deep red mums intensified the fall color of the shrubs. September 23 WGC membership supported Board vote to appropriate up to \$2000 for temporary and permanent protection.

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October 18, 2019 Bartlett Tree Liquid Fertilization of approximately 55 conifers & hardwoods throughout Arboretum, \$1650. Treatment to suppress Emerald Ash Borer, systemic soil treatment, \$430. Fortiphite Blue Spruce, 3 Tupelo.

October 23 Root Invigoration to 4 Dawn Redwoods, \$450 each = \$1800

Compost and Biochar will be added to the soil during cultivation.

Mulch should be applied immediately after treatment.

Irrigate regularly to keep soil moist.

Paid by Nathaniel Wheeler \$15,000 Grant to Parks Department, 2018.

October 19 - 22(?) 2019 meeting with Matt Wally, Worcester candidate for City Council – neighbors Barbara Athy and Ellen Ruell. To convince Parks Department to protect Arboretum trees especially during events at Green Hill Park.

October 15, 2019 Submission of application to PLANT AMERICA for \$1,000.

October 28 – 29 Final Fall clean up

Spring 2020

Bartlett Tree Treatments continued, paid by Nathaniel Wheeler Trust Grant

Pest Management Spring: perform foliage treatment to 18 Crabapples to suppress apple scab and cedar apple rust. Provide 3 treatments at \$300 per treatment around 4/30, 5/20, 6/12 = \$900

Fall 2020: Apply Fortiphite to promote vitality and improve resistance to disease and stress to Blue Spruce 'Hoopsii' and 3 Tupelo (Black Gums)

BARTLETT'S ROOT – Rx PROGRAM

"Root and soil disorders are the leading causes of premature decline of landscape plants, resulting in more than 80% of early failures.

"Roots grow when soil conditions are favorable. Most urban and suburban soil conditions do not promote vigorous new root growth. Soil compaction, lack of organic matter, poor nutrition, drought, freezing and thawing and low levels of beneficial fungi create an environment that is unfavorable to root growth... Root growth drives all other tree functions – like trunk growth, leaf/fruit/seed production, branching and defense."