

Aging, defective trees can be a liability concern if they are not monitored and maintained, even if they look healthy.

Some danger signs to be aware of...



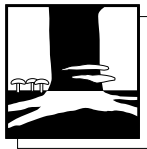
CRACKS

Any tree wound is an opening for decay. Watch for deep, open cracks in trunks or branches. Vertical cracks on opposite sides of a trunk can be a sign of severe injury.



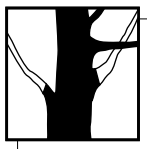
FORKED TRUNKS

These often are weak, particularly if the fork is narrow with bark growing between trunks. Part of the tree and trunk may need to be removed.



ROOT ROT

Roots may be weakened or decayed. Look for fungal growth or mushrooms on or near the bases of trees. Rot often is not obvious to the untrained eye. Hire a professional.



DEAD LIMBS AND BRANCHES

Dead limbs can fall at any time. Remove any crossed or rubbing limbs. Pay particular attention to oddly shaped/kinked or long, heavy horizontal limbs.



ARCHITECTURE

Trees that lean or exhibit unbalanced growth should be examined every year. Keep play areas and structures away from leaning trees whenever possible.

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