



RMA NOTE ON POSSIBLE SAP DAMAGE TO STATUE IN EMMET PARK

Re: [US Reservation 302 PowerPoint Presentation to ANC 2D October 19 2015](#)

The NPS proposal to remove the big deodar cedar which partly overhangs the bronze statue of Robert Emmet gives as one reason “potential damage to the sculpture with branches and sap.”

The proposed removal of this cedar stirred neighbors’ opposition, expressed in community meetings, social media and public comments filed for the NPS park “rehabilitation” process. Restore Mass Ave, a community group working to restore Embassy Row’s grand avenue streetscape of major trees – and preserving legacy trees – undertook a review of the historic landscape implications of the NPS plan.

Why remove the big evergreen to save on statue maintenance? It hard to believe that bronze statues and evergreens can't co-exist. What about Oak Hill and other cemeteries, the Boston Public Garden, and others? This controversy opens a bigger issue for RMA, since we have statue issues along Mass Ave. RMA should be well-informed and share what it learns from experts.

So, how big an issue is the sap recently cleaned from this statue? Experts said:

- a) **Deodar cedars do not drip sap routinely** (unlike pines), according to Bill Eck of Bartlett Tree Services Co. Bartlett does much work for National Park Service, Oak Hill Cemetery and Dumbarton Oaks; this is also the view of the expert in charge of conifers at the US National Arboretum.
- b) **Deodars will "leak" sap from pruning cuts for up to a year**, says Eck of Bartlett. We ask: if these cedars do not drip sap normally, and if there was sap on the Emmet statue, **when did the drip occur?** Alex Barnett, of Empirical Lands LLC (formerly of Evermay) asks: is it ongoing? Past?

Vandals hacked this tree twice, in December 2007 and July 2008. RMA photographed branches all over the ground in the aftermath. Then NPS pruned the cedar, such as removing its top, to repair it.

RMA wonders if the sap recently cleaned off the statue dates from the vandalism and pruning. If so, now, if the statue is clean, and the cedar is left alone, or pruned in a drip-preventing manner, per (c) then **tree and statue**

can co-exist.

- c)** Prune the tree instead of removing it? If NPS prunes this tree to a shape harmonious with the statue, **“perhaps one could cover the wounds above the statue in this case (often done with burlap and jute rope),”** says Eck of Bartlett.
- d)** Future cleaning of the statue could be paid for by funds raised from the community, a neighbor suggests.

BELOW: The deodar cedar in Emmet Park after vandalism, before NPS pruning, in December 2007. Photos: RMA.



More than 330 trees so far. About 70 etc