



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: October 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Removal of trees at Memorial Field

Recommendation:

Review and accept this report.

History:

In recent years, there has been a noticeable rise in the incidence of large old pine trees collapsing during wind events or due to old age. These fallen trees have posed various risks and challenges for the community and users of the complex. The Woodside School premises (just missing their playground), Trinity Baptist Church, and the main football field visitor bleachers area have all been affected by trees falling along fence lines, into the parking lot etc.

The Woodside School fence replacement costs were covered by the city's insurance company, while Trinity Baptist Church bore the expenses for the fence replacement along their property line. Concerns have been raised by Trinity Baptist Church regarding the aging and poor condition of pine trees along their property, particularly expressing worries about potential tree falls onto their parking lot. Moreover, the pine trees in the baseball field's outfield are presently obstructing some of the athletic field lights, hindering the feasibility of hosting night baseball games safely.

It has been noted that while the pine trees contribute aesthetically to the baseball field, their presence hampers the prompt opening of the field in spring. The shade provided by these trees results in slower snow melting compared to other fields. Removing these trees is crucial not only to expedite field maintenance and preparation but also to enhance air circulation for quicker drying after rain, ultimately improving the overall condition of the grass.

Discussion:

Ryan Rambeau, the City Tree Supervisor recommends the trees be removed from multiple factors, “including but not limited to; historical storm damage requests from abutters, location to high frequency usage areas, age and poor form structure as well as potential risk to users of the area and abutters. This recommendation does not come hastily. These removals will undoubtedly be an aesthetic change for this area. However, we have and continue to have, issues with these trees. This is also a removal scale at which we cannot address internally”

Working with Ron Klemarczyk, the City Forester we can have the trees removed this winter at no cost to the city. The work can only be done when the ground is frozen.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee at their November 20, 2025 meeting approved a recommendation to have the pine trees along the property lines at Memorial Field to be removed at no cost to the city to help address ongoing safety concerns. See map of the tree removal at the complex.

When we move into the final design and permitting for the new Master Plan for the complex we will also include a landscaping plan to include new trees within the park.

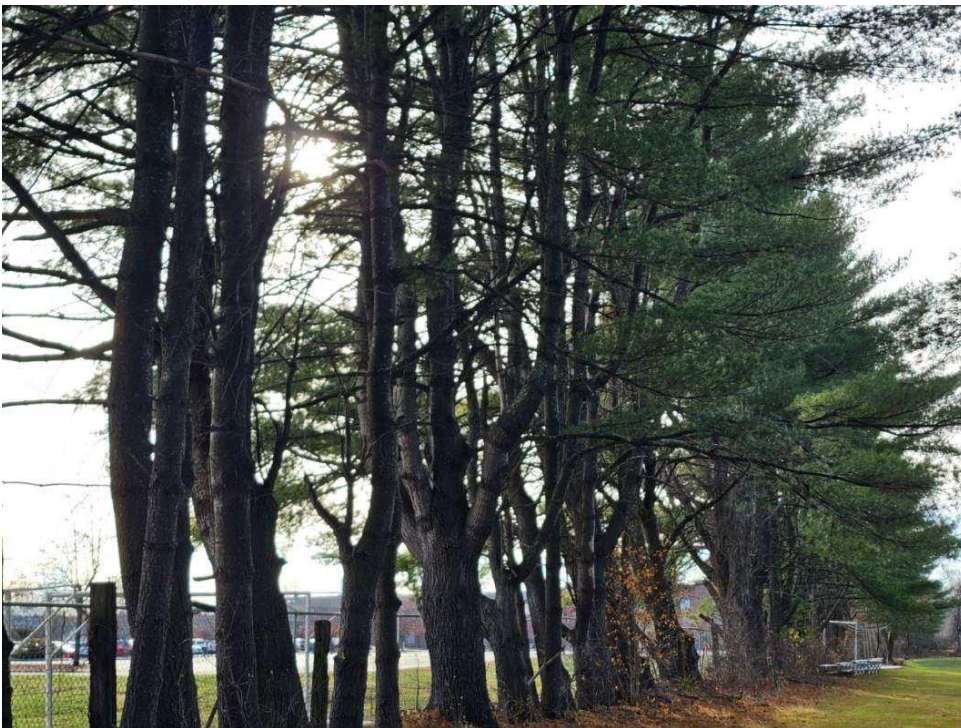
Pine trees to be removed:



Trees outfield of baseball field



Trees along property line with Trinity Baptist Church.



Trees along property line with Trinity Baptist Church

