



*City of Bristol
Board of Park Commissioners*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/85462119103?pwd=1sk3e5VzSsAoNUaxUPsABht4MayK6c.1>

The Board of Park Commissioners/Tree Hearing meeting will be held on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 5:00 PM. in City Hall Meeting Room 2-2 (Second Floor), 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., City of Bristol Tree Warden, called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

This is a hearing regarding the property identified as Page Park.

Members Present:

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., City of Bristol Tree Warden
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Services
Douglas Trillo, Parks and Recreation Tree Warden
Jonathan Tunsky, Landscape Architect from Weston & Sampson

Absent:

2. Presentation of Request to Remove Trees

Jonathan Tunsky, Project Manager of Weston & Sampson, 712 Brook St. Suite 103 Rocky Hill, CT 06067, the design firm working on the Page Park Revitalization Project. The Page Park Revitalization Project has been approved through Inland/Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commissions. The tree removal process came up during the Inland/Wetlands meeting. The commission asked what efforts were made to preserve the existing trees? In an effort to preserve the existing trees, the park improvements are concentrated in previously developed areas or maintained lawns. This allowed us to maintain as much of the tree canopy as possible with under storage vegetation as possible. An estimated three (3) acres of the disturbed area will be seeded with an upland seed mix and that will be allowed to return to a successful forest. Also, an estimated two (2) acres of the disturbed area will be mowed yearly, similarly to the

sledding hill. It has been estimated that within 25 years, the 158 new trees planted will provide a tree cover for almost 2 acres of the park. It has been estimated that approximately 175 trees are posted for removal. As part of the Page Park Revitalization, Weston and Sampson is aiding the Bristol Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Services in making the park more accessible for the public, including additional walkways and trails, improvements to the pond, additional restrooms, parking and more.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E. stated for the record that the trees were posted within the state statute which was 10 days prior to this hearing.

Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson, stated for the record that the trees were posted 10 days prior to November 17, 2024.

3. Information of Health of Trees

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E. stated that he did have the opportunity to review the health of the trees. The main reason for the removal of the trees is for the proposed work of the Revitalization Project.

Mr. Tunsy, from Weston & Sampson, agreed with Mr. Rogozinski. Mr. Tunsy stated that everyone is trying to minimize as much removal as possible. Himself, Superintendent Josh Mederios and Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson conducted a site walk with the surveyor who marked out the limit of work. During the site walk, each tree was examined and made assessments based on the health, longevity, and potential of the tree. If it was within the work improvement area, then it would be removed because of the proposed conditions.

4. Tree Removal Mitigation Measures/Tree Planting Plan

Jonathan Tunsy, from Weston & Sampson, presented the Mitigation Measures. Mr. Tunsy stated they are planting about 158 new trees. They are establishing seed measures that will provide a successful forest in the park that will not need to be maintained and will have the ability to grow freely. There will be a diverse pallet of tree species in the park with the proposed improvements.

In the proposed plan there are some trees that are being protected. There is a 4 ft. orange fence that will be installed and the drip line, and the contractor will not be allowed to enter those drip lining areas.

This is not a 1.1 mitigation. After surveying the area, Mr. Tunsy stated that they were trying to get as close to a 1.1 mitigation as possible. The new trees that will be planted are going to provide more of a canopy than the existing trees marked for removal.

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that some of the trees that are marked for removal are Pole Timber sized, or a smaller than mature tree. The newly planted trees will be spaced out enough to ensure that they will reach maturity. In addition, some of the 175 trees marked for removal are dead and or dying.

5. Public Participation

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Tree Warden, stated that this is the public participation portion of the hearing. He asks that you identify yourself and present any concern associated with the tree removal.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked for clarification about the existing canopy and the canopy of the newly planted trees?

Jonathan Tunksky stated the canopy is within a woodland area right now and the canopy is developed more for an upper forest area. With the proposed trees, many are going to be planted in the park space to be used more for shade. They will be allowing space between those trees in order to grow into a full canopy and provide more coverage.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked how many healthy trees are going to be removed?

Jonathan Tunksky stated he did not have an exact break-down, but about 10% of the trees are in poor condition.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked if there is any way to relocate the trees at all?

Jonathan Tunksky stated that the majority of the trees to be removed are mature. It would not be recommended to be relocated.

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that our Landscape Gardener had gone through the work area and removed some of the sapling trees to be replanted in other city parks.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked if the 158 trees being planted are young trees?

Jonathan Tunksky stated that the trees will be nursery grown. They will be an estimated 10 ft. tall, depending on the species. These trees will be root balled with burlap and able to be planted by the contractor.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked if there was anything to be done with regard to drainage with the trees being removed?

Jonathan Tunksky stated there will be additional storm drainage and infiltration on site. They are utilizing some low impact design concepts where they can. Slopes that are greater than a 3:1 slope will be reinforced with erosion control until the succession areas are established to tie in the soil.

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that a number of the trees that are being removed will be replaced with swales. Currently, there is a lack of erosion prevention in the park which has led to a significant flooding and exposed roots which would damage other surrounding trees. This will help bio-infiltrate the water and prevent water runoff that might impact the other trees in that forested area.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked if there was anything being done to add soil?

Jonathan Tunksky stated they had taken topsoil samples, and it would be reused and tested for its PH balance and nutrient levels.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT, asked who will be watering the new trees?

Jonathan Tunksky stated they have a 1-year warranty on any tree planting. They will do a punch list at the time of planting. Any trees that are dead or declining will be replaced and any trees that happen to die or are failing will be replaced within that year. Irrigation will be part of Phase 2.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT asked if the funding for Fiscal Year 2025 was

approved?

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that there is about \$10 Million in funding as of Fiscal Year 2025. The parks department did ask for additional money for Fiscal Year 2025 and the city chose not to fund that capital improvement request.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT asked if there was a plan for water after the 1-year warranty?

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that we do have a landscape gardener, and he will assess the needs of the trees following the 1-year warranty.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT asked where the water was going to come from to water these new trees?

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that the department uses a water buffalo, which is a tank that is filled with water and brought to different sites as needed.

Erica Zahina, of 108 Moody St. Bristol, CT asked if there was any concern about the trees becoming burned by the amount of sunlight?

Deputy Superintendent Larson stated that the trees typically grown in nurseries are grown in full sun conditions.

6. Adjournment

Hearing adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aubrey Minkler
Recording Secretary
Board of Parks Commission



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

**REQUEST TO REMOVE
CITY OF BRISTOL TREES
PAGE PARK
(King St Parcel ID 1-2676-0241830)**

TREE WARDEN – DECISION
November 26, 2024

In accordance with State Statute 23-59a, a hearing was conducted November 25, 2024 by Raymond A. Rogozinski, City of Bristol Tree Warden, Certified by the Tree Warden Association of Connecticut.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive information and public comments regarding the proposed removal of 175 trees at the City-owned property identified Page Park Parcel ID 1-2676-0241830). The hearing was conducted at Bristol City Hall, 111 North Main St, Room 2-2 at 5:00 PM.

The trees were posted in accordance with the requirements of State Statute 23-59a prior to November 15, 2024.

Presentation of Request to Remove Trees – Testimony:

Proposed Page Park Renovations consists of the construction of four pickleball courts, new shade structures, walk system, multi-use trail, parking lot, tree plantings, dam repair, and pond bank improvements.

The following plans, available in the DPW Land Use Division, were referenced in the testimony:

- a. City of Bristol Renovation & Improvement at Page Park Sheets L100 & L201 – L204 Demolition Plans Dated 12/7/2023 Prepared by Weston & Sampson Engineers.
- b. City of Bristol Renovation & Improvement at Page Park Sheets L600 & L601 – L604 Planting Plan, Dated 12/7/2023 Prepared by Weston & Sampson Engineers.

Information of Health of Trees – Testimony

Mr. Rogozinski, Tree Warden, stated that based on a preliminary assessment, the trees designated for removal are in general good health, and the reason for the tree removal is the redevelopment/renovation of the City park identified as Page Park. Mr. Jon Tunsy of Weston & Sampson Inc. indicated concurrence with Mr. Rogozinski's assessment and stated approximately 10 percent of the trees are in poor condition.

Tree Removal Mitigation Measures/Tree Planting Plan – Testimony

The renovation of Page Park includes the planting of the following trees:

Common Name	Size	QTY
Bloodgood Japanese Maple	2'-2.5' CAL.	2
Redpointe Maple	2'-2.5' CAL	8
October Glory Red Maple	2'-2.5' CAL	2
Sugar Maple	2'-2.5' CAL	5
Shadblow Serviceberry	2"-2.5" CAL	6
Kousa Dogwood	2'-3' CAL	1
Autumn Gold Maidenhair Tree	2"-2.5" CAL	
Shademaster Honey Locust	2'-2.5' CAL	4
Happidaze Sweet Gum	2'-2.5' CAL	11
Tupelo	2'-2.5' CAL	2
Norway Spruce	10'-12' HT	3
Exclamation London Plane Tree	2'-2.5' CAL	21
Pink Flair Sargent Cherry	2'- 2.5' CAL	14
Kwanzan Japanese Flowering Cherry	2'-2.5' CAL	4
White Oak	2'-2.5' CAL	4
Swamp White Oak	8-10' (2' CAL)	2
Scarlet Oak	2'-2.5' CAL	6

Japanese Stewartia	2'- 2.5' CAL	1
Redmond American Linden	2'-2.5' CAL	25
Princeton American Elm	2'-2.5' CAL	3
Lacebark Elm	2'2.5' CAL	15
Green Vase Japanese Zelkova	2'-2.5' CAL	11
Red Chokeberry	2'-3" HT	12
Winterberry	2'-3" HT	22
Meadowsweet	2'-3" HT	27
Red-Osier Dogwood	2'-3" HT	67

The proposal is to plant 158 trees.

Public Participation:

The following information and statements are a summary only, please see posted minutes and/or request the meeting recording from the Parks Department for a complete record of statements:

Ms. Erika Zahina, 108 Moody Street, indicated concerns with tree removal associated with the following:

- i. Removal of mature trees pose harm, specifically the loss of canopy, additional storm water runoff, and increased noise.
- ii. Tree planting plan does not provide 1:1 mitigation to address loss of trees. In addition, concerns with long term tree survival were expressed, and watering of trees was questioned.

Sarah Larson Deputy Park Superintendent and Jon Tunsky, stated the following:

- a. Proposed trees will be 2.5 – 3.0 inches (approx. 8-10 ft. tall). Once fully grown, proposed trees will provide equivalent canopy as the existing trees.
- b. Proposed trees will have a one-year warranty. Tree watering will be provided by the contractor during the warranty period.
- c. Spacing of proposed trees is generally greater than the spacing of existing (trees in nature) in order to ensure health of planted trees.
- d. The existing trees to be removed are located within the park, away from private property. Therefore, it is anticipated that tree removal will not result in an increase in noise to private properties.
- e. Page Park renovation design includes stormwater management upgrades and ground water infiltration components.
- f. The proposed plan includes the protection of a number of existing trees that will remain “as is.”

Summary/Conclusion:

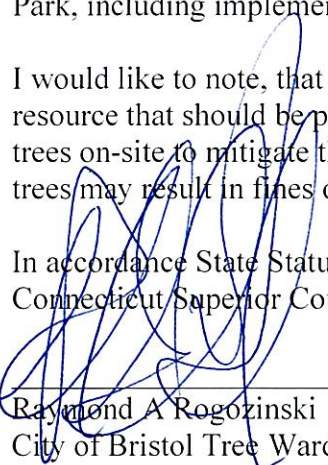
The role of the tree warden is to balance tree preservation along with public safety and risk of damage. Following the tree hearing, Raymond Rogozinski reviewed the testimony and proposed maps/plans for the new Page Park Renovation project proposed on the parcel, including the proposed tree planting plan. Based on the review, **the cutting and removal of the 175 trees is authorized by the City of Bristol Tree Warden** in order to proceed with the proposed renovations of Page Park.

As tree warden, it is concerning that 1:1 mitigation has not been provided, however, I understand that tree spacing of the proposed trees must be greater than existing the existing trees in order to ensure health of the planted trees. It is also noted that the planting of new trees is not a substitute for the existing mature trees at the time of the initially tree planting. However, the planting of 2.5 – 3-inch diameter trees is consistent with standard practices, and the planting of larger trees would not result in an earlier establishment of tree canopy. It is imperative that the trees designated as being protected are not removed or damaged during construction, and the proposed tree planting plan shall proceed as proposed to mitigate the impact of the tree removal.

I have made the determination as City Tree Warden to authorize the removal of the trees located at Page Park, King St (Parcel ID **1-2676-0241830**), primarily due to the proposal to renovate Page Park, including implementation of the proposed planting plan.

I would like to note, that as City Tree Warden, I recognize the value of trees and see City trees as a resource that should be preserved and maintained. Therefore, I support the proposed planting of trees on-site to mitigate the proposed loss/cutting of trees. Failure to protect or plant the proposed trees may result in fines or penalties for the property owner.

In accordance State Statue 23-59 any aggrieved party (if any) may appeal the decision to Connecticut Superior Court.



Raymond A Rogozinski
City of Bristol Tree Warden