



SUMMIT

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

April 2, 2026

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to share an important update about upcoming work on our campus and to keep you informed as we begin the first phase of a long-term landscape and master campus plan initiative we are calling *Raising the Future Forest*.

On April 22 and 23, we will be removing several prominent trees on our property. This is not a decision we have made lightly. Many of these trees are beloved and, in some cases, date back to the original landscape established when the Moses Ellis house was first built in the 1860s. However, each tree scheduled for removal has been carefully evaluated by a professional arborist and identified as diseased or structurally compromised, posing a safety risk to our students, campus buildings, and neighboring properties.

In addition to removals which will be performed by Stumpy's, our arborist team will also be performing "air spading" on several other trees. This process improves soil conditions around the roots, reduces stress on upper limbs, and helps mitigate the risk of wind damage—part of our broader commitment to preserving the long-term health of the campus canopy.

These initial steps mark the beginning of Phase One of *Raising the Future Forest*, which will take place this spring and continue throughout the summer. The plan was created in conjunction with Heather Heimarck of HighMark Landscape firm who is deeply committed to our published value of being mindful of our impact on the earth. Her expertise in native species and her eye for a balanced landscape that fulfills our duties to both mother nature and our students has been a guiding light in our planning.

While there may be some temporary disruption during construction, the work will primarily involve regrading certain areas, creating updated playgrounds for our students, planting new trees and native gardens, and creating improved pathways across campus. These changes are designed to enhance circulation and expand ADA accessibility while strengthening the ecological health and beauty of the landscape. A central goal of this project is to establish a thriving understory beneath our mature trees—helping to protect and sustain the canopy that is such a point of pride for our campus and, we hope, for the neighborhood as well. This work represents the first step in an ongoing, thoughtful stewardship of the land that will continue to evolve in future phases in the years ahead.

We have included drawings of Phase One with this communication so that you can better understand the scope and vision of the project. Work will be limited to the daytime and heavy machinery will be mostly situated on our back parking lot behind the main building or the driveway of 303 Pleasant St.

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We recognize that changes to the landscape—especially the loss of mature trees—can be difficult, and we deeply appreciate your understanding as we take these necessary steps with care and intention.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to speak with us directly, please do not hesitate to reach out at kdonnelly@summitmontessori.org or 508-872-3630. We value your partnership and are committed to being thoughtful and responsive neighbors here in the Pleasant Street community.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kira Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Kira Donnelly
Head of School
Summit Montessori School

Phase One Raising the Future Forest Horticultural Plan



Pleasant Street is located at the bottom of this image. Note the new design of the street facing landscape. The plan includes two newly shaped playgrounds for our youngest students and a learning pavilion behind the Martha Torrence Building located at 303 Pleasant St.