

Main Quad tree removal

COMMUNICATIONS BRIEF

MAY 16, 2016

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

- Two European copper beech trees near the Main Building's south entrance are being removed.
- The trees, located between Washington Hall and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, pose a potential hazard to people and property in the vicinity.
- Landscape Services has been monitoring the trees' condition and has determined that the trees must be removed and replaced with a new variety that is better suited for that location.
- The new trees will enhance the Main Quad landscape design while providing environmental and social benefits for generations to come.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why are the trees being removed?

The University's arborists have deemed it necessary to remove the trees due to their declining health and the hazard posed by their weakening limbs.

How old are the trees?

The trees are estimated to be between 70 and 80 years old. Our arborists will count the rings of the trees after they are removed to get an accurate age and historical record of their growth.

Why can't the trees be saved?

Landscape Services has taken several steps in recent years to improve the health of the trees and sustain their presence; however, the trees have been too severely impacted by storms, changes in the soil caused by nearby steam tunnels and other factors to be saved.

While we do not take pleasure in removing the trees, we must be good stewards of our natural resources. The University remains committed to continuing the efforts of Fr. Sorin and early campus planners who sought to cultivate a landscape that is rich in plant diversity and natural beauty.

Why will the new trees be a different variety?

The swamp white oak is better suited for our Indiana climate, and its root system will not be as readily impacted by the nearby steam tunnels.

YOUR COMMUNICATIONS ROLE

If your colleagues or direct reports raise concerns about the tree removal, please emphasize the declining health of the trees as well as our need to ensure the safety of the University's students, faculty, staff and visitors.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE OF ACTIVITY

Saturday, June 11: European copper beech trees are cut down and removed from Main Quad location.

It could take the entire day to remove both trees and clean up the area, depending on weather and other factors. Power tools and large equipment will be in use during this time, and some nearby walkways will be closed

Monday, June 13: Two swamp white oak trees will be planted in the same area.

TBD: A blessing ceremony will be held on the Main Quad for the new trees. Members of the Notre Dame community will be invited to attend.

► For more info, contact Landscape Services.