

Red Maple Assessment

Prepared for:
Mr. Joe Guy
56 Cable Rd.
Burg, NH

Prepared by:
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May 29, 2012

Summary

I was asked to assess the current condition and future prospects of a large red maple tree. I have concluded that poor structure, along with health issues and recent construction injuries make this tree a poor candidate for preservation. I also believe it to be a more of a liability than asset to both the town and the property owners.

Introduction

Background

I received a call from Mr. Ted Thomas in reference to a red maple tree located on a building site. Mr. Thomas represents Mr. and Mrs. Joe Guy, the property owners at 56 Cable Rd., Burg, NH. There is concern that a large, town owned tree is having an impact on the site, and vice-versa. After being refused permission to have this tree removed, I was asked to assess the condition and future prospects of this tree.

Assignment

After speaking with Mr. Thomas, I agreed to:

- Assess the current condition of a red maple tree.
- Comment on the potential future for this tree.

Purpose and Use

This report is provided for the client to help arbitrate a tree related dispute with the town.

Observations

I arrived at the site on 59 Cable Rd., Burg, NH on May 18, 2012. The Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is located on the south side of Cable St., a few feet from the road. A private drive is located about 6 feet to the west. A utility pole is located between the tree and the private drive. New construction surrounds the previously undisturbed root zone. A new utility trench runs from the pole to the northwest corner of the new house. Vehicle parking and traffic impact the area to the east. A dumpster and port-o-potty are located to the southeast (see site map, pg. 3 and photo 1, pg. 4).

The root collar (the flared area at the tree trunk base where the roots and trunk converge) appears undisturbed and fairly solid. The area around the trunk and much of the root zone has been disturbed and compacted (see photos 2 and 3, pg. 5).

The trunk divides into two main leaders at about 4 feet, where there is evidence of decay and included bark (bark that becomes imbedded in a crotch between a tree branch and trunk or between co-dominant stems; causing a weak structure (see photo 4, pg. 6).

Several old wounds align both main scaffold (permanent structural branches of a tree) limbs. Pruning done to accommodate the utility lines has left a heavily cantilevered

crown. Large lateral limbs, excessive in size in relation to the main trunk, extend well into Cable Rd. to the north and toward the house to the south. One of the utility lines rubs against the northern scaffold.

The crown of the tree appears sparse. Many of the limbs have been “lions-tailed”, resulting in most of the foliage located at the end of the tree. There is very little inner growth on any of the main scaffolds. All the foliage is concentrated on the branch ends. The leaves appear somewhat small and off color. There was little dead wood noted.

Discussion

The structure of the tree raises many concerns. The area of included bark, in close proximity to areas of suspected decay, supports two heavily cantilevered main scaffold limbs. These scaffolds give rise to limbs excessively large in relation to their attachment points. The main central leader is in poor condition. Many of the major limbs have poor taper, with little or no inner growth. Most of the live growth is located at the end of the limbs. All these factors increase the likelihood of limb failure, especially in extreme weather events.

While measures may be taken to abate some of the risk associated with this tree, they are all hindered by its condition. Tree structure and utility line location inhibit any possibility of installing support cables. Reducing the end weight of the limbs is trumped by the need to preserving any energy producing parts still functioning. Any additional pruning cuts would result in more wounding on a tree with weakened defenses.

Another big concern with this tree is the impact of a utility trench and compaction from construction. As there was no root protection zone established, most of this trees supporting root system was severely impacted. Given its pre-construction condition, I believe a downward spiral to be imminent.

Conclusion

Structural concerns and location increase risks associated with this tree that could impact a private residence, along with public utilities and road traffic. Damage to the existing root system is irreversible and likely to result in a faster rate of decline. Any remedial actions to save this tree or reduce the risk would be costly, have questionable results, and are unlikely to occur.

Site Map

Guy Residence
56 Cable Rd.
Burg, NH

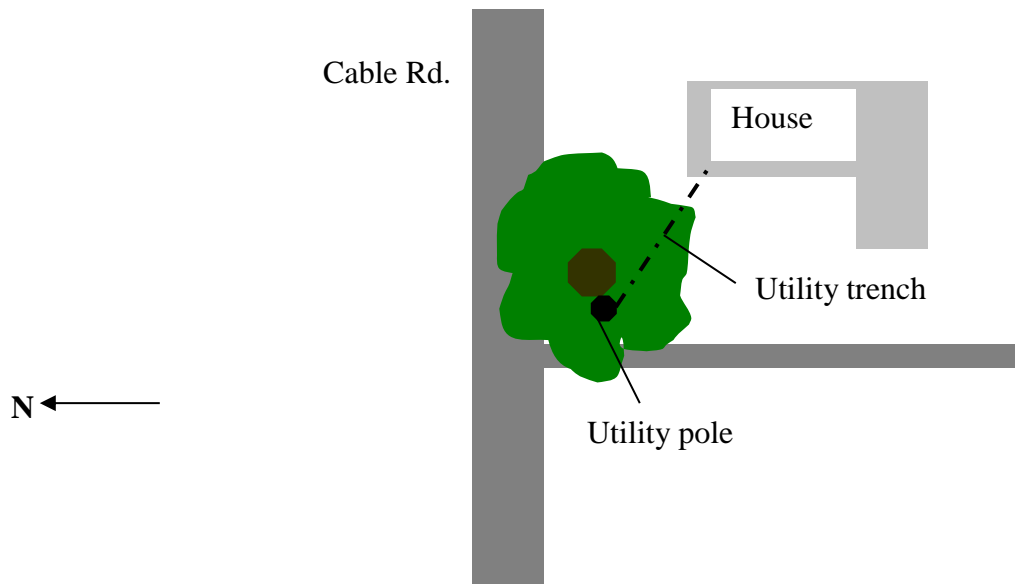


Photo 1



Utility lines run directly through the center of the tree. Two major scaffold limbs, heavily cantilevered toward the house and over the street, arise from a poor structure (see photo 4, pg.6). Lateral limbs are excessive in size in relation to the main trunk.

Photos 2 and 3



The tree on site, pre-construction



As no tree protection zone was established, the roots have been severely impacted by construction. The line indicates direction of utility trench.

Photo 4



Area of included bark at the junction of the two main scaffold limbs

Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

- 1** Any legal description provided to the consultant / appraiser is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownership to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed for matters of legal character. Any and all property is appraised or evaluated as though free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management.
- 2** It is assumed that any property is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinances, statutes, or other government regulations.
- 3** Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the consultant / appraiser can neither guarantee nor be responsible for accuracy of information provided by others.
- 4** The consultant / appraiser shall not be required to give testimony or attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.
- 5** Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
- 6** Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written or verbal consent of the consultant / appraiser.
- 7** Neither all nor any part of the contents of this report, nor copy thereof, shall be conveyed by anyone, including the client, to the public through advertising, public relations, news, sales or other media, without the prior expressed written or verbal consent of the consultant / appraiser--particularly as to value conclusions, identity of the consultant / appraiser, or any reference to any professional society or institute or to any initialed designation conferred upon the consultant / appraiser as stated in his qualification.

Certificate of Performance

I, Howard Gaffin, certify that:

I have personally inspected the tree(s) on the property referred to in this report and have stated my findings accurately. The extent of the evaluation and/or appraisal is in the attached report.

I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of this report and have no bias with respect to the parties involved.

The analysis, opinions, and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts.

My compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party, nor upon the results of the assessment, the attainment of stipulated results, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.

My analysis, opinions, and conclusions were developed and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices.

No one provided significant professional assistance to the consultant, except as indicated within the report.

I further certify that I hold the following credentials:

- Registered Consulting Arborist #458
- Board Certified Master Arborist #NE-0363B
- Massachusetts Arborist Association Certified Arborist #1468

I have been involved with the practice of arboriculture for over 30 years.

Signed _____

Date _____