



# Town of Concord

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## Public Shade Tree Condition Study

Concord Public Works (CPW) is pleased to announce the release of its Public Shade Tree Inventory and Management Plan. [A full copy of the report can be viewed here](#), with a foreword summarizing the key points in it for Concord residents by Richard Higgins, a town resident and the author of *Thoreau and the Language of Trees*. The findings of the inventory and plan were presented at a public meeting hosted by the Concord Public Works Commission (PWC) in October 2017.

During four months of field work beginning in May 2017, a team of certified arborists from Davey Resource Group inventoried and evaluated 23,781 trees planted within the public street right-of-way (ROW), public parks and public facilities. The information gained will allow CPW to better manage Concord's urban forest, a critical public resource for the town.

"Concord Public Works is keenly aware of the priority Concord residents place on the urban forest," said Public Works Director and Town Tree Warden Richard Reine. "We believe the town's Public Shade Tree Management Plan and CPW's approach to implementing the plan is well aligned with the community's interests while appropriately addressing public safety". Reine noted that the plan identifies future tree planting sites throughout Concord, which he said will "further the town's goal of replacing one public shade tree for each one removed."

The plan identified public shade trees that may need removal and ranked them according to their condition. Concord Public Works Highway and Grounds Superintendent Dan Rowley, who serves as the deputy tree warden, said the town will use the information and recommended practices in the inventory to limit the number of removals and preserve the urban forest. "Whenever feasible, further advanced assessments and evaluations of trees will be conducted to determine whether removal can be avoided by measures including pruning, fertilization and cabling," said Dan Rowley.

Although the plan recommends the removal of approximately 511 moderate risk trees, only half of these trees are dead. The others are mostly in poor condition, but some of them may be saved. CPW's immediate efforts will focus on removing the dead trees, as well as 28 trees in poor condition at public parks, schools, downtown areas and along busy roads that are considered likely to fail. The immediate removal of the 1,496 low risk trees is not planned unless they have been identified as dead or the failure of a tree presents an eminent hazard. CPW will, however, continue to monitor these low risk trees to gauge if further decline occurs, which may warrant additional action, including removal.

At the October public meeting, CPW officials explained that advanced assessments of high risk trees will provide additional information and potential alternatives to removal if the health of a tree can be improved. These advanced assessments are scheduled to take place for over the next two weeks to further inform decision making.

CPW indicated a link will be added to the Town website in the future which will provide the community with a viewer of the public shade trees which describes the attributes of the tree, including a photograph taken during the inventory.

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