

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2020

Project Title: Wildwood Tree and Monument Preservation Project

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Space
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$55,000

Submitting Entity: Amherst Cemetery Association

Contact Person: Rebecca Fricke

Phone: 413-549-4649

Email: r.fricke.wildwood@gmail.com

Overview of Proposal: Wildwood Tree and Monument Preservation Project

“President Hitchcock, who named Mt. Pleasant, called the spot where Wildwood is today Mt. Pleasanter.”

The Beautiful Wildwood Cemetery – Its Unique Features, The Springfield Sunday Republican, June 11, 1905, written by “Our Special Correspondent” (possibly M. Loomis Todd).

Wildwood Cemetery burials date back to the 1850’s, however the cemetery was officially founded in 1887 by Henry Hills and Austin Dickinson. Hills and Dickinson hoped Frederick Law Olmsted (designed Central Park in NYC) would take on the cemetery design, but in a letter dating May 22, 1888 John C. Olmsted states, “I cannot give you any practical aid in the matter... but if any particular questions arise, I may, perhaps, be able to assist you ...” Included with the letter was an article John C. Olmsted wrote about cemeteries. The Amherst Cemetery Association board members must have prevailed because ten years later members of the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture firm visited the cemetery and provided an eleven-page report on their observations of the grounds and designs, plenty of advice as to how the cemetery planning should proceed, as well as a list of plant species they thought would be suitable for the site. The founders incorporated the Olmsted’s list of acceptable species into their plans and the 19th century aesthetic and landscape design are still used today on the cemetery’s eighty acres.(1)

Wildwood Cemetery has over a hundred and fifty years of Amherst family members, friends and neighbors buried on its grounds. Some of these individuals were famous in their day, others became famous posthumously. Many of the earliest graves are located directly under dangerous trees. For example, Austin Dickinson and his family’s graves are located under a stand of hemlocks infested with adelgid and south of the Dickinson grove you will find Josiah Hasbrook,

an African American man who was well known to John Brown and his family before and after the Harper's Ferry rebellion. The Hasbrook graves are directly under trees that are being attacked by fungi and are leaning towards the fragile monuments. As you travel north along the cemetery road you will pass the Esty family buried beginning in the 1870's, Mabel Loomis and David Todd's graves and the oldest gravesite of W.D. Adams from 1856. All of these gravesites are in dangerous tree zones. People regularly come to look at gravesites, especially those of the Dickinsons, and ask for genealogical information. We take our grave maintenance job very seriously and do our utmost to protect the monument stones and burial grounds from harm, but the combination of time, limited resources and tree disease has brought this problem to the forefront.

From its inception, Wildwood Cemetery was meant to be considered more than just a cemetery. The CPA money for this project will enable Wildwood to do the tree maintenance that will help to preserve the gravesite monuments and markers as well as maintain the cemetery's original parklike appearance.

Tree trimming and dead wood removal is a priority and urgently needed for several reasons:

- 1) Due to an increased public interest in genealogy and cemeteries the Wildwood Cemetery has more and more people on our grounds doing research on our monuments and visiting graves. We are open to the public from dawn to dusk and as a result we have people on our property seven days a week. We do not want anyone or anything to be hit by falling limbs.
- 2) The falling limbs are dangerous to our monuments, especially our historical monuments that tend to be fragile. We would like to take all precautions necessary to prevent monuments from being broken or destroyed.
- 3) Our trees are under a lot of stress because of a variety of insects and fungi flourishing in our areas. These stresses include shoestring root rot (*Armillaria*), target gall, gypsy moths and adelgid. The adelgid are killing the hemlocks and spruces, including the stand that was planted around Austin and Susan Dickinson's family graves.
- 4) It is important to remove the trees before they are destroyed a) to reduce the insect breeding ground and b) because tree wood that is cut before the tree is completely dead is useable. c) Dead wood is harder to cut, the wood falls more unpredictably and creates a dangerous work condition. And of course, falling trees in monument sections is hazardous to individual family monuments and markers.

Please see the Appendix for photo evidence.

Feasibility

Wildwood Cemetery has a full time Superintendent of Grounds who will be able to direct the arborists as to how to safely access the damaged trees via the maintenance roads and areas without burials. The Superintendent will also assist in the tree work under the direction of the arborists. After the arborists are finished bringing the cemetery grounds to an acceptable state,

the Grounds Keeper will be able to continue the work on an ongoing basis. We hope the relationship with the arborist will continue for future work.

Description of funding needed, including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget

The total grant request is for \$55,000 which will cover most expenses including replacing the cut trees. We are hoping to use a combination of company services and staff labor to complete this job. See appendix for quotes.

- 1) Kevin Smith – Arborist – Wildcat Tree Climbing Adventures. Smith comes highly recommended from Look Park. His quote is \$40,126 which does not include chipping or hauling of dropped trees. He estimates chipping will be an additional \$1,800 and he has a separate fee for the hauling of trees which is 13% of the estimated quoted price.
- 2) Wagner Wood Co. has done work on our property in the past and they have proven to be reliable, careful and respectful of the burying grounds. Their total is \$88,000. See Wagner Wood proposed budget. We anticipate using their stumping services for \$10,000.

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund raising

While CPA grant funding is essential to this work, any costs over the amount of the grant will be covered by self-funding and fund-raising. The Superintendent of Grounds and assistant will do as much as possible to complement the work being done by the arborist – hauling, composting etc. It is also possible that we could sell large chunks of suitable downed trees to individuals who process firewood or donate wood to local sculptors.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

Funds will be spent over the course of one year.

Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

Wildwood Cemetery will work with the tree companies we hire to preserve 1) our monuments, 2) our grounds and finally 3) our trees. The first consideration will always be the location of the historic monuments and the arborists will need to plan accordingly. The second consideration will be the grass and road maintenance. On the grounds we will use planking to prevent tire damage and finally we will do tree by tree analysis to incorporate best practices and prevent over cutting. We will work to replace the cut trees with new disease and insect resistant species that closely relate to the ones being cut down, as well as with young trees from our own grounds.

Wildwood Cemetery is proud to have many of the same conservation and land preservation priorities as the Town of Amherst. Our land is adjacent to some beautiful conservation land and

we are proud that the public – the walkers, runners and nature watchers – use our land to connect with the Town’s formal trails.

Population(s) to be served by the Project.

The Wildwood Cemetery is open to the public year-round. People come for funerals, grave side visiting and genealogy research. We also have a steady stream of people of all ages who use our property for recreation and bird watching. We recently updated our website and we expect that the number of visitors will increase as a result. Rebecca Fricke (General Manager) is planning to develop educational history programs for our local schools and adult programming which would utilize our natural areas and our office space. This tree maintenance will provide a much safer experience for everyone.

How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

The Wildwood Cemetery has a full-time Superintendent of Grounds who will be able to maintain the tree trimming and new tree care once the large deadwood is removed.

Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

Rebecca Fricke, the General Manager, has gone before the Historical Commission for feedback and support.

Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC.

Wildwood is a non-profit (C-13), non-denominational cemetery that provides burial services, including green burials, year-round. Wildwood is currently in a time of transition and is actively planning for the next fifty years. The Board of Trustees hired a new General Manager and a new Superintendent of Grounds to upgrade the cemetery’s operations. This tree work is part of a much larger effort which the board hopes will help the cemetery maintain its important presence in the Town of Amherst.

For more information about Wildwood Cemetery please go to our website:
<http://www.wildwood-cemetery.com/>

Endnote:

1. The original letters and reports referenced in this grant were in the possession of Professor Orton Clark and copied by the Department of Landscape Architecture in 1935.

Appendix- Wildwood Tree and Monument Preservation Project

1. Photo Evidence

2. Keith Snow Quote

3. Wagner Quote

Examples of Tree Damage and Monuments in Peril at Wildwood Cemetery



Top and bottom left — Ash trees infected with Ash Yellows caused by a phytoplasma. Bottom left is Josiah Hasbrook's family lot. You can see the tree damage at the base of the trunks.

Top Right — Large Hickory with other tree growing out of it, large limbs with damage, many of which have broken. All dead wood drops put historical graves underneath in great peril. The arborist's hope is to cut some of heavier limbs to provide the tree a better balance. Bottom right, the Hills family monument under another tree in need of trimming and balance.





Adelgia infected spruces around the Dickinson graves . The clustering makes it especially important for us to take these down while it is still safe to do so.



Edward Hitchcock's Family graves under leaning and ill trees.



Trees leaning over the Etsey Family graves.



The W.D. Adams lot (the oldest gravesite in the cemetery) is in peril due to dead limbs

Keith Harmon Snow
177 Brown Road
Ashfield MA 01330
(413) 626-3800

4 December 2018

Rebecca Fricke, General Manager
Wildwood Cemetery

Dear Ms. Fricke:

Please find attached for your review a rough baseline estimated pricing quote for tree work at Wildwood Cemetery. These prices are for some but not all of the main tree work (trees) at Wildwood Cemetery, and for some but not all of the trees in each of these areas. However, a substantial portion of the Cemetery property has been roughly surveyed by visual inspection, and a substantial number of trees needing tree work have been identified.

This pricing was compiled based on discussions held at your office and on the walk through we completed on site at the cemetery on 30 November 2018, and on tree assessments performed on site by myself and my associate on 3 December 2018.

I have rather quickly reviewed several of the large main wooded sections of Wildwood Cemetery and have also rather quickly provided estimated pricing quotes based on either a prune or remove (fell) criteria. In total approximately 145 trees have been considered (priced) herein for either pruning or felling.

The areas covered did not include the trees along the driveway that are close to or leaning towards the power lines, or the lower section of the cemetery grounds on the side where your refuse and debris depository is. I estimate another \$3000 for the tree work along the driveway and \$2000 for two large evergreens and one maple near the maintenance shed area.

The total estimated price quote is \$40,126.

- \$28,740 for felling and/or pruning trees;
- ~ \$ 2000 (estimated) for the trees near the maintenance shed;
- ~ \$ 3000 (estimated) for the tree work along the driveway to the offices;
- ~ \$ 2000 for 2 days evergreen tree chipping and log removal (\$900/day);
- ~ \$ 4386 (13% of \$33,740) for bucking up & brushing out (felled) logs and limbs

The prices quoted herein do not include any stump grinding.

Please see the important NOTES appended to this letter. A statement certifying insurance coverage for Wildcat Tree Climbing & care will be provided upon request.

This is not a detailed TREE RISK ASSESMENT REPORT. For your reference, I have provided (loaned) you a copy of the PHASE II TREE RISK ASSESMENT REPORT completed for the Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park in Florence MA. (The PHASE ONE REPORT was substantially more voluminous.) If you are interested in a full scale TREE RISK ASSESMENT, I would be happy to complete one dedicated to the Wildwood Cemetery. A comprehensive tree risk assessment would involve a careful inspection, following national certification standards, of virtually every tree on the property that is in the vicinity of any target (road, building, sign, monument, marker, flagpole, electrical lines, trail, etc.). My fee for this report would \$1150. If the cemetery decided to award the concomitant tree work to Wildcat Tree Climbing & Care, the Tree Risk Assessment fee would be 40% (\$460) reduced.

As far as timing for this tree work and project, Wildcat Tree Climbing & Care would be pleased to work according to the budget and schedule of the Wildwood Cemetery. Winter months can be challenging for tree climbing, and heavy snowfall and ground cover can make groundwork difficult. On the other hand, when the ground is frozen the impact from falling debris is minimized (thus reducing any ground care or landscaping). All that said, if selected to do the tree work, we are prepared to commence work fairly immediately. I anticipate that all tree work outlined herein could be completed by late spring at the latest. It would really be determined more by the budget, schedule and support capacity of the management at Wildwood Cemetery.

I would be happy to discuss this report with you in person. In either case, Wildcat Tree Climbing & Care would be pleased to commence work at your discretion and according to your schedule and needs.

Sincerely

Keith Harmon Snow

NOTES:

1. Wildcat Tree Climbing & Care reserves the right to adjust any pricing (up or down), prior to commencement of the work, to account for errors in tree risk or work assessment, calculations, or translation of info to computer format.
2. Any adjustments in pricing would be renegotiated with Wildwood management for approval prior to any commencement of work; the scale and magnitude of work, and concomitant pricing, is (of course) negotiable.
3. Errors may have occurred in recording specific tree data (e.g. “prune” versus “drop” etc.) and recommended work on every tree will be carefully verified prior to commencement of the work.
4. All evergreen trees are priced with “+” signifying that additional costs will be incurred for chipping and removal of large logs.
5. All chipping and removal of organic matter from evergreen trees (or any additionally desired removal or chipping of brush, limbs or trunks from deciduous trees) will be coordinated for efficiency.
6. Pricing for evergreen chipping and log removal is one time flat rate of \$1800 for approximately 2 days focused chipping and log removal (\$900/day).
7. Pricing for all pruning reflects the assessment of the tree performed on site on 3 December 2018; the scale (and thus prices) of pruning can be adjusted up or down to reflect a more or less aggressive approach to the management of the health and safety of the tree.
8. All pricing for “drop” (dropping/felling) trees is to put the tree on the ground only; in the cases where the tree would fall over a road or path, the tree will be cut to clear the path accordingly. In the case of many small trees, no sawing beyond the initial felling is likely necessary (small trees can sometimes be left to natural decay processes). The smaller the tree, the less the cutting needed; the larger the tree the more. The fee for brushing out and chunking up trees and/or limbs once on the ground is an additional 13% of the estimated quoted price.
9. The estimated pricing quoted herein does not include any stump grinding; all trees will be cut as close as possible to the ground level unless requested otherwise. Some trees (stumps) will not require grinding (because they wont be in places where the stump is visible or obtrusive).
10. Wildcat Tree Climbing & care is a not a landscaping business: every effort is made to minimize any effects of falling limbs or trunks etc. Similarly, while brush and other organic matter will be cleaned up, the level of attention to such will not meet the same high standards of care as, e.g., summer law care and pristine grounds management.



Wildwood Cemetery
70 Strong Street
Amherst, MA 01002

QUOTATION on December 3, 2018

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for the opportunity to place an estimate for the Wildwood Cemetery. Below is the quote Matt discussed with you, should you need any clarification please feel free to let Matt. Thank you.

Description of Work

Pricing for wildwood cemetery tree removal.

Prices are based on an 8 hour work day

Bucket crew:	\$3500.00 per day pricing
Crane crew:	\$6500.00 per day pricing
Excavator and hand cutter:	\$3000.00 per day pricing
Stump grinding:	\$1800.00 per day pricing

Here is some estimates on approximately how many days will be needed with each crew to complete the work we spoke about on our walk through of the cemetery.

5 days with bucket crew:	\$17,500.00
7 days with crane crew:	\$45,500.00
5 days with excavator and hand cutter:	\$15,000.00
6 days stump grinding:	\$10,800.00

Total: \$88,800.00

Remarks:

- Proper permitting and permissions are the responsibility of the owner, and must be in place prior to the work beginning. Traffic control is the General Contractor's responsibility.
- By receiving our goods or service you accept the following terms – if payment is not made within 30 (thirty) days you will be charged interest at the rate of 18% annually or 1.5% monthly. If invoice goes to collections you will be responsible for all legal fees incurred by Wagner Wood. A \$25.00 return check fee will be added for all returned checks.
- All Timber salvage values have been considered in this quote and become property of Wagner Wood.

Should you have any questions or concern please feel free to contact me at 413-531-3118 or via email at bigmoose12989@aol.com. Once again thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to working with you!

Submitted By:

Matt Boucher
Wagner Wood Foreman

Acceptance of proposal: The above prices and specifications are satisfactory and will be hereby accepted. By signing below you authorize work to go ahead. Payments will be made as indicated above.

X _____ Name: _____ Date: _____