



# Town of Concord

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Tree Preservation Subcommittee Public Input Survey**

CONCORD, MA— The Tree Preservation Subcommittee eagerly invites you, the citizens of Concord, to give us input. The Subcommittee has developed a short survey to help gather feedback on the topic of tree removal in the community: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3TR89KM>

The subcommittee's charge is to examine the situation, to research existing bylaws in other communities, assess the burden/benefit of various initiatives and bylaws, seek community input, and to consider drafting a bylaw for the Planning Board to review. Such a bylaw could limit or discourage tree clearings. If such a bylaw is formulated, it will be presented to voters for consideration at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. The Tree Preservation Subcommittee is made up of individuals with expertise in the law, real estate, nature preservation, and general interest in the topic.

Concord currently has no meaningful regulation measures for tree clearings on private property, except where the Wetlands Bylaw applies. As a result, there have been many scenarios where stands of trees have been cleared on development sites, whether out of necessity to accommodate a project or for convenience.

The trend has caused many neighborhoods to lose their rural character, along with the environmental and quality of life benefits that trees provide. Environmental and public health benefits provided by trees include mitigation of climate change, reduced erosion and flooding, reduction in energy costs, cleaner air, and wildlife habitat.

Given that private property rights must also be respected, and given that trees provide a public benefit as well as a benefit to the landowner, the Tree Preservation Subcommittee has been asked to study and recommend, if appropriate, measures to control excessive or unnecessary tree removal.

We will be reaching out to stakeholders, other interested parties, and holding public forums. The public is always invited to attend and comment at the Subcommittee's meetings, posted on the Town's calendar, as well as on our website: [http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_TPS1/index](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_TPS1/index)

Whatever bylaw proposal may ensue as a result of the Subcommittee's efforts, it will be for individual citizens to vote on. As such, we invite your unique perspectives. Please fill out the survey and/or send your thoughts to our Town Planner, Ms. Elizabeth Hughes, who is coordinating comments. [ehughes@concordma.gov](mailto:ehughes@concordma.gov)

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