



Two Trees To Be Removed From Town Green Due To Unsafe Conditions

The beech tree in front of town hall and the sugar maple tree in front of the Chamber of Commerce are set to be removed due to decline

The beech tree in front of town hall and the sugar maple tree in front of the Chamber of Commerce on the town green are in severe decline. Unfortunately, these trees are suffering from environmental damage and will be removed so they do not pose a hazard to those utilizing the town green.

The decline of the sugar maple tree is demonstrated by fall coloration beginning early, leaves dropping prematurely, branches starting to die, and slowed growth. Deadwood has been removed from the tree regularly, but the effects have grown to a severity that would now require substantial sections of the tree to be removed.

Even after regular aeration efforts, the area around the beech tree is experiencing excessive soil compaction. The compacted soils reduce water holding capacity and therefore restrict access to water and reduce oxygen availability. This causes suffocation of the root system and compromises the trees ability to anchor itself, so it is more susceptible to being knocked over during storms. This beech tree also suffers from a *Phytophthora bleeding canker*, which kills the bark and outer sapwood. This condition provides a site for wood rotting fungi to invade the tree, further intensifying the hazard.

To ensure the safety of those utilizing the town green, both trees will be removed in the coming weeks. The soils in the areas adjacent to them will be reconditioned so that they can be replanted with new trees. Plans are currently underway to replant the town green and ensure that its beauty, stature, and vibrancy remains the same.