

Urban Tree Risk Management:

A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

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Preface

Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation is a fully illustrated, easy to read training manual written for community leaders, administrators, city foresters, parks and public works staff, and private tree care practitioners. The manual is designed to assist communities design, adopt and implement tree risk management programs, and train field staff to detect, assess, and correct hazardous defects in urban trees.

A team of experts in urban forestry, plant pathology and forest health collaborated to produce this manual. Consulting arborists, city foresters, and educators provided extensive review to ensure the information applies to communities of varying sizes and budgets. Examples of tree defects, risk rating systems, and species selection were chosen to depict tree species and conditions that occur in the Northeastern U.S.

The manual is presented in a three-ring binder format to allow readers to add or update information, or to remove entire sections for use in the field. The authors sincerely hope that readers will find this manual to be a useful resource to improve public safety and protect tree health by assisting them in the design and implementation of community tree risk management programs.



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