

This Guide is a project of the Boston 4-H Urban Stewards, funded through UMass Extension at Amherst, with an education and planning grant from the MA Department of Environmental Management Urban and Community Forestry Division. The project brings together MA 4-H Youth and Family Development Program, Mission Hill Main Streets, and the City of Boston Parks Dept. If you would like to get involved in caring for your neighborhood by caring for the trees, please contact any one of the participating organizations.

If you would like to report a tree that needs care, maintenance, or pruning, call 617.635.PARK

Guide to the Trees of Mission Hill Main Streets Through the Seasons

WINTER/SPRING 03

Produced by
4-H Urban Stewards

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About MA 4-H Youth and Family Development Program:

The mission of the UMASS Extension 4-H Youth and Family Development Program is to prepare youth, ages 5 to 19, to become independent, contributing members of society by providing them, their families and communities with the supports, resources and opportunities which promote positive growth and development. Its aim is to serve diverse youth of the Commonwealth in the following content areas: environmental stewardship, life/work skills, science and technology, youth/adult partnerships; leadership development and civic education.

About Mission Hill Main Streets:

Mission Hill Main Streets (MHMS) has as its mission the revitalization of the Mission Hill commercial district. The board of directors includes business owners, residents, and representatives of local institutions and non-profits. MHMS is one of 19 Main Street districts in the city of Boston, and one of more than 1600 such programs nation-wide (www.mainst.org). The organization provides matching grants to business owners and owners of commercial property for façade improvement grants, free design services for façade improvements, links business owners to various resources for technical assistance, works to improve the streetscape and involves the community at large in assuring the well-being of the business community. Call 617-427-7399 for more information, or visit the web site at www.missionhillmainstreets.org



Issues



Wounds hurt trees. Whether you like trees, don't care for them or don't even notice them, you may unknowingly be causing them injury, directly or indirectly. Sometimes several years of decline occur between injury, symptoms, and death. Wounds occur from car doors hitting the trunk, people breaking branches, people chaining their bicycles to the trees, people nailing signs onto the trees. These carvings and breaks to the surface of the bark open the tree to invasion by bacteria and other microorganisms.

Access to water is the major challenge facing street trees. The tree "pits" are often small, less than 18 sq. ft., leaving little room for the trees roots to grow, especially as there are often curbstones at the street that limit how far a root can grow in some directions. A healthy tree will have roots out at least as far as their crown, the leaves and branches, extends. The amount of soil in a

tree pit is not very much and often not the best quality. It is important to renew the soil's health by aerating it and adding compost to add nutrients back into the soil.

In Mission Hill, you may have seen wrought iron guards around the trunks of many of the trees. This helps protect the trunk from wounds as the tree is growing. At a certain point the guards may be removed as the need for protection is diminished as the tree establishes itself. The 4-H Urban Stewards have worked with the City Parks Dept. to get many of the guards removed from Tremont St. You may also see grates at the base of many trees, either wrought iron or cement. The grates improve the appearance of the street and they serve to diminish the compaction of the soil at the base of the trees.



Foreword



Welcome to the latest issue of the Guide to the Trees of Mission Hill Main Streets produced by the UMass Extension Boston 4-H Urban Stewards. In this guide you will find information and photos of trees on Tremont St. between Roxbury Crossing T stop and Brigham Circle in Mission Hill, Roxbury, MA. This edition focuses on winter and early spring. Our previous edition featured fall colors and early winter. With this Guide, you will be able to learn about

what kind of trees are here and how these particular trees are similar and different from ones that grow outside of a city. Life in the city for street trees can be hard but with the care and attention of a community and people like you, they can thrive.

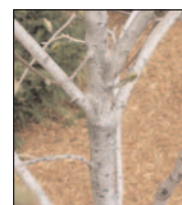
Explore this guide and see the issues street trees face, the successes a group of middle school youth has had on making positive changes that benefit the whole community, including the trees. Find out who the 4-H Urban Stewards are and what they think about the trees. Use the map that is included in this guide and take a walk. Enjoy these trees for yourself.



Magnolia

adopted by **Eliza Omo**

My adopted tree is called a Magnolia. Its latin name is Magnolia X. It's located on 1575 Tremont St, at the main entrance. Under excellent conditions, this tree gets to grow between 20-30 feet tall with a 20-25 feet wide crown. This tree is mostly found in the southern parts of the U.S. This tree prefers to grow in moist loose soil in woodland areas and is drought resistant. One interesting fact is that a Saucer Magnolia is actually a large spreading shrub and takes its name from its wide, saucer-like flowers. It was first cultivated in 1826.



Trees of Mission Hill

There are 69 trees that were counted on Tremont St. between Roxbury Crossing and Huntington Ave. There are 4 different types of tree species: Maples, American Basswoods (tilias) Ornamental Pears and Honey Locust.

There are 36 trees that were counted on Huntington Ave between Brigham Circle and South Huntington Av. There are 5 different types of tree species: Sweet Gum, American Basswood, Zelkova Elm, Ginkgo and Honey Locust. The following are pictures and more specific information about each type of tree, its origins, where it is commonly found, how tall it grows and what kind of buds, leaves, flowers it sprouts.



Map of MH: between Huntington Av - Tremont St. - Alphonsus St



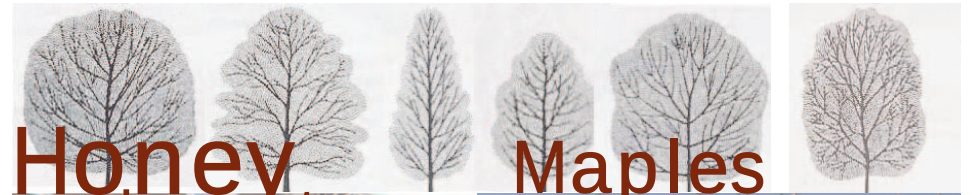
○ Adopted Tree
T Train Station



American Basswood

adopted by Bielka Liriano

My adopted tree is the American Basswood also known as Tilia, its latin name. Its favorite growing conditions are moist slopes that face the northeast. It's shade tolerant. It reaches 35 meters in height, 100 cm in diameter and gets to be as old as 200 years. Its wood is mostly used for furniture parts, hand carving and interior trims. Its other uses are to build beehives for bee keepers. The decaying leaves of the American Basswood are rich in nitrogen and minerals which contribute to soil fertility.



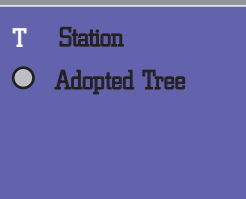
Honey Locust

Maples

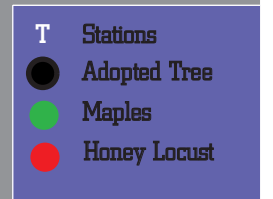
(norway. red, sugar)



Map of MH: corner of St. Alphonsus and Tremont St



Map of MH: between Huntington Av - Parker St

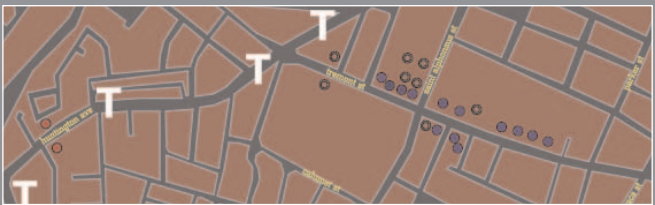


Ornamental Pear



Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av - Parker St

T Station
 ● Adopted tree
 ● Ornamental Pear
 ● Zelkova



Ginkgo



adopted by **Temari Pimentel**

My adopted tree is a Ginkgo known by its latin name as Ginkgo Biloba. I adopted this tree because I was looking for a tree to adopt and found some interesting info on this tree and wanted to learn more. What makes this tree different from other species is that it grows up to 100 ft tall and it has fan shaped leaves. The difference between my tree and the trees in the country is that they're not the same size. Other interesting facts I learned about my tree are that it comes from China, is a living fossil and is drought tolerant. Individual trees live up to 3,000 years.



Map of Mission Hill: corner of Tremont St and Wigglesworth St



T Station
 ○ Adopted Tree



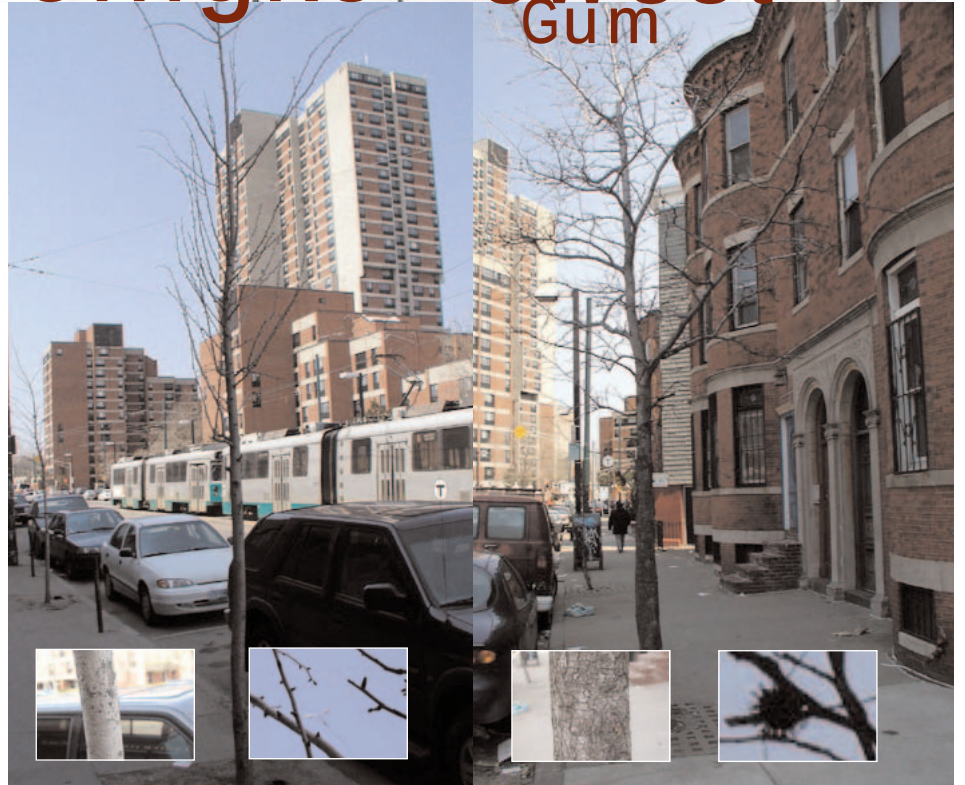
Flowering Dogwood

adopted by **Madeline Tejada**

The tree I chose to adopt is a Flowering Dogwood otherwise known by its latin name Cornus. It grows to 25 ft in height and has a spread of 25ft. It is good for planting near utility lines and the fruit is a favorite of songbirds. The reason why I chose my tree is because I thought I could get good info about the tree, how to care for it, and what kind of branches it has. The location I chose is in front of a house on Tremont Street. I chose this location because since it's inside a yard, it can't get damaged as much as the ones on the street. This tree is different from the others because it's a unique tree: it's my tree.



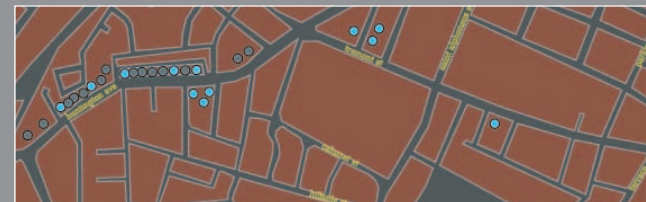
Ginkgo Sweet Gum



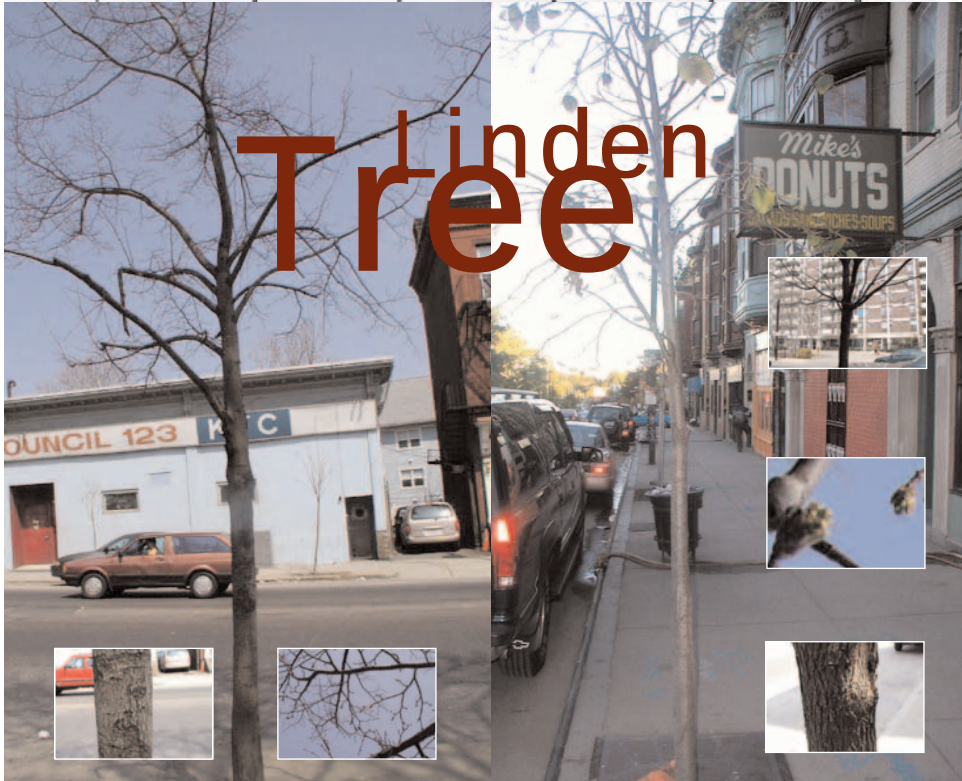
Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av - Saint Alphonsus St

Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av - Parker St

- T Station
- Adopted Tree



- T Station
- Adopted Tree
- Ginkgo
- Sweet Gum



Horse Chestnut

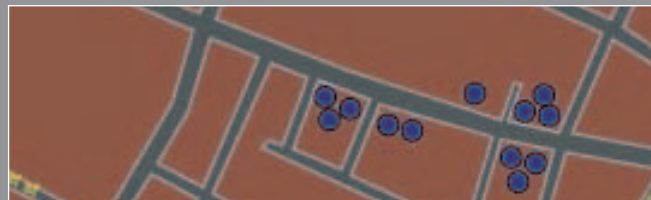
adopted by **Erika German**

I chose to adopt this specific tree because I found it interesting and I like the way its buds look. I also chose it because I like its location. It is a very pretty and nice tree especially during the summer. What makes the Horse Chestnut different are its buds. They're really sticky and large. I also like the way it's shaped because it's like a shield. The first time I heard about this tree I thought it would be interesting to see it and do research about it. The Horse chestnut looks very pretty in the summer and interesting in the winter, a tree for all seasons.

Map of Mission Hill: between Saint Alphonsus St - Parker St

Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av - Saint Alphonsus St

T Station
 ● Adopted Tree
 ● Linden Trees



T Station
 ● Adopted Tree





adopted by **Vanessa Brea**

The tree I chose to adopt is called a Co. Blue Spruce also known by its latin name *Picea Pungens*. It likes to grow in moist soils along mountainous streams and in urban areas. This tree grows to about 100 ft tall, it has a triangular crown, has light grayish to blueish sharp stiff needles and bears cones 2.5" - 4" long. The Blue Spruce sheds some of its needles in the winter but is mostly known for being an all year-round tree. I adopted this tree because I like the way it looks. It has a blueish color to its needles. I also think that this tree looks good near the church. I think it is placement brings it out even more and makes the tree more noticable.



Map of Mission Hill: between Saint Alphonsus St - Parker St

T

Station

○

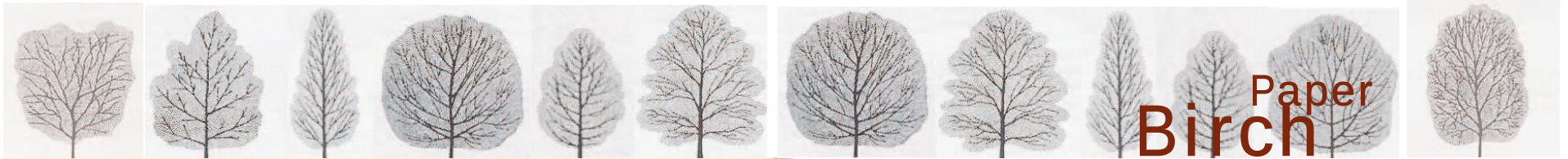
Adopted Tree



The Main Streets. of Mission Hill are especially rich in diversity of tree species.

A person might encounter 15-20 different types in a stroll down these city streets including red pine, sycamore, beech, magnolia, American basswood, pin oak, myrtle, tree of heaven, hemlock, Norway maple, juniper, blue spruce, white pine, birch, cherry, flowering dogwood, sugar maple, little leaf linden, sweet gum, thornless honey locust, ginkgo, red maple. How many can you spot?





Paper Birch



The Boston 4-H Urban Stewards Program is a hands-on community based tree stewardship program that has youth take action and learn about tree care, maintenance, and advocacy as they learn and work with professionals who care for public street trees, park woodlands, and other natural resources. The program works with Mission Hill

4H Urban Stewards

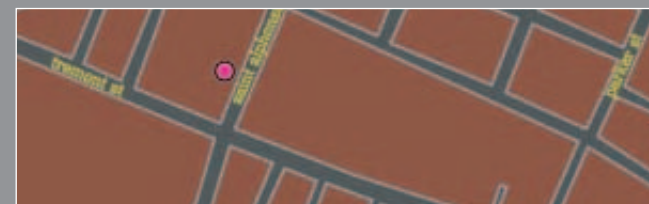
Main Streets and the City of Boston Parks Dept. to assess the tree health and maintenance needs of the trees and catalyze neighborhood volunteers to get involved. Youth learn digital photography, communication skills, and develop their leadership while building a career bridge to the "green" industries.



adopted by **Nohely Vargas**

I chose to adopt this tree because it's different than the others and it caught my attention. It's different because it's thin, light weight, and its bark is the whitest out of all the other trees. There are some interesting facts I found out about my tree. There is birch tree lotion, a birch tree can live up to 140 years and it is also multiple stemmed. The catkins on my tree are long, brownish and red. There wasn't any trash around my tree, just wood chips and mulch. It is located in front of a children's daycare on Tremont.

Map of Mission Hill: corner of Saint Alphonsus St - Tremont St



- T Station
- Adopted Tree



Honey Locust

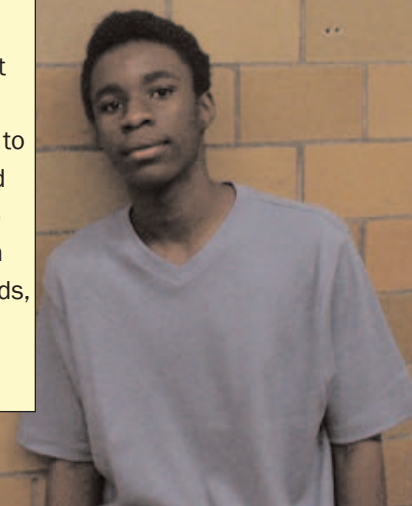
adopted By **Tony Jiang**

The tree I chose to adopt is a Honey Locust otherwise known by its latin name Gleditsia Triacanthos. The Honey Locust favorable growing conditions are rich, moist, bottomlands, slopes and meadows. It is mostly found in the U.S. and some parts of Canada. My tree grows from 30' to 70' ft in height and 2' to 6' in diameter. The wood of the Honey Locust is very hard, strong and durable. It has many uses including posts, railroad ties and general construction. Its tolerance to the stresses of urban conditions makes it an excellent street tree, especially its ability to withstand drought and to grow under a wide range of soil conditions.



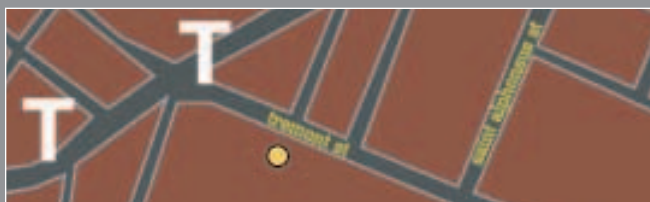
Jamaal Sanders

My name is Jamaal Sanders and I am a member of the 4-H Urban Stewards. I like being part of 4-H. Being the age that I am, I have learned a lot about trees. I chose to be a young leader because I want to teach people about trees and other things. Some more info about me: like any other teen my age, I like to be with friends, go to work and just live the basic lifestyle.



Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av -Saint Alphonsus St

T Station
● Adopted Tree



Name : Jamaal Sanders
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : " i can accept failure, but i can not accept not trying" -- Micheal Jordan



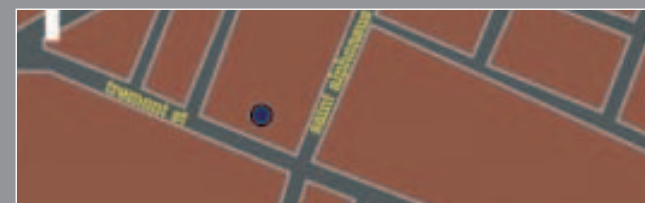
Pin Oak

adopted by **Jamaal Sanders**

The tree I chose to adopt is called a Pin Oak, otherwise known by its latin name *Quercus Palustris*. The Pin Oak is a common tree. It reaches heights up to 60' - 70' ft. and has a spread of 35' ft. It is a very fast growing tree. The Pin Oak is a very different tree because of its unusual branching habit: upper branches are upright, middle ones horizontal and its lower limbs slant gracefully towards the earth. Pin oaks can mostly be found in moist bottomlands of the central Midwest and middle Atlantic states.



Map of Mission Hill: between Huntington Av - Saint Alphonsus St



T Station
 ● Adopted Tree

Tony Jiang



My name is Tony Jiang and I am a member of the 4-H Urban Stewards Club. I am 14 years old and I have been with 4-H for four months. I am a young leader as well as other young leaders in my team. The only reason I was part of 4-H was because i care about the trees and want to do something about it. I got interested in this program when my friends told me about it.



Name : Tony Jiang
 Age : 14
 School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
 Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
 Favorite Quote : " live life the way it's supposed to be lived" -- Jamaal Sanders



Adopt a Tree

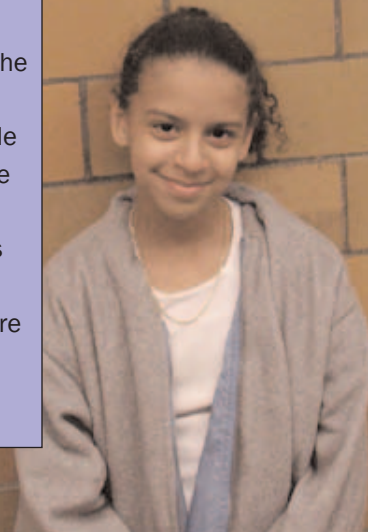
This past winter and spring the 4-H Urban Stewards went out and adopted a particular tree in the Mission Hill area between Tremont St and Huntington Ave. Each

youth went out and wrote about the particular tree that they felt needed the attention. A total of 9 different trees were adopted. The following pages are pictorials with more information about each tree species and why it was adopted. Over the course of the next season; summer/fall 03, we will update this guide to show the changes that have occurred to the trees' leaves, fruits, seeds and flowers.

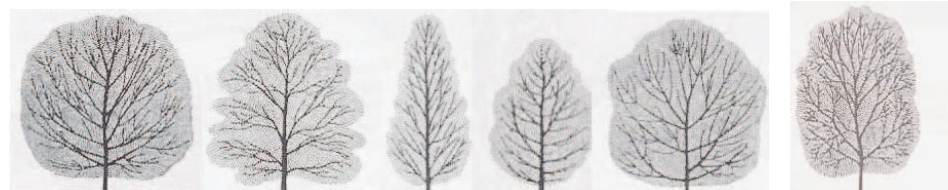


Nohely Vargas

My name is Nohely Vargas and I chose to be an Urban Steward because it interests me. I decided to become a youth leader because I would like to learn more about leadership and the responsibilities involved. I've met a lot of interesting people through this program that are my friends now. We learned about trees, leadership skills and digital photography. My favorite places to hang out are places that are outside and filled with nature.



Name : Nohely Vargas
Age : 13
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : " i know i can, be what i wanna be..." -- Nas



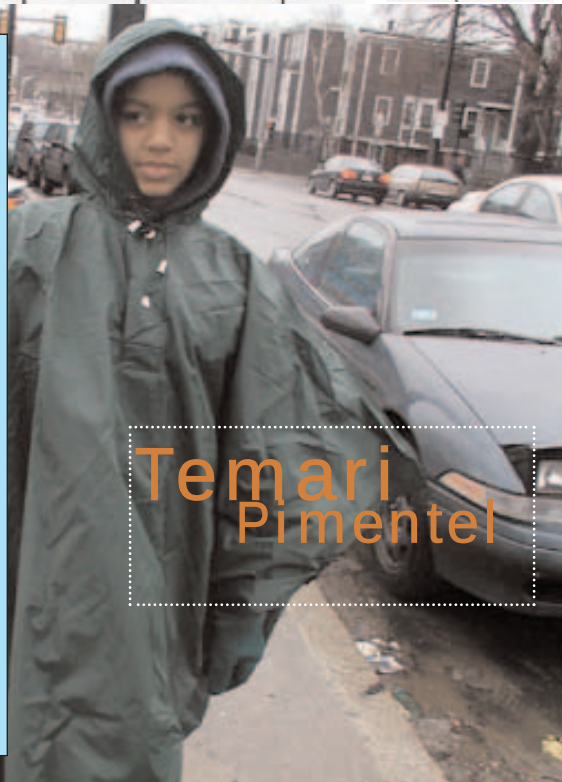
My name is Madeline Tejeda and I am a young leader. What makes me a good leader is the simple fact that I motivate people to do what I want them to do. I always have an idea of what must be done and do what is asked of me. I am also very outspoken and like to be heard. I have an enthusiastic personality and get along very well with the rest of my peers. I think I am a helpful person and I am always volunteering to do things.

**Madeline
Tejeda**

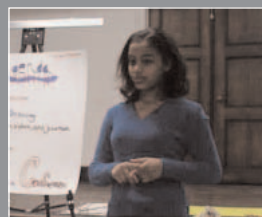


My name is Temari Pimentel and I am a young leader. What makes me a good leader is the ability to work within a group. To work in a group you must have self-confidence and be very patient. You must be able work with people who you do not know or like and get the job done at the same time. You must have the ability to ignore criticism and be focused on what must be done. Being a leader also involves the ability to lead a group with someone or by yourself which involves lots of responsibility and trustworthiness.

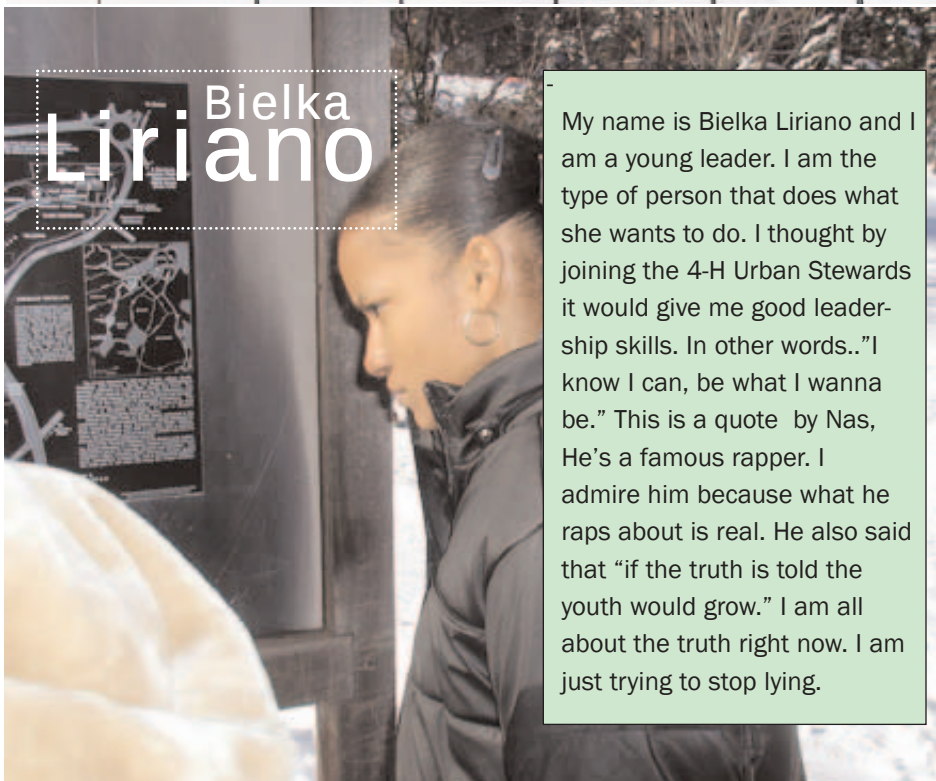
**Temari
Pimentel**



Name : Madeline Tejeda
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : "what goes around, comes around" -- anonymous

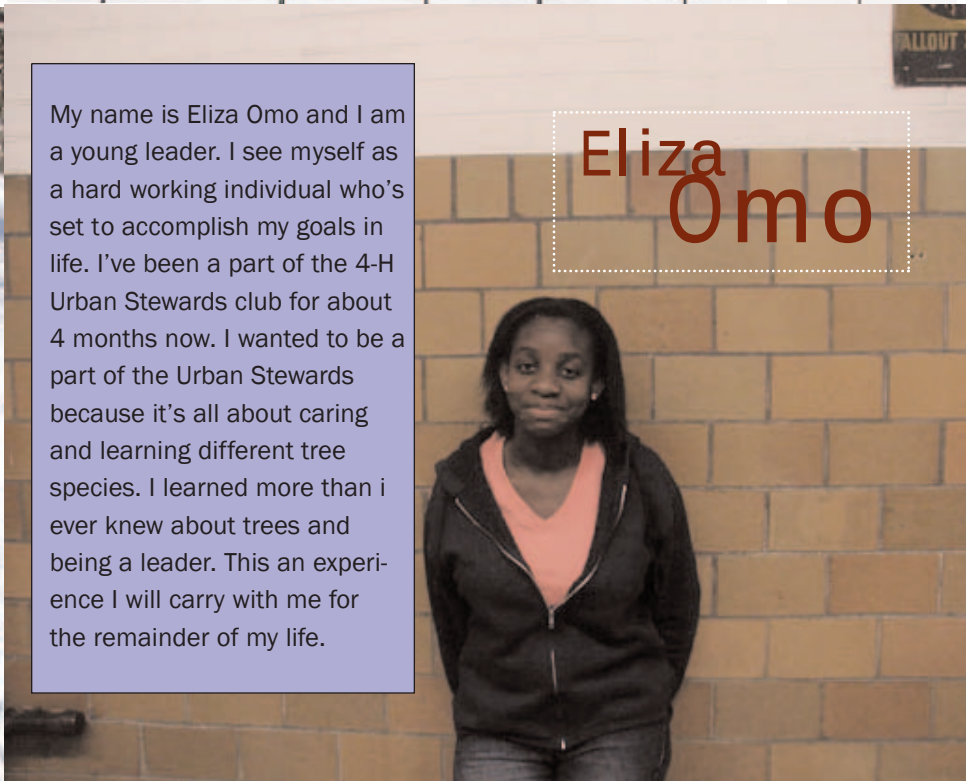


Name : Temari Pimentel
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : " trust comes with responsibility" -- myself



Bielka
Liriano

My name is Bielka Liriano and I am a young leader. I am the type of person that does what she wants to do. I thought by joining the 4-H Urban Stewards it would give me good leadership skills. In other words.. "I know I can, be what I wanna be." This is a quote by Nas, He's a famous rapper. I admire him because what he raps about is real. He also said that "if the truth is told the youth would grow." I am all about the truth right now. I am just trying to stop lying.



Eliza
Omo

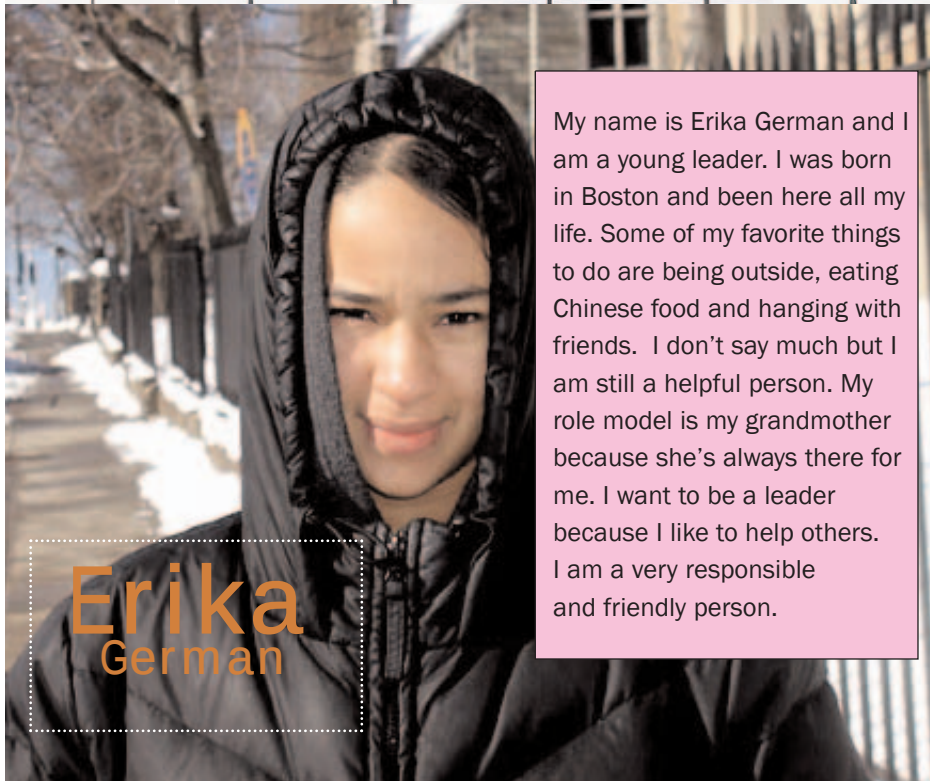
My name is Eliza Omo and I am a young leader. I see myself as a hard working individual who's set to accomplish my goals in life. I've been a part of the 4-H Urban Stewards club for about 4 months now. I wanted to be a part of the Urban Stewards because it's all about caring and learning different tree species. I learned more than I ever knew about trees and being a leader. This an experience I will carry with me for the remainder of my life.



Name : Bielka Liriano
Age : 13
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : " if the truth is told the youth would grow " -- Nas

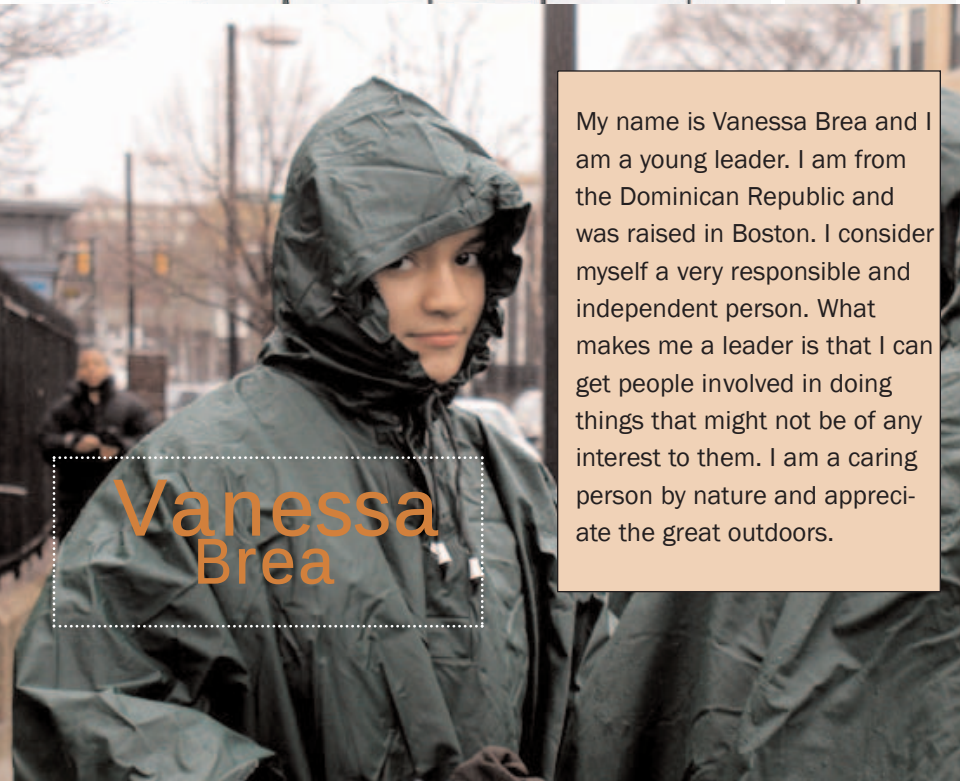


Name : Eliza Omo
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : "learn as if there is no tomorrow" -- anonymous



Erika
German

My name is Erika German and I am a young leader. I was born in Boston and been here all my life. Some of my favorite things to do are being outside, eating Chinese food and hanging with friends. I don't say much but I am still a helpful person. My role model is my grandmother because she's always there for me. I want to be a leader because I like to help others. I am a very responsible and friendly person.



Vanessa
Brea

My name is Vanessa Brea and I am a young leader. I am from the Dominican Republic and was raised in Boston. I consider myself a very responsible and independent person. What makes me a leader is that I can get people involved in doing things that might not be of any interest to them. I am a caring person by nature and appreciate the great outdoors.



Name : Erika German
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : "get out of my room" -- myself



Name : Vanessa Brea
Age : 14
School : Mary E. Curley Middle School
Group : 4-H Urban Tree Steward/Young Leader
Favorite Quote : "think before you speak"
-- Vanessa Brea