



January 1, 2024

## **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Hazard Tree Removal Report - 2023**

This annual report is being provided in accordance with Public Act No. 23-206 – An Act Concerning Tree Removal on Properties Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This report contains the following information related to hazardous tree cutting activities at DEEP’s State Parks:

1. An identification of each State Park where hazardous tree removal projects occurred.
2. The total size of any such tree removal project.
3. An explanation of whether such hazard tree removal projects consisted of removal of fallen trees or included the felling of trees.
4. The reason for the tree removal project.
5. The total cost and source of funding for each tree removal project.
6. A description of the removal of any hazardous trees that possessed unique characteristics (age, caliper, species, canopy, or aesthetics).
7. A description of any planned or anticipated tree removal projects in any state park for the forthcoming calendar year.

Inspection dates have been provided for any cut utilizing DEEP’s new Hazard Tree Inspection Application. Projects utilizing inspections prior to this application launch do not include an inspection date. Future reports will include inspection dates for all projects.

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## 2023 Hazard Tree Removal Projects

Park: Airline Trail State Park

Size: 6 Trees

Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Fallen Trees

Reason: Fallen

Cost and Funding Source: In-house

Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Auer Farm

Size: 1 Acre

Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree

Reason: Dead

Cost and Funding Source: In-house

Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Austin Hawes Campground

Size: 68 Trees

Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree

Reason: Dead

Cost and Funding Source: \$42,395.00 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital

Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Black Rock State Park

Size: 3 Trees

Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree

Reason: Rot/Decay

Cost and Funding Source: In-house

Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Chatfield Hollow State Park

Size: 1 Tree

Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree

Reason: Dead

Cost and Funding Source: In-house

Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Chatfield Hollow State Park  
Size: 0.25 Acres  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Cockaponset State Forest  
Size: 0.25 Acres  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Trees  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Day Pond State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Fort Griswold State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Declining tree next to building  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Fort Griswold State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Cracked/Rotted/Cavities  
Cost and Funding Source: \$2,907 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Gay City State Park  
Size: 17 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Fallen Trees  
Reason: Fallen  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Hammonasset Beach State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified  
Date of Inspection: 9/16/2023  
Park: Hammonasset Beach State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified  
Date of Inspection: 9/18/2023

Park: Hop River Trail State Park  
Size: 17 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Fallen Trees  
Reason: Fallen  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Hopmead State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Lightning Damaged Tree  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Hopeville Pond State Park  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Storm Damage  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Housatonic Meadows State Park  
Size: 2 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Hurd State Park  
Size: 9 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Fallen Trees  
Reason: Fallen  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Indian Well State Park  
Size: 49 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead/Dying  
Cost and Funding Source: \$111,760.00 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristic: None Identified

Park: Kettletown State Park  
Size: 71 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead or Dying  
Cost and Funding Source: \$56,670.20 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Meshomasic State Forest  
Size: 1 Tree  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Fallen  
Reason: Fallen  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Pachaug State Forest  
Size: 0.75 Acres  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Trees  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Pachaug State Forest  
Size: 127 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: \$9,200 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Rocky Neck State Park  
Size: 0.25 Acres  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Cracked/Rotted/Cavities  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Rocky Neck State Park  
Size: Under 1 Acre  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Salmon River State Forest  
Size: 2 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Trees  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Salmon River State Forest  
Size: 47 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: \$27,269 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Sleeping Giant State Park  
Size: 4 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: In-house  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

Park: Sleeping Giant State Park  
Size: 8 Trees  
Removal of Fallen Trees or Felling of Trees: Felling of Tree  
Reason: Dead  
Cost and Funding Source: \$10,510 Bonding – DEEP Infrastructure, Minor Capital  
Unique Characteristics: None Identified

## Planned Hazard Tree Removal Projects

Information about forthcoming planned or anticipated hazardous tree removal project in State Park can be found at this website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Statewide-Tree-Damage#Projects>, which is updated regularly as new projects are initiated. As of submission of this report, there are only two planned hazard tree management projects, which are both listed on the website:

### **Project Location: Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth, CT (currently underway)**

- **Project Details:** Remove approximately 200 trees within the contact limit line for a paving improvement project at Chatfield Hollow State Park for the following reasons: trees are already impeding existing pavement, trees that are already approaching impeding the existing pavement (in 5 years or less), trees that are currently impeding drainage structures, documented hazard trees (dead or dying), 50 trees slated for removal to expand existing parking lot by park entrance.
- **Project Area and Potential Public Safety Risk:** All trees are in the immediate area of the existing paved travel way within Chatfield Hollow State Park or in the proposed expansion area of the existing parking lot near the entrance.
- **Type of Removal:** Trees will be felled using a variety of mechanical equipment (Sonneboggen, aerial bucket) and ground felling (chainsaw) techniques.
- **Impacts to Public Access:** There will be minor interruptions to public access, to facilitate safety, during tree removal. The immediate area, subject to tree removal activities, will be closed for the duration of the active removal.
- **NDDB:** NDDB Determination 202305884 is in place and all recommendations will be implemented.
- **Heritage Trees:** No Heritage Trees were identified.
- **Project Timeframe:** Between November 1, 2023 and March 1, 2024.

### **Project Location: Pachaug State Forest, Tarklin Hill Road, Voluntown, CT**

- **Project Details:** Remove 107 dead hazard oak trees marked in August 2023. Tarklin Hill Road is a town owned, paved, dead-end road. There are Eversource lines along the road edge which serve the private residences at the end of the road. Trees are located along both edges.
- **Project Area and Potential Public Safety Risk:** The hazard trees, marked for removal, are all dead oak trees along a road. This is a dead-end road with NO alternative route out; if tree(s) fall, it could result in trapping the residents.
- **Type of Removal:** Trees will be felled using an aerial bucket truck and hand felling (chainsaw) techniques. All marked trees will be left onsite. Brush will be lopped down to approximately 2' off the ground. Wood will remain onsite, a minimum of 10' from the edge.

- **Impacts to Public Access:** There will be minor interruptions to public access, to facilitate safety, during tree removal. The immediate area, subject to tree removal activities, will be closed for the duration of the active removal.
- **NDDB:** NDDB Determination 202306424 is in place and all recommendations will be implemented.
- **Heritage Trees:** No Heritage Trees were identified during the hazard tree identification.
- **Project Timeframe:** The project will take approximately two days. Estimated start date is after November 1, 2023 to comply with the BNR Wildlife cutting restrictions due to Northern Long Eared and Red Bats.

## Additional Information

- **DEEP's Hazard Tree Removal Policy:** [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Public\\_Notice\\_Attachments/Hazard-Trees/Hazard-Tree-Mitigation-Policy--Final-Version.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Public_Notice_Attachments/Hazard-Trees/Hazard-Tree-Mitigation-Policy--Final-Version.pdf)
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