Wedgewood Gardens

Preliminary Tree Preservation Report - Revised

PREPARED FOR:

Wedgewood Gardens
c/o Cedar Crest Property Management
1 Wedgewood Drive
Verona, NJ 07044

PREPARED BY:

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PROVIDED BY:

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BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS
SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

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Summary

Wedgewood Gardens will be repaving their parking lot and replacing the Belgium block curb at 1 Wedgewood Drive in Verona, NJ. Cedar Crest Property Management asked Bartlett Tree Experts to perform a tree inventory and prepare a Tree Preservation Report for the property as part of their submission to the Township of Verona.

All 17 trees are protected and cannot be removed without approval from the township. The impacts to each tree are listed in the Tree Inventory (Appendix II).:

- 17 trees are recommended for removal.
- Tree #8 was requested to be retained by Tom Purtell and Rich Wolowitz.

To help protect the preserved trees from excessive construction impacts, I recommend following the Tree Preservation Guidelines found within this report.

Introduction

Wedgewood Gardens will be repaving their parking lot and replacing the Belgium block curb at 1 Wedgewood Drive in Verona, NJ. As part of the design review process, the Township of Verona requests a Tree Preservation Plan. Wedgewood Gardens c/o Cedar Crest Property Management asked Bartlett Tree Experts to perform a tree inventory and prepare a Tree Preservation Report for the property as part of their submission to the Township of Verona.

Assignment

This report communicates the condition of the trees to the township and to the client. The township of Verona requests for a Tree Preservation Plan as part of their design review process. The report is designed to provide the design team with the tree related details they will need to prepare a Tree Preservation Plan to meet that requirement, including:

- observations of the health and structural condition of the trees,
- evaluation of the impacts to trees based on development plans, and
- guidelines for tree preservation throughout the development process

Limits of the Assignment

The tree assessment was performed from the ground for visual conditions. This tree inventory was not a tree risk assessment. As such, no trees were assessed for risk in accordance with industry standards, nor are there any tree risk ratings or risk mitigation recommendations provided within this report.

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

Illustrations, diagrams, graphs, and photographs in this report, being intended as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering or architectural reports or surveys.

Information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems of deficiencies of the plans or property in question may not arise in the future.

There is no guarantee for the preservation of the trees contained in this report, however, the preservation report is made with the best interest intended for the trees being preserved.

Methods

Trees were assessed on April 22, 2025. The assessment included 17 trees along the parking lot to be paved.

1. Affix a numbered tag to the main trunk of each accessible tree;
2. Identifying the species of tree;

3. Measuring the trunk diameter at 54 inches above grade Diameter at Point of Measurement (DPM);
4. Evaluating the health and structural condition:

Good A healthy tree that may have a slight decline in vigor, small amount of twig dieback, minor structural defects that could be corrected;

Fair Tree with moderate vigor, moderate twig and small branch dieback, thinning of crown, poor leaf color, moderate structural defects that might be mitigated with regular care;

Poor Tree in decline, epicormic growth, extensive dieback of medium to large branches, significant structural defects that cannot be abated;

Tree Preservation Regulations

The Township of Verona requires a permit for removal of more than two healthy mature trees per calendar year, unless approved by the Planning Board in accordance with § 493-24. Based on this definition, all 17 trees are protected and cannot be removed without approval from the city. Protected status of each tree is listed in the Tree Inventory (Appendix II).

Observations

The site was an existing condominium community with one- and two-bedroom units. There was an asphalt driveway and parking lot. 16 of the trees were in fair condition and 1 was in poor condition (Table 1).

TABLE 1: TREE CONDITION AND ABUNDANCE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Dead	Poor	Fair	Good	Total
Northern Catalpa	*Catalpa speciosa*	-	-	1	-	1
Thornless Common Honeylocust	*Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*	-	1	15	-	16
Total		**-**	**1**	**16**	**-**	**17**

Photo 1. Common honeylocust #34 was in poor condition with decay in the stem and root flare.

Photo 2. Northern catalpa #1 was in fair condition with curbing damage and unidentified fungi on a root flare (inset).

Tree Impacts

Site plans were not provided. I was informed by Arborist Representative Douglas Bocchino, that the planned construction includes repaving the parking areas and replacement of the Belgium block curbing. Impacts to each tree are listed in the Tree Inventory (Appendix II). Based on my evaluation:

- 17 trees are recommended for removal.
- Tree #8 is requested to be retained by Tom Purtell and Rich Wolowitz.

All 17 of the trees were within 3 feet of the curbing and parking lot. 16 of the trees were in fair condition and had roots causing pavement and curbing damage. Common honeylocust (#34) was in poor condition and had decay in the stem and root flare. I do not expect these trees to survive the anticipated impacts.

Best Management Practices, Managing Trees During Site Development and Construction recommends a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of 7.5 foot radius from the stem for tree #8.

Tree Preservation Guidelines

Tree preservation is intended to not only foster tree survival during development, but also to promote maintenance of tree health and beauty into the future. Retained trees that are injured or damaged during construction or are insufficiently maintained afterward become a liability rather than an asset. How individual trees respond to disturbances will depend on the extent of excavation and grading, the care with which demolition is undertaken, and the construction methods employed. Coordinating any construction activity inside the Tree Protection Zone can minimize these impacts.

The following recommendations will reduce impacts to trees from development and maintain and improve their health and vitality through the clearing, grading and construction phases.

Design Recommendations

1. Any changes to the plans involving the trees should be reviewed by the consulting arborist with regard to tree impacts. These include, but are not limited to, site plans, improvement plans, utility and drainage plans, grading plans, landscape and irrigation plans, and demolition plans.
2. Irrigation systems must be designed so that no trenching severs roots larger than 1 inch in diameter will occur within the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE**.
3. **Tree Preservation Guidelines** prepared by the Consulting Arborist, which include specifications for tree protection during demolition and construction, should be included on all plans.
4. Any herbicides placed under paving materials must be safe for use around trees and labeled for that use.
5. Do not lime the subsoil within 50 feet of any tree. Lime is toxic to tree roots.
6. Ensure adequate but not excessive water is supplied to trees; in most cases occasional irrigation will be required. Avoid directing runoff toward trees.

Tree Protection Zone

a. **A TREE PROTECTION ZONE** shall be identified for each tree to be preserved on the Tree Protection Plan prepared by the project arborist.

b. Tree protection fences shall be installed to encompass the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE.** Fences shall be orange colored high density polyethylene fencing a minimum of 4' high, supported by 2" x 6' steel posts installed 8' o.c.

c. Fences must be installed prior to beginning demolition and must remain until construction is complete.

d. No grading, excavation, construction or storage or dumping of materials shall occur within the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE**.

e. No underground services, including utilities, sub-drains, water or sewer shall be placed in the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE**.

Pre-demolition and Pre-construction Treatments and Recommendations

1. The demolition and construction superintendents shall meet with the Consulting Arborist before beginning work to review all work procedures, access routes, storage areas, and tree protection measures.

1. Fence all trees to be retained to completely enclose the Tree Protection Zone prior to demolition, grubbing or grading. Fences are to remain until all grading and construction is completed. The Tree protection zones are shown on Tree Inventory Map (Appendix I) with distances from the trunk listed in Tree Inventory Data (Appendix II).
2. Apply and maintain 4-6 inches wood chip mulch within the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE**. Keep the mulch 2 feet from the base of tree trunk.
3. Prune trees to be preserved to remove dead branches 2 inches and larger in diameter, raise canopies as needed for construction activities.
    a. All pruning shall be done by an ISA Certified Arborist® or ISA Certified Tree Worker® in accordance with the Best Management Practices for Pruning (International Society of Arboriculture, 2019) and adhere to the most recent editions of the American National Standard Z133.1 Safety Requirements 2017 for Tree Care Operations and ANSI A300 (Part 1)- Pruning 2017.
    b. While in the tree the arborist shall perform an aerial inspection to identify any defects, weak branch and trunk attachments and decay not visible from the ground. Any additional work needed to mitigate defects shall be reported to the property owner.
4. Trees to be removed shall be felled so as to fall away from **TREE PROTECTION ZONE** and avoid pulling and breaking of roots of trees to remain. If roots are entwined, the Consulting Arborist may require first severing the major woody root mass before extracting the trees, or grinding the stump below ground.

Recommendations for Tree Protection during Construction

1. Any approved grading, construction, demolition or other work within the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE** should be monitored by the Consulting Arborist.
2. All contractors shall conduct operations in a manner that will prevent damage to trees to be preserved.
3. Tree protection devices are to remain until all site work has been completed within the work area. Fences or other protection devices may not be relocated or removed without permission of the Consulting Arborist.
4. Construction trailers, traffic and storage areas must remain outside **TREE PROTECTION ZONE** at all times.
5. Any root pruning required for construction purposes shall receive the prior approval of and be supervised by the Consulting Arborist. Roots should be cut with a saw to provide a flat and smooth cut. Removal of roots larger than 2 inches in diameter should be avoided.
6. If roots are 2 inches and greater in diameter are encountered during site work and must be cut to complete the construction, the Consulting Arborist must be consulted to evaluate effects on the health and stability of the tree and recommend treatment.
7. Prior to grading or trenching, trees may require root pruning outside the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE.** Any root pruning required for construction purposes shall receive the prior approval of, and be supervised by, the Consulting Arborist.
8. If injury should occur to any tree during construction, it should be evaluated as soon as possible by the Consulting Arborist so that appropriate treatments can be applied.
9. No excess soil, chemicals, debris, equipment or other materials shall be dumped or stored within the **TREE PROTECTION ZONE**.
10. Any additional tree pruning needed for clearance during construction must be performed by a Certified Arborist and not by construction personnel.

Maintenance of Impacted Trees

Preserved trees will experience a physical environment different from that of the pre-development conditions. As a result, tree health and structural stability should be monitored. Occasional pruning, fertilization, mulch, pest management, replanting and irrigation may be required. In addition, provisions for monitoring both tree health and structural stability following construction must be made a priority. Inspect trees annually and following major storms to identify conditions requiring treatment to manage risk associated with tree failure.

Our procedures included assessing trees for observable defects in structure. This is not to say that trees without significant defects will not fail. Failure of apparently defect-free trees does occur, especially during storm events. Wind forces, for example, can exceed the strength of defect-free wood causing branches and trunks to break. Wind forces coupled with rain can saturate soils, reducing their ability to hold roots, and blow over defect-free trees. Although we cannot predict all failures, identifying those trees with observable defects is a critical component of enhancing public safety.

Furthermore, trees change over time. Our inspections represent the condition of the tree at the time of inspection. As trees age, the likelihood of failure of branches or entire trees increases.

Annual tree inspections are recommended to identify changes to tree health and structure. In addition, trees should be inspected after storms of unusual severity to evaluate damage and structural changes. Initiating these inspections is the responsibility of the client and/or tree owner.

If you have any questions about my observations or recommendations, please contact me.

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Appendix I – Tree Inventory Map

Appendix II – Tree Inventory Table

Tree ID	Common Name	Condition	DPM	Status	Disposition	Comments
1	Northern Catalpa	Fair	25	Protected	Remove	Within footprint of parking lot
2	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	28	Protected	Remove	Within 2' of parking, and curb replacement
3	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	24	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
4	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	24	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
5	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	19	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
7	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
8	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	15	Protected	Removal Recommended	Within 3' of parking, and curb replacement To be retained on request by Tom Purtell and Rich Wolowitz
9	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
10	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
11	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	18	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
12	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	18	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
13	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
14	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
34	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Poor	20	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
35	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	19	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
36	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement
37	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	16	Protected	Remove	Within 2’ of parking, and curb replacement

Appendix III – Tree Removal Table

Tree ID	Common Name	Condition	DPM	Disposition
1	Northern Catalpa	Fair	25	Remove
2	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	28	Remove
3	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	24	Remove
4	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	24	Remove
5	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	19	Remove
7	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Remove
9	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Remove
10	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Remove
11	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	18	Remove
12	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	18	Remove
13	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Remove
14	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	20	Remove
34	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Poor	20	Remove
35	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	19	Remove
36	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	21	Remove
37	Thornless Common Honeylocust	Fair	16	Remove