

Protecting Somerville's Urban Forest

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Benefits of Urban Trees

- cleaning the air
- reducing storm water
- lowering urban temperatures
- beautifying streetscapes
- increasing property values

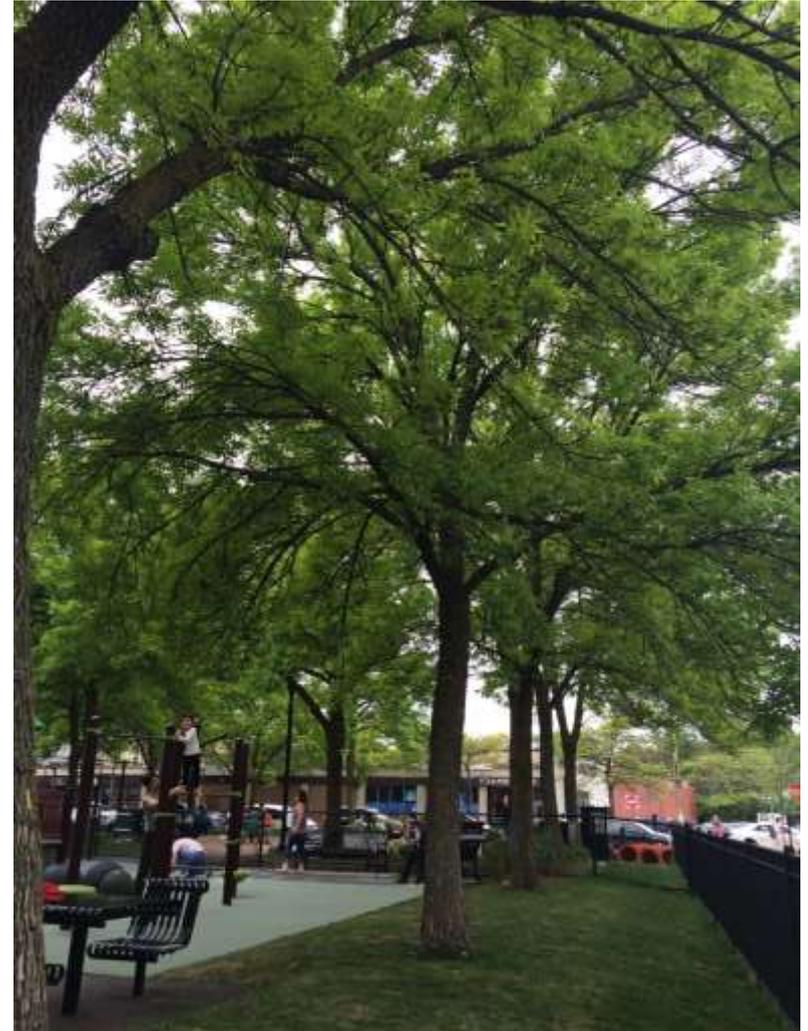
Since Fall of 2010, **+** 1279 trees

Public trees 11,062  12,341

Ash trees

Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Fraxinus americana
Fraxinus excelsior

Green Ash
White Ash
European ash



Ash Trees

Ash trees in Somerville

<i>Street Trees</i>	828	9.2%
<i>Park/Public Space Trees</i>	96	4.6%

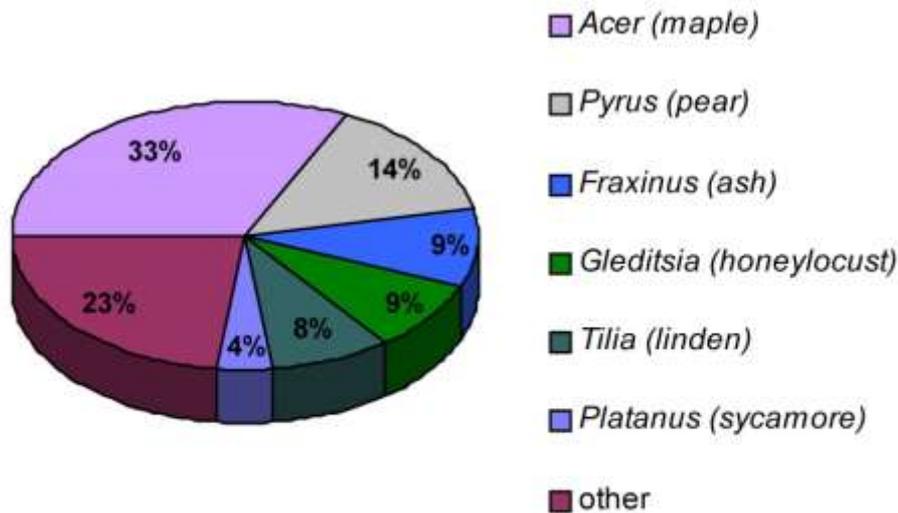
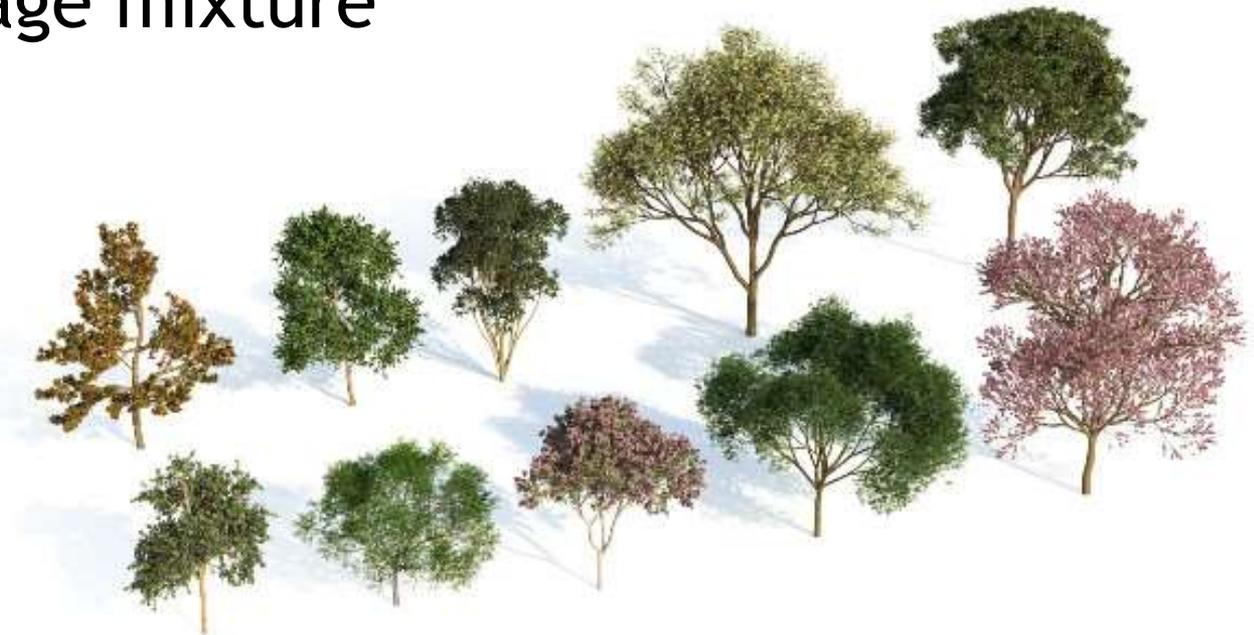


Figure 1. Somerville's Distribution of Trees by Genus

Tree Diversity

- 10% species and 15% genus rule to avoid monoculture
- size, class distribution
- appropriate age mixture



Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash borer (EAB)
It's coming!



Treatment Plan

1. Treat healthy trees (85%)
2. Remove vulnerable trees (15%)
3. Monitor trees



1. Treat Healthy Trees

- numerous treatments available
- administered by “injection”
- effectively protects against EAB
- must be administered every other year



2. Remove Vulnerable Trees

Dead or trees in poor condition are more vulnerable to EAB

2 separate condition determinations performed 2009 and 2015

Remove “dead” and “poor condition” trees and replace them with other species



2. Remove Vulnerable Trees



3. Monitor

1. Continue to monitor healthy trees (at time of bi-yearly treatment) to look for signs of EAB.
2. Work with the state (DCR) to monitor and report findings



Fall Planting

- Pending BOA approval of funds
- Species selected to avoid monoculture and depending on availability
- Site criteria: ADA access, utilities



Ash trees on private properties

Develop a program for ash trees on residential properties

- Education
- Resources
- Technical Assistance

Resources

- City of Somerville website:

<http://www.somervillema.gov/eab>

- 2009 Citywide Tree Inventory:

<http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/SomervilleTreeInventoryManagementPlan.pdf>

- UMass factsheets:

<https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/emerald-ash-borer>

Next Steps

- Treatment applied in mid June
- Removal Summer-Fall 2016
- Replacement Fall 2016

