



Long Branch Green Team & Environmental Commission



Spotlight Topic: Tree Care - Inspections

Tree health can be difficult to determine, but checking your tree yearly may help you notice problems as they appear. Even healthy trees can fall down. A tree may be green and lush, but that does not guarantee that it is structurally safe.

Be sure to inspect trees any time, especially after storms. Examine the crown, branches, trunk and area around the roots for these common dangers:

- Broken, dead or hanging branches
- Cracks, fungi and cavities
- Weak trunk or branch unions
- Encircling root compressing the trunk (a flat-sided trunk at the ground level is a good indicator)
- Recent lean, especially if the soil or grass has lifted on one side

For a larger tree we suggest consulting a professional as pruning can be dangerous work, but it can encourage trees to develop a strong structure and reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather. Winter is the best time to prune because branches are easy to see, diseases cannot spread, and there is minimal stress on the tree. Never prune trees within 10' of utility lines; instead contact the local utility company. If pruning cannot be done with both feet on the ground or if power tools are required, hire an arborist.

When hiring a professional to assess your tree, look for a New Jersey licensed tree expert with proof of insurance.

Remember that a permit is required for pruning or removing trees in the planting strip between the sidewalk and curb. Permits are available at City Hall. For more information, see the [Tree Owner's Manual](#) from the Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture.



Northern Red Oak - *Quercus Rubra* - NJ State Tree