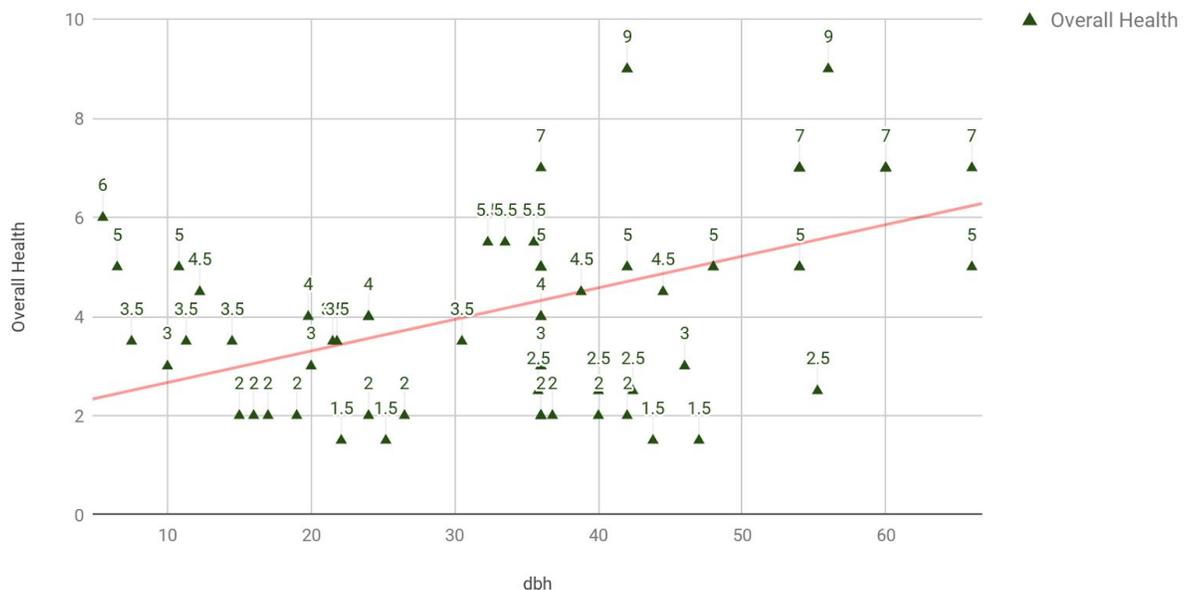


Dear Supporters of Cambridge Trees,

At our Cambridge Tree Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 8th, we discussed the following topics:

- 1) **General tree concerns.** We had a few new faces at our meeting who cited that their reason for coming to the meeting was that they were concerned about the lack of tree watering, the lack of tree maintenance for new and mature trees, the placement of trees (especially near sidewalks that damage trees' roots), and over-mulching. Although we didn't discuss potential solutions, it was crucial for us to hear what concerns the community has regarding our urban tree canopy.
- 2) **Memorial Drive Coalition.** At the beginning of the session, Susan handed out a chart she had made (see below) that plotted the general health of approximately 30 Memorial Drive London Plane trees (total=131). On a scale from 0.5-10, the median health of the trees was 3.5; obviously, the trees need immediate care.

Tree health inversely correlates to DBH. Median health is 3.5 on scale of 0.5-10



Indeed, the trees are threatened by:

- High salt content in the soil
- Soil compaction
- A fungal disease, *anthracnose*
- Lack of general tree care

Potential solutions to the issue:

- Reduce traffic on Memorial Drive

- Increase tree care through waterings, fertilization, proper trimmings, and soil remediation
- Heritage Tree project: we are working on a grant that would allow us to start a program called “Heritage Trees.” Trees could be deemed “Heritage Trees” due to rarity, age, or historical importance. Heritage Trees would receive a plaque, recognition, and certain protections. Considering the Memorial Drive trees’ role in our community, we believe that they should definitely be considered Heritage Trees. A network of Heritage Trees would allow us to have a systemic way to protect certain trees in Cambridge. We got this idea from [Seattle’s](#) Heritage Tree program.

We also discussed ways to engage the Cambridge community in this issue. This included:

- A public art display with portrait photographs of each tree
- Connecting with people from protests in the 1960s (when Harvard students successfully stopped Memorial Drive construction that would have cut down all the trees) to speak about the trees’ importance

N.B.: Other people at the meeting had also been photographing and assessing the trees on Memorial Drive. We would like to compile this data into one big spreadsheet. If you have any data that you collected for the Memorial Drive trees, please email it to lettie@greencambridge.org.

3) **The Tree Task Force.** Many residents expressed concern that the Tree Task Force is not being formed quickly enough. It is scheduled to begin in the Fall, but implementation has progressed very slowly. What can you do to help speed up the process? Write letters and emails to the City of Cambridge: ask for the Tree Task Force to be a priority. Talk about it.

4) **Volpe site.** Chuck Hinds attended the meeting. He has been incredible about protesting and rallying against MIT’s planning to cut down 190 beautiful trees. These trees are roughly 50-70 years old, and one of them is a tribute to the victims of 9/11. Email chuckhinds@msn.com if you are interested in joining the Volpe subcommittee.

Potential solutions to the issue:

- We want to bring awareness to the issue, like the Memorial Drive trees. Specifically, art is important to raising awareness.
- We also are thinking of undertaking another i-Tree canopy project for the East Cambridge area to see what significance these trees hold for East Cambridge’s overall tree canopy (10.3%). If you are interested in helping with the project, please email lettie@greencambridge.org.

5) **Inman Square.** The City is planning to make the intersection of Hampshire St. and Cambridge St. four lanes, and, to accommodate this, to replace Vellucci Park with a south-facing plaza in front of Punjabi Dhaba. However, this project will imperil six forty-year old honeylocust

trees, *Gleditsia triacanthos*. Furthermore, there have been multiple studies stating that mature trees sequester a much greater amount of carbon dioxide than new trees. Let's protect this greenspace! Email esla@earthlink.net for more information.

6) **Nextdoor**. If you want updates about trees in your neighborhood, this free platform is a great way to get engaged. Or, of course, the Cambridge Trees [Facebook](#).

7) **The Green Cambridge newsletter**. If you haven't received our [August Newsletter](#), be sure to check it out.

Thanks!