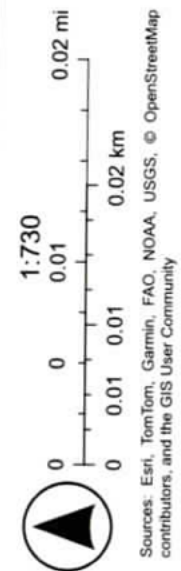


ArcGIS Web Map



⊗ Tree location

4/13/2026, 12:38:12 PM
Parcels FY25

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community









Tree Health Assessment – *Ailanthus altissima*

308 Commonwealth Avenue Condominium Association
Attn: Michael Jammen

Date: April 29, 2026

Location: 301 Public Alley 431, Boston, MA

Mr. Jammen,

At your request, a visual arboricultural assessment was performed on a mature *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree-of-Heaven) located at 301 Public Alley 431, Boston, Massachusetts. The tree has an approximate diameter at breast height (DBH) of 23 inches, height of approximately 60 feet, and canopy spread of 30 feet. The evaluation was conducted during the spring season and consisted of a ground-based visual inspection only. (Figure 1.)

At the time of inspection, the tree was observed to be in fair overall condition. The exterior portions of the canopy exhibited normal bud swell consistent with the current stage of the spring growing season. However, multiple dead branches were noted within the interior of the canopy, indicating reduced vigor and declining interior crown health. (Figure 2.)

The tree has an observed history of pruning to maintain clearance from adjacent buildings. These repeated clearance cuts have resulted in a lion-tailed canopy structure, characterized by foliage concentrated at the outer ends of branches with sparse interior growth. This condition can reduce branch taper and increase mechanical stress on limbs and leaders, thereby predisposing them to failure during adverse weather conditions. (Figure 3.)

The root flare has displaced and buckled surrounding brick pavers, indicating constrained growing conditions and surface root expansion. Soil exposure at the base of the tree revealed rodent burrowing activity in the root flare zone. Due to the presence of extensive surrounding hardscape, the root system could not be fully evaluated, limiting the ability to assess structural root condition or potential decay below grade. (Figure 4.)

The tree is located within a confined public alley environment and in close proximity to surrounding structures, which further restricts management options and increases the potential consequences associated with structural failure.



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Ailanthus altissima is a non-native invasive species in Massachusetts. The species is known for aggressive growth, poor wound compartmentalization, infrastructure damage, and prolific root and basal sprouting. Additionally, *Ailanthus* is a confirmed host species for the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive insect of significant agricultural and ecological concern.

Based on the observed canopy condition, structural pruning impacts, site constraints, root-zone disturbances, proximity to structures, and the invasive status of the species, removal of the subject tree is recommended.

This assessment is based solely on visible conditions at the time of inspection. Hidden defects, internal decay, or root failures may exist and were not detectable through this limited evaluation. **This report is not an ISA Tree Risk Assessment and does not constitute a formal assignment of risk or likelihood of failure.**

Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Daniel Strom

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist NE-7224B



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Figure 1. Subject tree: 23" DBH *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven)

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Figure 2. Normal bud swell on exterior branches

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Figure 3. History of “lions tail” pruning to achieve clearance objectives

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Figure 4. Conflicts with brick pavers and rodent burrows under the root flare

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