



Tree Care, Pruning and Removals

Trees and woody shrubs are an important part of the overall interpretation of a historic site and should be considered part of the living collection at Historic New England. The proper care and maintenance of the trees and woody shrubs during this process can help prolong the life span of individual trees. Of primary importance is providing for the general protection of the public and the structures through maintenance pruning and the overall care for specimen trees at each site.

Guidelines for Pruning and Removals

Prioritization of Pruning and Removals: Recognizing that financial resources may be limited tree work at the sites must be prioritized to ensure the most vital work is accomplished.

- First priority: Risk reduction through removal or remedial treatment of High Risk trees in High Risk zones. Hazard reduction pruning and/or structural bracing. Treatment and care of specimen trees.
- Second priority: Maintenance pruning in High Risk zones. Exotic invasive removal in High Risk zones.
- Third priority: Maintenance pruning in Medium Risk zones. Exotic invasive removal in Medium Risk zones. Interpretive or viewshed pruning.
- Fourth priority: Removals in Medium Risk zones. Exotic invasive removals in Low Risk zones.

Pruning and Removals

- Always contract with a certified arborist to prune trees near buildings, structures, power lines or roadways.
- Volunteer trees and especially exotic invasives should be removed before they become established.
- All removals should be documented with a Tree Removal Completion Report (see attached)
- Decisions must be made in advance as to whether the stumps will be ground or will remain. A number of factors influence that decision such as appearance, location, interaction with physical structures, locating the exact spot for replacement in the future.
- Removals of specimen trees or trees that are interpretively significant to the landscape should be carefully documented.
 - Consider leaving the stump in place until ready to replant. Grinding the stump at that time not only identifies the exact location for the stump but the grinding of the stump provides the perfect planting hole.
 - If planting is not to occur for several years and the stump is to be ground consider planting rebar or a similar large iron object, under grade, in the center of the former tree location so that the tree location can be found.
- All pruning should be recorded either in the tree maintenance data base or on the tree inventory form.

Historic New England

Completion Report

Site: _____	General Location: _____
Species: _____	Approx. Age: _____
Contractor: _____	Date of Removal: _____
Caliper: (at 4 feet) _____	Approx. Height: _____
Estimate: _____	Actual Cost: _____

Reason for Removal:

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Images & Site Plan

<i><Insert condition photo and caption here></i>	<i><Insert work photo and caption here></i>
<i><Insert finished photo and caption here></i>	<i>Draw or insert site plan here with tree location indicated</i>

Submitted by: _____ **Date:** _____