

Keep Your Trees and shrubs

Healthy and Vibrant

Regular maintenance for your trees and shrubs is important to prevent property damage, personal injury and hazards to the neighborhood. Evaluation the seriousness of these defects, though, requires a professional arborist. Reducing tree hazards not only increases the safety of your property and that of your neighbors, but will also improve your trees health and may increase their longevity. Be sure to hire only certified tree care professionals. Proper, regular, tree maintenance will save you the high cost of dealing with problems later.

Most trees need routine care in form of water, fertilizer, mulch and pruning as dictated by the season and their structure. Also, trees need direction as they grow. This may be in the form of pruning, thinning or removing deadwood. Proper pruning is important because it removes weak, dead, storm damaged, diseased or interfering branches. Often, a tree with structural weaknesses can be pruned to correct or at least minimize the risk of breakage, uprooting or other failures. In other cases, usually in combination with pruning, cabling and bracing techniques can be an effective means of extending the life of a tree that might otherwise require removal.

Pests and diseases pose serious treats to the health of your trees as well. A healthy tree or shrub is more likely to fight off insects and diseases, so preventive pest management through overall tree care is essential.

Even with preventive maintenance, you trees may still require additional care. Tree care specialist or arborist will evaluate the specific problem and the tree's condition and recommend the most effective and environmentally sensitive management approach. State of the art biological and low toxicity materials, such as horticultural soaps and oils are among low impact tools used to manage pests.

If construction, raising the soil level or installing lawns recently has changed the area around your trees, those trees might be damaged. Also, if a tree's roots have been broken off, injured or damaged by lowering the soil level, install pavement, repairing sidewalks or digging trenches, your tree need professional attention. Warning signs of damaged or dying trees include dead or detached branches, cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in branches, mushrooms present at the base of the tree, cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached and the development of a pronounced lean. Remember that a tree removal permit is required when removing any trees from your property. Call the Watchung Engineers Office for a permit or for more information.

Provided by the Watchung Environment Commission