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**Tree Risk Review Sugarloaf Entrance – Walking Trail**

9220-9250 GERMANTOWN AVENUE  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Prepared For:**

**PH&C, L.L.C.**

**Land Development Services**

**998 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 1211**

**Wayne, PA 19087**

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## ***Level 1 Tree Risk Review – Proposed trail***

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Date: February 9, 2022

To: Rich Rycharski (PH&C)

From: John Hosbach – Rockwell

Reference: Tree Risk Review -CHC TRAIL REVIEW

File#: 73714

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Dear Rich,

As requested, we have performed the level one site inspection of the existing trees within the proposed trail corridor.

Below you will find the summary report. Attached you will find the associated matrix and map.

I will be happy to meet on site to review my findings.



**John Rockwell Hosbach Jr., RCA, Urban Forester | Principal**

## **Executive Summary**

Rockwell Associates was commissioned to review the existing conditions as it relates to the subject trees that inhabit the area of the proposed trail. The subject trees noted in the inventory will require management to advance the safety of the woodland structure and pedestrian trail/road.

The subject area consists of a proposed trail system along with a steep slope along Germantown Pike that inhabits numerous risk related trees. The subject area consists of a over mature canopy with a predominantly even-aged stand. Oak, ash, poplar and maple are the dominate species. As noted in my report, all ash trees within striking distance of the trail and road are being proposed for removal due to their current state and impact from the emerald ash borer.

The matrix provides insight to the management of each tree or groups of trees.

## **Disclaimer**

Inventory data provided by Rockwell are based on visual recording at the time of inspection. Visual records do not include individual testing or analysis and do not include aerial or subterranean inspection. Rockwell is not responsible for discovery or identification of hidden or otherwise non-observable hazards. Records may not remain accurate after inspection due to variable deterioration of inventoried material. Rockwell provides no warranty with respect to the fitness of the urban forest for any use or purpose whatsoever.

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, assess their condition, and recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, while attempting to reduce risk. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways that cannot always be predicted. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground and can develop quickly after an inspection. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period. At no time are we responsible for windthrow, sustained wind damage, snow an ice load, soil saturation, erosion or soil failure and winds exceeding 15 MPH.

Likewise, remedial treatments cannot be guaranteed. Important: Know and understand that this basic visual assessment is confined to the designated subject tree(s), and that this consultation was performed in the interest of facts of the tree(s) without prejudice to or for any other service or any interested party.

## **Deliverables**

<b>01</b>	<b>Summary report</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>Matrix inventory</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>Map</b>

## **Goals and objectives**

Our goal was to assist PH&C, L.L.C of the current exiting conditions as it relates to the subject risk related trees.

## Qualifications

Rockwell Associates is continually proven to be an industry leader for high quality and guaranteed consulting service in the following ways:

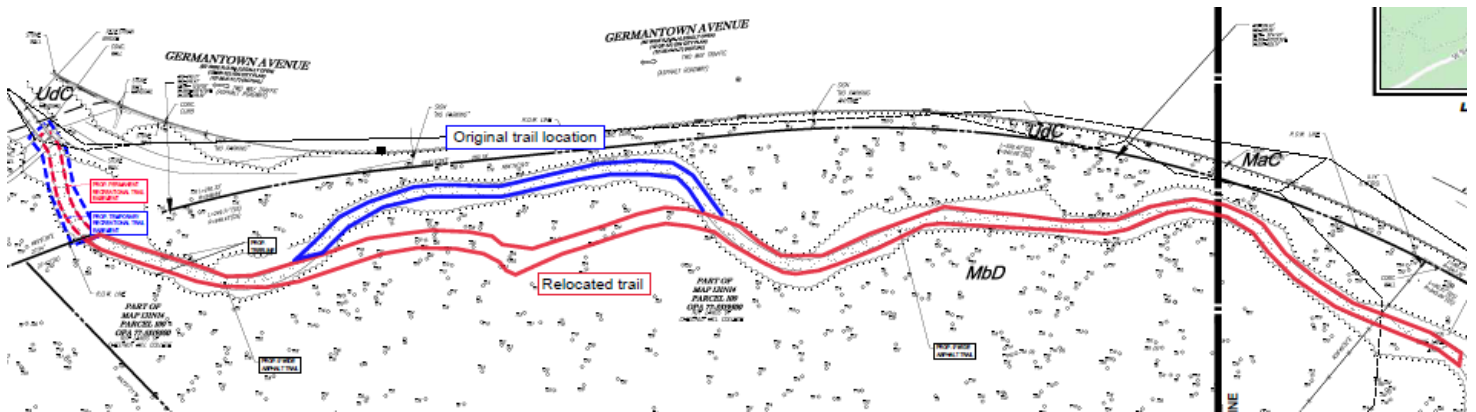
We are only consultants and we do not perform the actual tree work. Therefore, you obtain an unbiased and professional approach to managing your trees.

- Registered Consulting Arborist #483
- ISA Certified Arborist PD-0372
- ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
- ASCA Qualified Tree and Plant Appraiser
- 25 years of arboricultural knowledge.

## Assignment

I was retained by PH&C, L.L.C to provide a level one tree assessment of trees within the trail interface.

1. High level risk review of trees along the proposed.
2. Furnished report of my findings.



**Note – at no time did we inspect or review any trees on the Fairmount Park/Phila section of the trail/bridge or any other area for that matter.**

## **Inventory**

A review was conducted to assess the current health, species palate, sizes, risk, contribution, priority and longevity. Separate detailed tree survey sheets are attached in the Urban Forest Metrix.

1. Tree reference number – map number
2. Species – type of tree
3. Stem diameter - Diameter
4. Physiological condition – current time
5. Category grading / Structural condition – tribulations
6. Longevity – future longevity of benefits
7. Priority – when work should be conducted

## **Tree Condition**

Trees were rated as good, fair, poor, or dead. These general ratings reflect whether a tree is likely to continue contributing to the urban forest (good and fair trees) or whether the tree is at or near the end of its life (poor and dead trees). The following guidelines were used:

70- 100% Good: The tree has strong structure and is healthy and vigorous with no apparent problems. Trunks are solid with no bark damage and the crown is full. Roots show no signs of heaving or visible crossing, and there are no major wounds, decay, conks, or cavities.

30- 70% Fair: The tree is in average condition. Structural problems may be present, including results of pruning for general care. Tree may have dead branches and some canopy loss.  
Wounds are minimal and there is no major decay.

20- 30% Poor: The tree is in a general state of decline as indicated by major wounds, root heaving, dead limbs resulting in major canopy loss, and/or visible signs of decay indicated by major rot or fungal growth.

1-20 % Dead: The tree is dead with no live leaves. Dead trees were excluded from data analysis, except for tree condition statistics and total number of trees inventoried.

## **Recommendations for Priorities**

Priority class recommendations are based on a 5-year management plan that takes into consideration tree species, condition, location, age, and proximity to infrastructure. We intend that this rating system assist decision makers in prioritizing tree removal/pruning, cabling, and bracing, and tree lightning protection recommendations. Trees with a priority of 1 and an Overall Risk Rating of Extreme or High should be addressed immediately. Prioritization does not consider any budgetary or financial considerations.

The subject trees reviewed consisted of four priorities. Immediate, within 6 months, within 1 year and 3 years.

Trees with an immediate priority should be removed at the time of the review. Trees with 6 months, 1 year and 3 years are to be managed within that time period allocated. However, it may be cost effective to bundle the whole program.



## **Arboricultural Practices**

All tree care practices should be implemented using the following for present and the future management of this trail system.

- o ANSI A300 pruning standard 2017.
  - o ANSI A300 (Part 3) - Supplemental Support Systems (includes Cabling, Bracing, Guying, and Propping)
  - o ANSI A300 Soil Management Standard
1. Removal. Trees designated for removal have defects that cannot be cost- effectively or practically treated. Most of the trees in this category have a large percentage of dead crown. All trees with safety risks that could be seen as potential threats to persons or property and seen as potential liabilities to the client would be in this category. This category includes large dead and dying trees that are high-liability risks as well as those that pose minimal liability to persons or property (such as trees in poor locations or undesirable species).

## **Testing and Analysis**

We utilized the TRAQ risk assessment guidelines along with experience and specialized targets. Hazardous trees regularly lead to injury or death of pedestrians, visitors, and property owners at private and public locations. To address this issue, the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) has created the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ).

TRAQ promotes the safety of people and property by providing a standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk. The results of a tree risk assessment can provide tree owners and risk managers with information to make informed decisions regarding their trees.

### **Level 1: Limited Visual Assessment**

The Level 1 assessment is a visual assessment from a specified perspective of an individual tree or a population of trees near specified targets to identify obvious defects or specified conditions. A limited visual assessment typically focuses on identifying trees with an imminent and/or probable likelihood of failure.

Level 1 assessments do not always meet the criteria for a “risk Assessment” if they do not include analysis and evaluation of individual trees. Limited visual assessments are the fastest but least thorough means of assessment and are intended primarily for large populations of trees.

The assessment is often done on a specified schedule, and/or immediately after storms to rapidly assess a tree population. Tree inventories are usually considered Level 1 assessments unless a risk assessment is specifically included in the inventory.

The assessor performs a visual assessment by looking for obvious defects, such as dead trees, large cavity openings, large dead or broken branches, fungal fruiting structures, large cracks, and severe leans. The scope of work may, in some cases, specify the assessor to walk around certain trees to gain a more complete perspective. Drive-by (“windshield”) is a limited visual inspection of one side of the tree performed from a slow-moving vehicle.

The scope of work may also specify that the inspector walk around certain trees or record images to verify or document observations. This type of inspection is often performed by landowners who have large populations of trees to inspect with specific budget.

When a tree of concern is identified, certain specified information about that tree is recorded. The level 1 assessment will include the tree location and recommended remedial action. A higher level of inspection may also be recommended when needed if that option is included in the scope of work. A constraint of limited visual inspections is that some conditions may not be visible from a one- sided inspection of a tree, nor are all conditions visible on a year-round basis.

A primary goal of tree risk assessment is to provide information about the level of risk posed by a tree over a specific time. This is accomplished in qualitative tree risk assessment by first determining the categories for likelihood and consequences of tree failure. These factors are determined by:

1. Evaluating the structural conditions that may lead to failure, the potential loads on the tree, and the trees' adaptations to weaknesses—to determine the likelihood of failure.
2. Evaluating the likelihood that a tree or branch could strike people or property or disrupt activities.
3. Assessing the injury, damage, or disruption—to estimate the consequences of failure.

Trees requiring management were painted with purple forestry paint ( 2 slashes for removal and 1 slash for pruning). Each tree or group of trees was flagged and provided a number that correlates with the map and matrix.

**Note – all trees within the matrix were rated as “High Risk” presently and immediately once the trail is secured and built.**

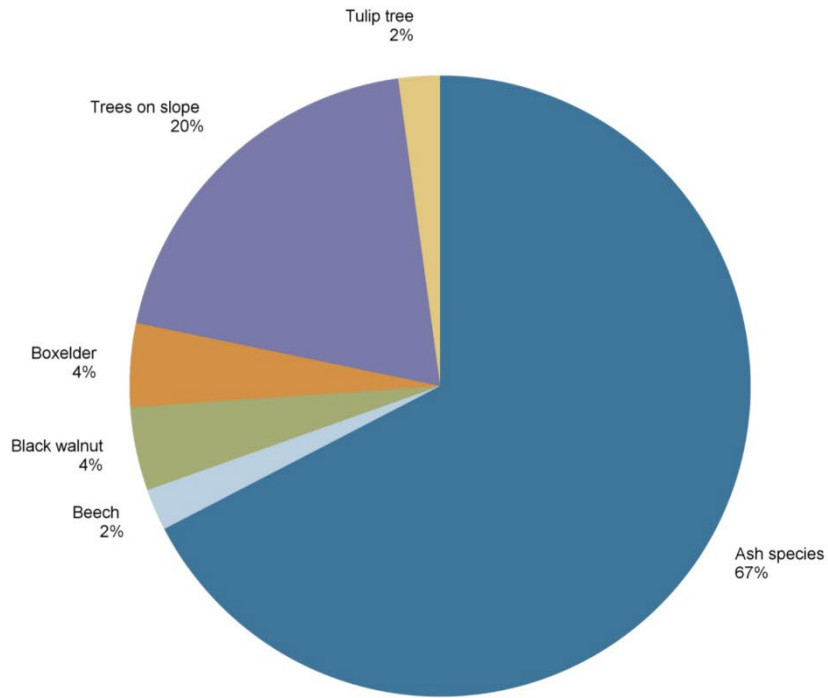
Total number of removals	45 trees
Total number of trees to be pruned	1 tree



**Inventory by Species**  
Client Name

Rockwell Associates  
John Rockwell Hosbach, RCA  
Registered Consulting Arborist #483

## Species Breakdown



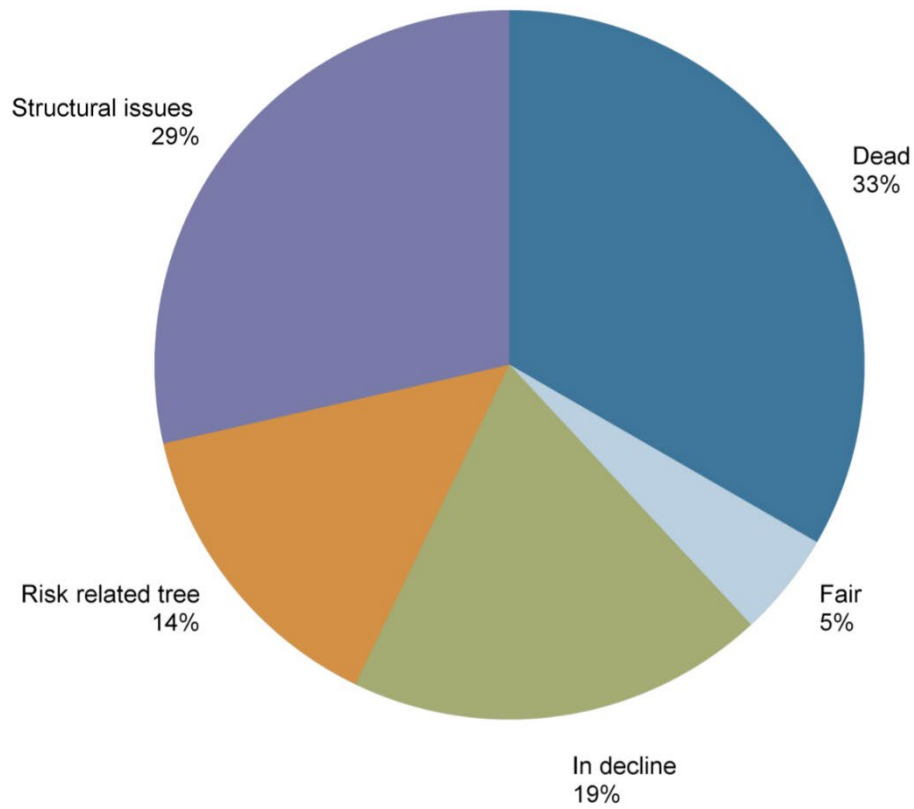




**Inventory Summary by Condition**  
Client Name

Rockwell Associates  
John Rockwell Hosbach, RCA  
Registered Consulting Arborist #483

## Tree Condition

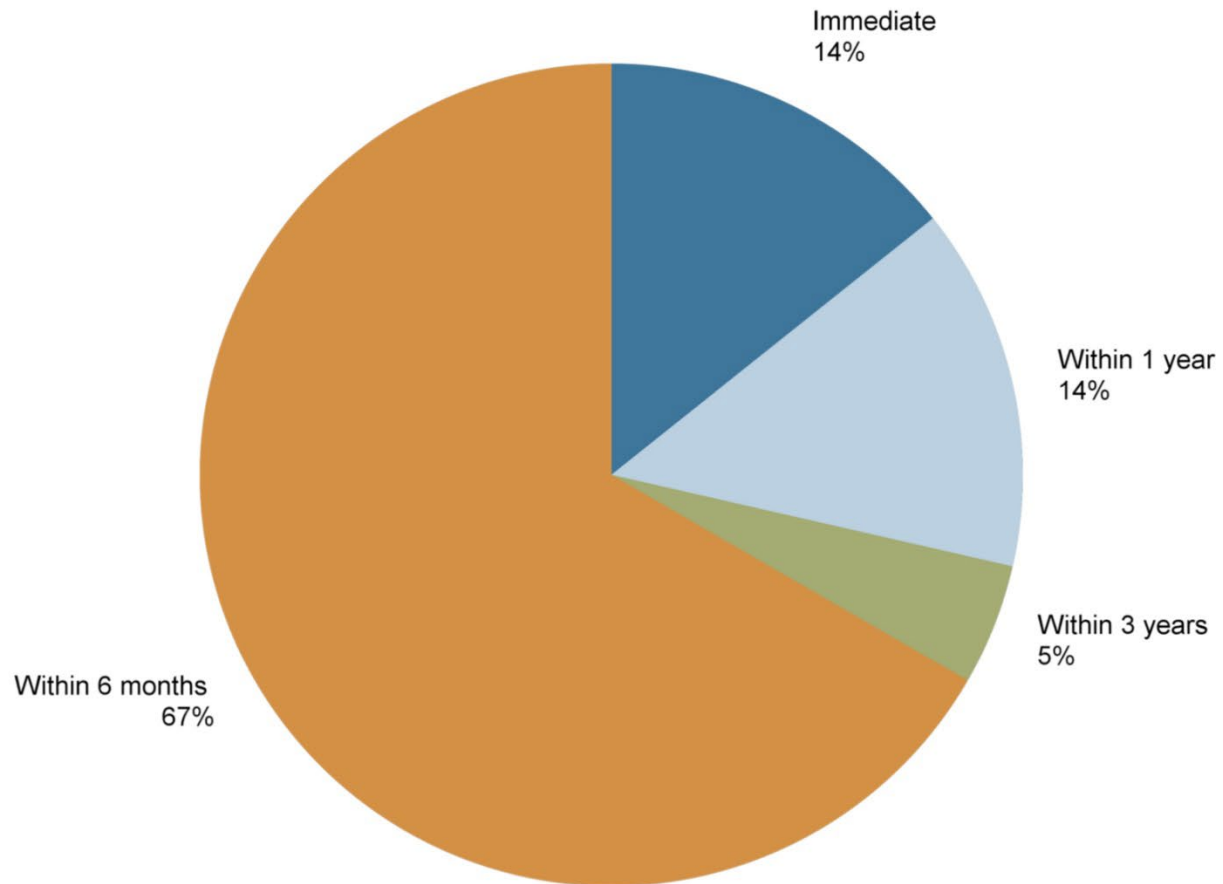




**Inventory Summary by Priority**  
Client Name

Rockwell Associates  
John Rockwell Hosbach, RCA  
Registered Consulting Arborist #483

## Tree Priorities



## **Conclusion**

It is of my professional opinion to a reasonable degree of certainty, that the subject trees within this report should be managed within the allocated time frames. It is also critical to be cautious and critical of the actual design/build and its relation to the trees to be preserved.

## CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE

I, John Rockwell Hosbach, Jr., certify that:

- I have personally inspected the tree(s) and/or the property referred to in this report and have stated my findings accurately. The extent of the evaluation or appraisal is stated in the attached report and the Terms of Assignment.
- I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of this report and have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.
- The analysis, opinions and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts.
- My analysis, opinions and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices.
- My compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor upon the results of the assessment, the attainment of stipulated results, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.

I further certify that I am a member in good standing of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and the International Society of Arboriculture. I have been involved in the field of Arboriculture in a full- time capacity for a period of more than 25 years.



**John Rockwell Hosbach Jr., RCA, Urban Forester | Principal**