



## **Project Description**

Park Square is the historic and iconic center of the City of Pittsfield. Unfortunately, the trees in this small park are showing signs of stress and are in need of management intervention and – in some cases – removal. This application seeks CPA funding support for the implementation of the recently completed *Park Square Tree Planting Plan* (attached). Specifically, funding is being sought to plant 8 new trees in the park which will occur after the removal of four that have been marked for elimination due to poor health. Of the eight being planted, seven are of the hardwood variety and one will be an evergreen that will serve as the city's permanent Christmas tree. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Park Commission in January 2023.

Park Square is a tough spot for a tree to thrive. Between compacted soils, emissions from all the traffic, and past practices where many of the trees were not regularly pruned, the city recognized that something needed to be done to save the ones we could and think about what the future tree canopy could (or should) look like. In the summer of 2022, a professional arborist was hired to evaluate the trees in the park and make recommendations for their care. This information was then turned into a planting plan that forms the basis of this request. The budget describes this cost as 'elm tree planting preparation.'

As the plan was being developed, input was sought from Pittsfield Beautiful and other stakeholders who care about Park Square. One stakeholder - the Berkshire Historical Society - has offered to collaborate on the planting of the elm tree specified in the plan. History informs us that Lucretia Williams saved the great Elm from being chopped down on Park Square in 1790. An elm was planted in the late 1990's in honor of that moment, but unfortunately that elm was removed in spring 2022 after it was severely damaged in a wind storm. It will be a celebratory moment when we can once again plant an elm prominently in Park Square that we hope will stand for many years. It must be noted that the re-planting of the elm is a more involved project than the others as the previous elm sat in an area in the sidewalk, surrounded by paver bricks. These bricks will need to be carefully removed before the stump is delicately ground down.

The trees that have been specified are a mixture of carefully selected and appropriate species that will thrive in this urban environment and that will provide great fall color. They will be professionally sourced, planted and cared for in the years after planting. It is envisioned that the city will hire an arborist to annually review the new planting and do any pruning/fertilizing that is required. This will be especially important with respect to the evergreen that is being considered as it will serve as the city's Christmas tree for many years to come.

### **Goals:**

In the 2017 City of Pittsfield Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), the residents of Pittsfield identified five key open space and recreation goals. Of these five goals, four are directly applicable to the overall goals of the Park Square Tree Planting Project:

Goal 1: Protect, preserve and maintain natural resources to ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space and water resources to maintain biodiversity and provide benefit to the public.

Goal 2. Provide opportunities, resources, accessibility and quality facilities for both recreation and conservation uses.

Goal 3. Ensure necessary funding for open space, natural resources, and park planning for the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks and to further the goals, objectives and strategies of the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Goal 5. Promote active public involvement through public awareness, open space stewardship, and ownership of Pittsfield's Open Space & Recreation Plan.

The 2009 Master Plan calls out the value of Historic Preservation in Pittsfield and directly identifies multiple at least one strategy to further those efforts, including:

Improve the appearance of city neighborhoods and gateways.

And finally, the CPA Action Plan (2018) outlines several goals associated with Historic Preservation, the first being the following:

Protect, preserve, and/or restore historic properties and sites throughout Pittsfield of historical, architectural, archeological, and cultural significance.

**Timeline:**

The tree planting will occur in September, 2023. Prior to that, all of the trees scheduled for removal will be taken out and the stumps ground down, and the additional maintenance activities specified in the Plan will have been undertaken (air spading, crown pruning). These maintenance and removal activities are being funded by the city through the Department of Public Services and will occur in the summer of 2023.

**Budget:**

The total budget for the tree planting project is \$8,350. The request to the CPC is \$8,000. Estimates have been provided within this application.

Trees: Delivered and planted	\$6,800
Elm tree planting preparation:	\$1,200
<b>TOTAL CPC REQUEST</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
Elm tree donation	\$350
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$8,350</b>

**Support:**

Support letters have been provided by Ed Casella (Park Superintendent), Pittsfield Beautiful, and the Berkshire Historical Society.



Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Wednesday, March 31, 1976



Vicki Sanders

### End of an era

The last two elms on Park Square, victims of the Dutch elm disease, are being removed by Pete's Tree Service. Bicentennial plantings of maple and oak are planned as part of the Park Square project this year. The tree in the right rear, a locust, is healthy and is on the lawn of the Berkshire County Savings Bank's Old Town Hall.

*Bids  
due mid  
of April*

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## *Existing Tree Inventory and Assessment Report*

Prepared for



*PREPARED BY:*

*DAVID C. HAWKINS, CONSULTING ARBORIST  
URBAN FORESTRY SOLUTIONS, INC.*

*154 Buffam Road, Pelham, Massachusetts 01002*

*(413) 253-4266*

*dhawkufs@comcast.net*

*[www.ufstrees.com](http://www.ufstrees.com)*

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## Summary

Thirteen trees in Pittsfield's Park Square were assessed for health, risk and safe useful lifespan after a November 8, 2022, onsite meeting with James McGrath from Pittsfield Community Development Office, members of Pittsfield's Park's Department and a representative of Pittsfield Beautiful. In addition to the tree assessment, there were discussions on the future plans for this park including a suitable replacement elm for the center of the park, a permanent versus temporarily annual Christmas tree, possible transplanting of two weeping cherries from the west section of the park to the east garden area, a suitable crabapple variety for the eastern most section of the park's 'tear drop' design (see Site Illustrations Page 4), and the benefits of installing composted woodchip mulch around the base of the larger shade trees. These topics, in addition to the assessment data are included in this report.

The assessment data is in an Excel spreadsheet that lists a tree number unique to that tree, tree species, trunk diameter (DBH<sup>1</sup>), condition, noticeable defects, maintenance needs, relevant notes for that tree (see Field Data table on page 5). The individual tree numbers correspond with the spreadsheet data and round aluminum tags affixed to each the 13 trees assessed. These tags are located on the trees' east side at a height of 6 to 8 feet. The exception are the two weeping cherries where the tags are attached to a branch on the crown's east side.

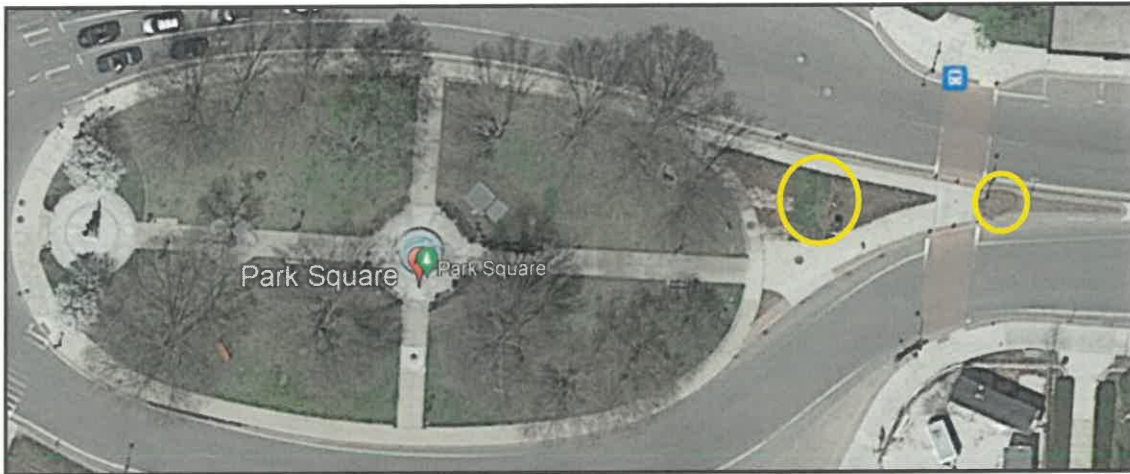
The Site Illustrations on the next page show the numbered trees on a base map of the park and an aerial view of the park showing the current design.

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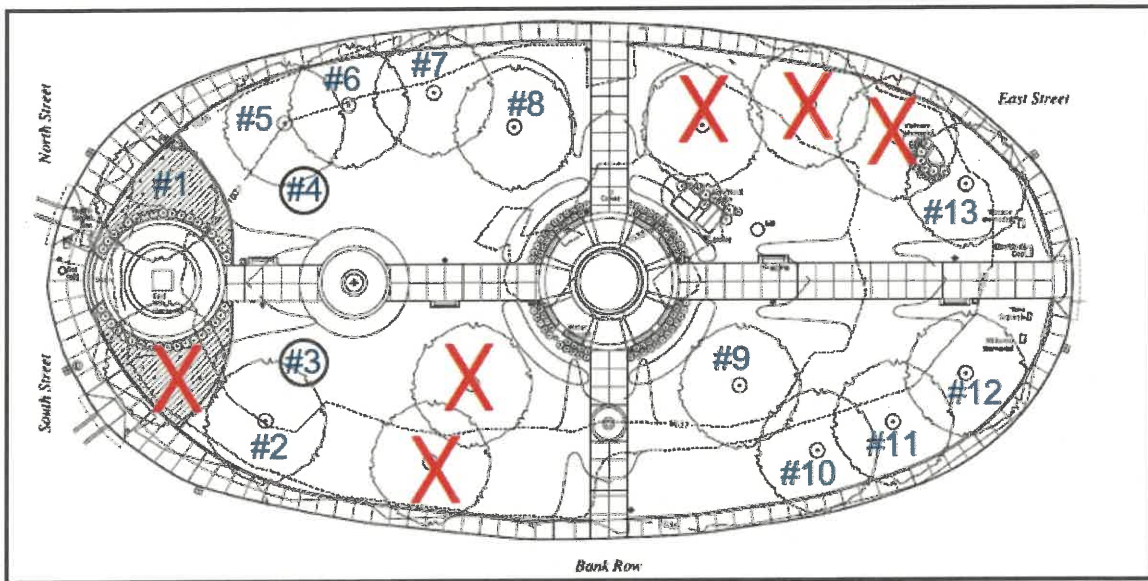
<sup>1</sup> DBH: diameter of the trunk measured 4.5 feet high or where is best represents the trunk's diameter. Trees less than 6 inches diameter were measure at 12 to 18 inches high.



## Site Illustrations



Google Earth Aerial Image (2014) showing the current park configuration. The east garden area and proposed crabapple locations are circled.



Base plan (1999) provided by Berkshire Design with trees located. The 'X' trees have subsequently been removed. The existing trees are numbered in the sequence they were assessed.

### Field Data

No.	Location	DBH	Cond	Defects	Maint Needs	Notes
1	Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana)	12.0	Dead		Remove	Tree is dead
2	Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	42.0	Good	Deadwood	Prune	Small to large deadwood throughout crown - some over road
3	Weeping Flowering Cherry (Prunus pendula)	4.5	Good	None	None	Consider transplanting to east garden area. Recommend bare root transplant method using water and compressed air excavation
4	Weeping Flowering Cherry	3.5	Good	None	None	Consider transplanting to east garden area. Recommend bare root transplant method using water and compressed air excavation
5	Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	29.0	Good to Excellent	Deadwood; trunk seam	Prune	Small deadwood throughout crown. Trunk seam 7 to 20 ft. high on east side. Appears superficial. Sounded solid
6	Red Oak	25.5	Good to Excellent	Minor deadwood	Prune	Small deadwood throughout crown.
7	Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	19.0	Fair to Poor	Deadwood; cavity; decay	Remove	Trunk decay and cavity east side. Poor tree architecture - deadwood, dieback on east leader. Prune deadwood if retained.
8	Sugar Maple	28.0	Fair	Deadwood; decay; dieback	Prune; Fertilize	Deadwood. Low vigor. Decay in 8" branch east side at 25'. Clear light
9	Sugar Maple	32.5	Fair to Good	Large deadwood	Prune; Fertilize	Deadwood. Low vigor. Some top dieback
10	Sugar Maple	19.0	Fair to Poor	Deadwood; dieback; no root collar	Prune, fertilize, and airspade or remove tree	30 to 40 percent dead. In decline. No root flare. If retained, airspade to expose root collar, prune and fertilize. Possible girdling roots below surface
11	Red Oak	25.0	Good to Excellent	Minor lean	Prune	Prune low limbs over road. Weight and lean to road.
12	Red Maple (Acer rubrum)	11.0	Good	Small deadwood. No root crown	Airspade to expose root crown	Suppressed by Tree #11. Possible girdling roots below surface
13	Red Maple	20.0	Fair to Good	Deadwood; Large lateral leader. Excessive weight	Prune	Prune deadwood and to reduce weight of south leader. Clear light



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## Field Discussion Responses

### Elm Replacement Cultivars

The space that previously contained an elm cultivar is in a prominent part of the park and suitable for a medium to large sized tree. The only limitation is the actual amount of soil space which, if limited to the area surrounding the planting spot could affect the tree's longevity and limit the new tree's size. Nevertheless, here are three medium to large elm cultivar species that have excellent resistance to Dutch elm disease and moderate to good resistance to elm leaf beetle and elm yellows.<sup>2</sup>

- Pioneer (Ulmus 'pioneer')
- Prairie Expedition (Ulmus americana 'Lewis and Clark')
- Triumph (Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'). I like this one.

### Permanent Verses Annual Christmas Tree

An annual evergreen Christmas tree has traditionally been cut down in one part of the city and transported to the northeast quadrant of the park for the holiday season. The advantage of this is the immediate gratification of a large tree that is noticeable from a far distance. The disadvantages associated with a temporary tree is that it is labor intensive requiring cooperation and organizing with multiple city departments. Large evergreen trees may also not always be available and complaints regarding cutting down a tree for that purpose and then disposing of it after the holidays have occurred.

Planting a permanent Christmas tree will not be as labor and equipment intensive (after the initial planting) and readily available for lighting for many seasons. The disadvantage is it will likely have to start out as a comparatively smaller tree – perhaps 15 to 20 feet in height which translates to a 6-to-8-inch diameter tree. It will also have to be maintained just as any new tree planting – especially the first 2 or 3 years until it gets established on the site. Underground utilities may also prevent a hole large enough to accommodate a tree of that size.

If a permanent tree is to be planted, I would recommend a spruce variety – either Colorado Blue (*Picea pungens*) or White (*Picea glauca*). They have a dense form, retain their conical shape, and grow well in this area. Alternatives to spruce are Concolor Fir (*Abie concolor*), Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menzeisii*) or Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*). There are local and regional large tree moving companies that may have large sizes of the above species.

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<sup>2</sup> More cultivars with a detailed description for each can be found at: [Elm cultivars | The Morton Arboretum](#)

## Transplanting the Weeping Cherries

The two weeping cherries are in the west section of the park close to or under the crowns of larger shade trees. Typically, these trees are planted as a feature tree in the landscape but in their present location seem somewhat suppressed or overshadowed by the larger trees. One area where they would stand out as is in the east garden area where presently ornamental grasses are growing. Once the grasses are removed, there would be enough space for both trees. One limitation to this would be the presence of underground utilities in that area.

It was originally discussed that using a tree spade to transplant the trees might be the best option. After inspecting the trees, I would recommend bare root transplanting. Both trees have a root system dominated by one large root that spreads well beyond the drip line and into the lawn area. A tree spade would sever this at or inside the drip line leaving a significant portion of the root behind – possibly enough to cause the tree to dieback over time. Underground utilities at the present and proposed location may also impede this process.

Bare root transplanting involves pneumatic air excavation which retains near 100 percent of the root system, only goes as deep as the roots (usually around 18 inches), results in a shallow planting hole and does not need heavy equipment to move the trees once bare rooted. Trees this size could be moved by hand with two or three people. The equipment consists of a 185 CFM compressor, hose and an Airspade or Airknife and a large quantity of water to saturate the soil around the roots. The Airspade/Airknife tools are specifically designed to remove soil from roots with minimal damage. Once the roots are exposed, the tree can be easily moved to the new spot where a shallow hole will accommodate the tree without concern for underground utilities. An example of a tree similar in size to the cherries is show below.



### Crabapple Variety

Dawn from Pittsfield Beautiful recommended a Sargent Crabapple (*Malus sargentii*) for the east teardrop garden. A concern with all *Malus* species is the susceptibility to apple scab and other foliar blight diseases. Sargent crabapple appears to be mostly resistant to these. It's size, white or pink flowers in the spring, and fall fruit will suit this spot. The only other concern is exposure to road salt which it has a low to moderate tolerance. Planting the tree higher on a berm or mound, may reduce this exposure.

### Addition of Mulch Around Existing Shade Trees

My recommendation for all urban shade and ornamental trees is to install partially composted woodchips around the tree's base – extending as far from the trunk as possible. This will eliminate damage from weedwackers, incidental mower contact, reduce competition with grass for water and nutrients, mitigate soil compaction, provide organic matter to the soil, retain soil moisture longer during dry periods and moderate soil temperature during the dormant seasons. The downside of mulch is it takes away useable lawn area, can be messy if foot traffic is in the area and it needs to be replaced periodically. Composted wood chips are also not as aesthetic as most landscape bark mulch, but this can be fixed with a thin layer of ornamental mulch if that is a concern.



## Site Photographs with Tree Numbers



**Tree #1.** Dead pear



**Tree #2.** Red oak in good condition.



**Tree #3.** One of 2 cherries proposed for Transplant. Circled is the large root referred To earlier.







**Tree #4.** Second cherry proposed for Transplant. Circled is the large root referred To earlier. Note right side of the tree is Sparse due to the canopy of the adjacent Tree.

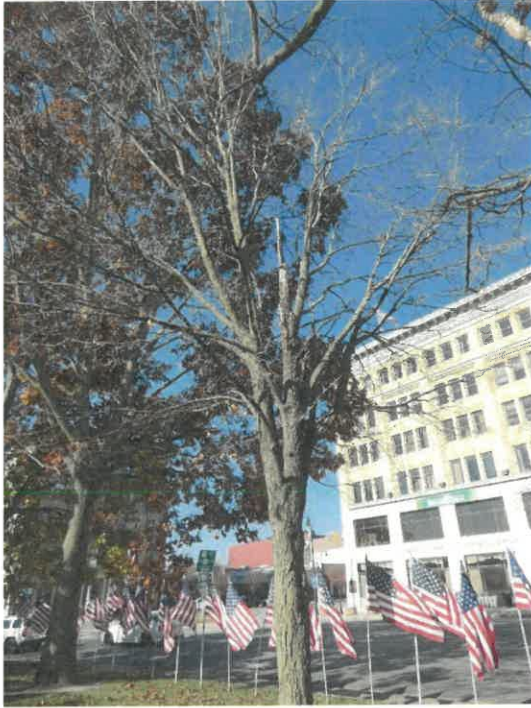


**Tree #5.** Red oak in good/excellent condition



**Tree #6.** Red oak. Good/excellent condition

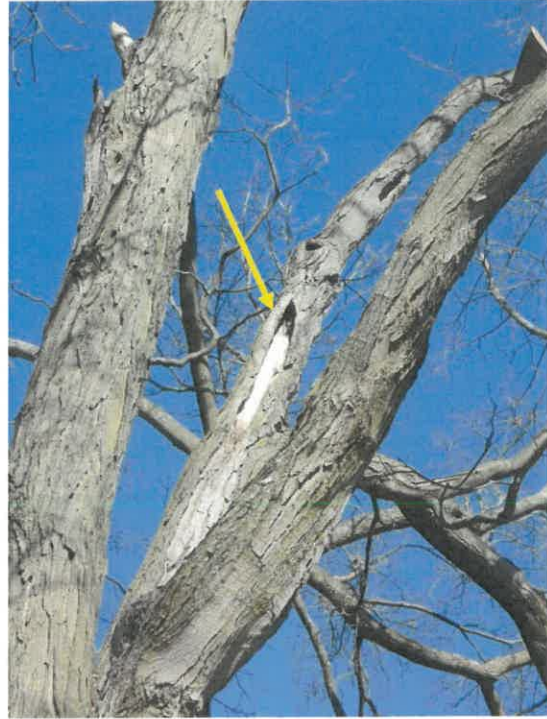
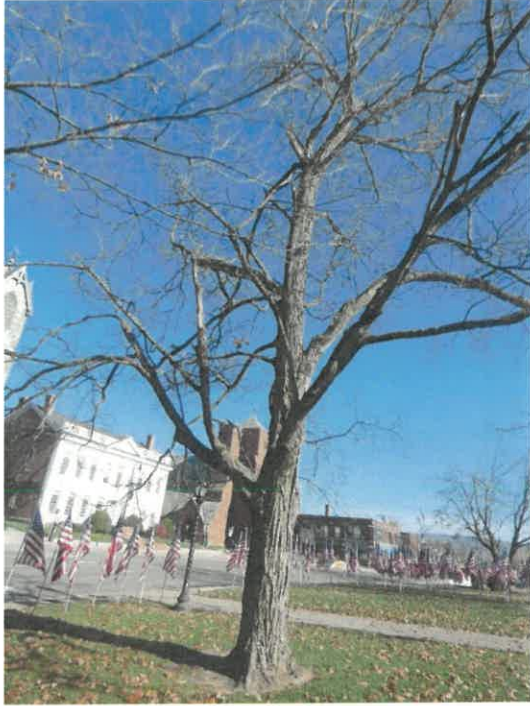




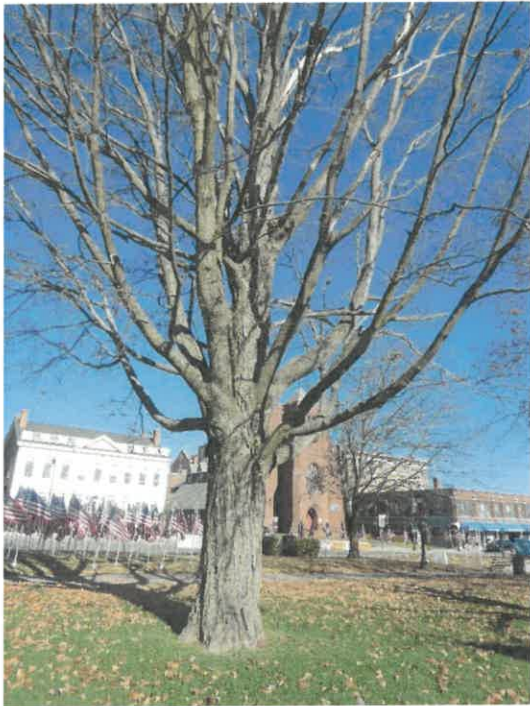
**Tree #7.** Sugar maple in fair to poor condition. Open cavity and decay in main trunk which extends 8 inches deep.







**Tree #8.** Sugar maple in fair condition. Deadwood and some decline. Note branch with a cavity and decay over walkway (right).



**Tree #9.** Sugar maple in fair/good condition. Deadwood and some decline. Also, minor decay on the main trunk (right).

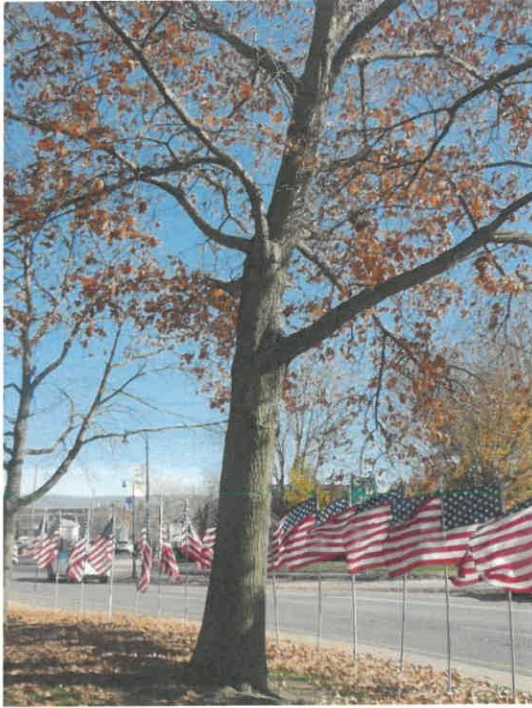




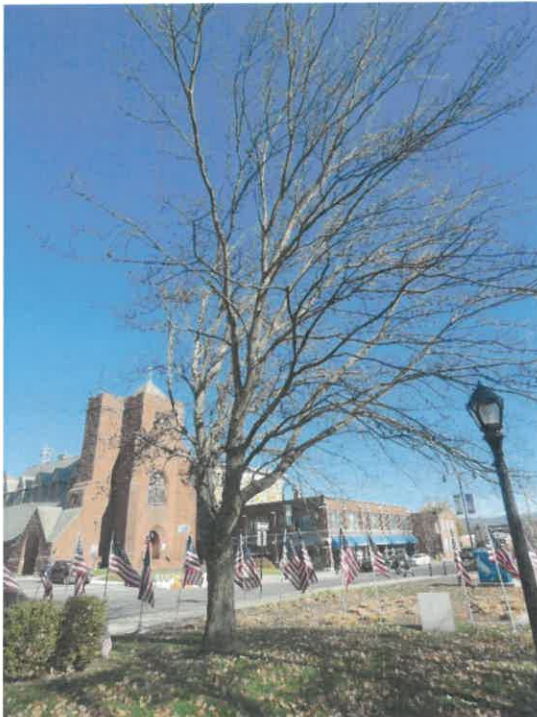
**Tree #10.** Sugar maple in fair to poor condition. Deadwood and top dieback. Tree appears to be in decline. The presence of no root flare (below) could indicate girdling or encircling roots that may be restricting nutrient transport. This usually occurs when a tree is planted too deep.







**Tree #11.** Red oak in good/excellent condition. **Tree #12.** Red maple in good condition.



**Tree #13.** Red maple in fair/good condition. Some deadwood and dieback. Note left leader (right) appears dominant with a lean and weight to the south. This could be problematic as the tree grows and the limb gets heavier. Weight reduction pruning on the branch ends would reduce the risk of failure.



East garden area and proposed cherry transplant location



East 'tear drop' area and proposed location for the crabapple.



## Disclaimer

By the nature or their size, weight and miscellaneous structure, constant exposure to the weather and the elements, susceptibility to insect's pest and decay organisms, use as homes to birds and animals and other reasons, trees always pose an inherent degree of hazard and risk from breakage, failure and other causes and conditions.

Recommendations made by Urban Forestry Solutions, Inc. are intended to minimize, reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions associated with trees. However, there is not, and can never be, any guarantee or certainty that these recommendations will totally correct unsafe conditions or prevent failure or breakage of a tree, or that conditions will not change.

The recommendations carried out as stated, should reduce the risk but they cannot completely eliminate it (except when the tree is removed), especially in the event of future growth, further deterioration, subsequent insect attacks, extreme weather conditions, eternal factors, (lightning strikes, fallen objects, vehicular damage, act.), storms or other acts of God or man.

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## Certification

I certify the statements in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and represent my professional opinion.



Date November 10, 2022

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David C. Hawkins, Consulting Arborist

*ISA Board Certified Master Arborist*  
*ISA Tree Risk Assessor Qualification*  
*Massachusetts Certified Arborist*  
*Rhode Island Licensed Arborist*  
*Member: The Tree Care Industry*  
*Member: American Society of Consulting Arborists*  
*Registered Consulting Arborist*  
*Member: Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Assoc*  
*Executive Board Member*

*#NE-0541B*  
*TRAQ March 2014, Renewed Oct. 2018*  
*MCA #1425*  
*License. #969*  
  
*RCA #743*



# Pittsfield Park Square

## Pittsfield, MA



### Prepared for:

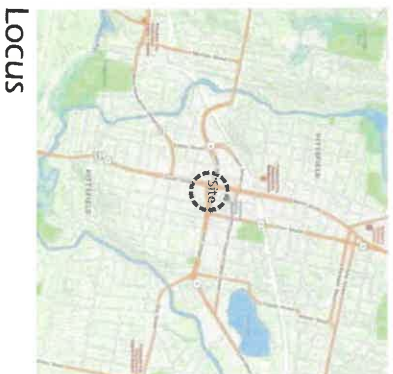
City of Pittsfield  
Office of Community Development  
70 Allen Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

### Prepared by:

The  
Berkshire  
Design  
Group, Inc.

Landscape Architecture  
Civil Engineering  
Surveying

4 Allen Place, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060  
Tel (413) 582-7000 • FAX (413) 582-7005



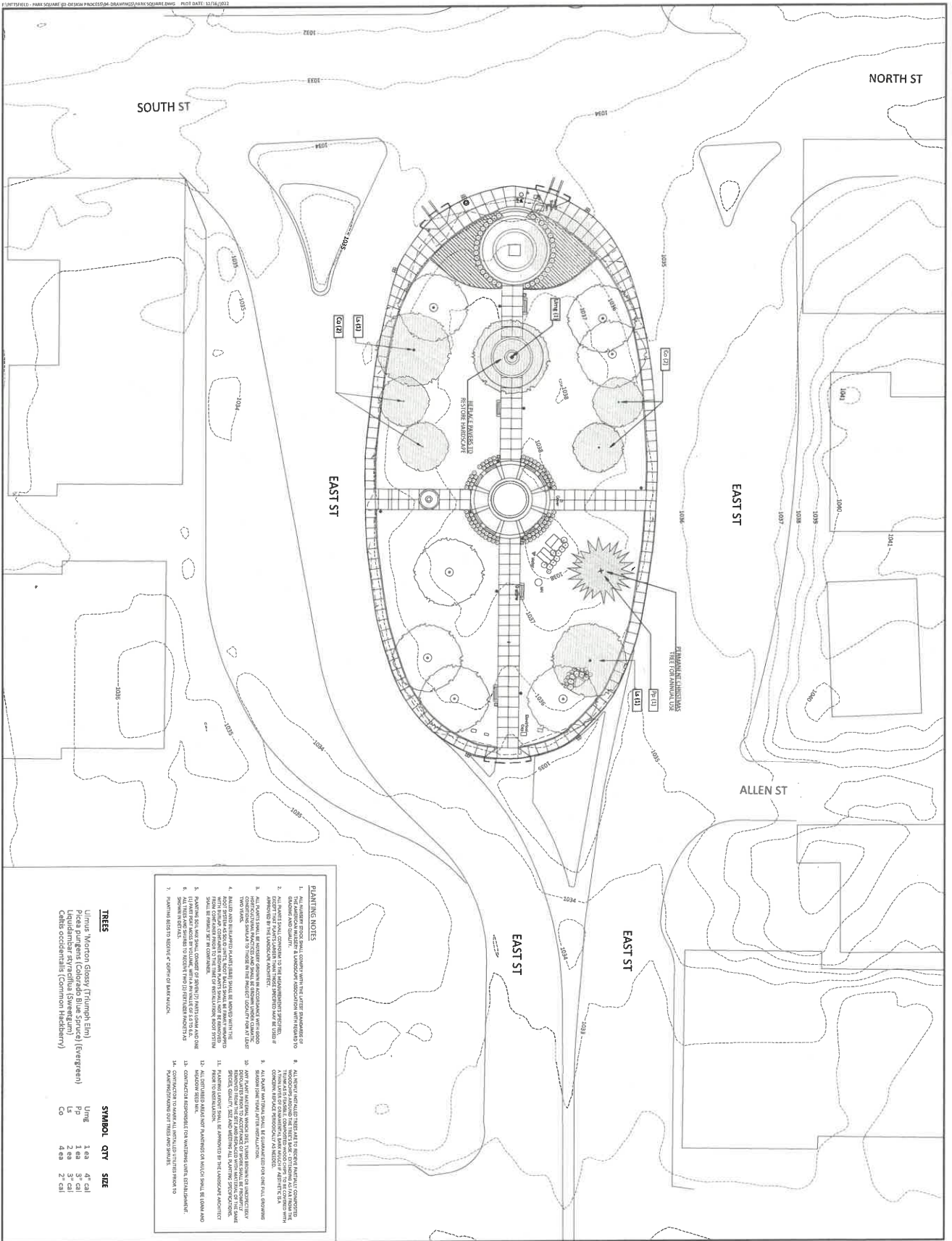
Locus

### Sheet Index :

Cover Page  
LC-101 Existing Conditions & Demolition Plan  
LC-121 Site Layout & Planting Plan  
LC-501 Site Details

December 16, 2022  
REVIEW SET





- PLANTING NOTES**
1. ALL PLANTING SHALL BE INSTALLED TO MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.
  2. ALL PLANTING SHALL BE INSTALLED TO THE SCHEDULED SPECIFICATIONS AND APPROVED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
  3. ALL PLANTING SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.
  4. ALL PLANTING SHALL BE INSTALLED TO MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.
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  11. PLANTING LAYOUT SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
  12. PLANTING LAYOUT SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
  13. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL PLANTING IS INSTALLED TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.
  14. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL PLANTING IS INSTALLED TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.

**TREES**

Symbol	Qty	Size
Umg	1 ea	4" cal
Pp	1 ea	3" cal
Lf	2 ea	3" cal
Co	4 ea	2" cal

Umg: Umea, Madroa Gloriosa (Triumph Elm)  
 Pp: Picea pungens (Colorado Blue Spruce) (Evergreen)  
 Lf: Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)  
 Co: Castus occidentalis (Common Hackberry)

**Berkshire Design Group**  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Planning  
 Land Surveying

1400 Park Ave., Northampton, MA 01060  
 Tel: 413-253-3333  
 Email: berkshire@berkshiredesign.com  
 Web: www.berkshiredesign.com

**CITY OF PITTSFIELD**

PARK SQUARE  
 PITTSFIELD, MA

**SITE LAYOUT AND PLANTING PLAN**

Scale: 1" = 30'

December 16, 2022

Drawn By: MFC  
 Checked By: JJS

**LC-121**







PO Box 4  
Sheffield, Massachusetts 01257

February 1, 2023

James McGrath  
Park, Open Space, and Natural Resource Program Manager  
Community Development  
City of Pittsfield  
70 Allen Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Proposal for: City of Pittsfield, MA

Dear Mr. McGrath:

I am pleased to propose the following:

- 1) Provide and install six (6) bare-root hardwood trees (estimated caliper 1-1/2").
- 2) Provide and install one (1) balled and burlapped evergreen tree (estimated tree height 7-8 feet).
- 3) Plantings to be installed on Park Square, Pittsfield per the "Pittsfield Park Square" plan review set from Berkshire Design Group dated 12/16/22.
- 4) Soil amendments, stakes, mulch, initial watering, and "gator" water bag installation to be included.
  - Estimated Cost for #1: \$ 6800.00 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

- All other aftercare by the City of Pittsfield.
- MA prevailing wage has been applied to hourly rates paid to laborers.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Ingersoll, Owner



413-229-2290  
636-222-6596 fax

Proposal for: City of Pittsfield, MA, continued:

A one-year limited warranty will be provided on all plant material. Ingersoll Land Care guarantees against plant failure due to either poor nursery stock or improper planting practices. Regular watering\* during the first year of growth (and beyond), as well as maintenance of a 3" mulch layer will be the responsibility of the City of Pittsfield.

\*"Gator" bags or equivalent will require regular inspection and re-filling, especially prior to and during dry periods of more than a two days. Bare-root material is most vulnerable to failure within the few months after installation.



**CITY OF PITTSFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES / PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

100 NORTH STREET STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

February 9, 2022

Community Preservation Committee  
City Hall Room 205  
70 Allen St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Re: CPA project for Park Square

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of the application that is requesting funds for the Park Square Tree Planting Plan. I was a part of the development of that plan which was funded by my department after it was recognized that a review of the tree condition in park Square was necessary. The plan that was developed specifies needed maintenance and removals (which my department will coordinate) and future tree plantings which we hope will be funded with CPA involvement.

I believe that the park commission has approved a plan for the park which respects the history of the park while calling for the best assemblage of species in the best locations. I am especially looking forward to seeing the elm replanted and I have estimated that it will cost \$1,200 to prepare the site for this new tree. This spot will require careful excavation and hole preparation using specialized equipment. I intend to hire a qualified contractor to assist with this work.

I look forward to working on this project and I urge your favorable consideration of the request for funds.

Thank you.

  
Ed Casella  
Park Superintendent





# PITTSFIELD Beautiful

## Founder

Arlia "Tommie" Bailey

February 3, 2023

## 2023 Board of Directors

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**John Berndtson**  
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*Archivist, Planning Member*  
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**Claudia Austin Curry**  
*Container Gardens Co-Chair*

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**Tom Kierzek**  
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*Container Structure Co-Chair*

**Dawn O'Brien**  
*Garden Installation,*  
*Renovation And Care*

**Terry O'Brien**  
*Planning Member*

**Chris Stodden**  
*Container Gardens Co-Chair*

RE: Community Preservation Act Application from City of Pittsfield

To whom it may concern,

Pittsfield Beautiful Inc supports the City of Pittsfield's application for a Community Preservation Act grant to plant approximately six new trees in the centrally located, historic Park Square.

Our non-profit organization has worked with the City since 1989 on a volunteer basis to plant and maintain public gardens and containers, including Park Square. We enthusiastically share a mission with the City to make Pittsfield a welcoming community through public gardens and plantings.

The trees in Park Square are badly in need of attention. Many have died or reached their life expectancy and threaten the beauty of our city center. In addition, Pittsfield Beautiful supports the idea of planting an evergreen for use as a holiday tree in lieu of cutting down a large evergreen for this use each year.

We hope that you will consider funding the City's request to plant trees in Park Square in 2023.

Respectfully,

*Nancy Cook*

Community Relations chair  
Pittsfield Beautiful Inc



February 9, 2023

James McGrath  
Park, Open Space, and Natural Resource Program Manager  
Community Development  
City of Pittsfield  
70 Allen Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear James,

The Berkshire County Historical Society is committed to our local parks in the city of Pittsfield, especially those with historical significance. We would be proud to partner with you and the city to enhance one of our parks this year.

Lucretia Williams saved the great Elm on Park Square in Pittsfield in 1790 and the tree would stand for another 74 years as a natural wonder, delighting locals and visitors alike. Lucretia was perhaps the first American environmentalist – and should be honored as such. There is a historic marker commemorating this event on Park Square, though the real monument and a lasting legacy should be to plant another Elm where the famous one once stood. Most elms in Pittsfield and in the Northeast in general succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and have been lost, but a new movement to grow and protect these majestic trees again is taking shape.

We are committed to planting a new Elm on Park Square in honor of Lucretia and will purchase the tree with our own budget. We will work with the Parks Department to plant the tree as directed by their recently completed planting plan for Park Square.

Sincerely,

Lesley Herzberg  
Executive Director