



# BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

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7823 LL LOISDALE RD., SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150 • (703) 550-6900 • FAX (703) 550-2656

February 27, 2011

Mr. McKinney,

It was good to speak with you regarding the trees on your property as well those in your neighborhood. Many factors can contribute to a forest's overall health and its potential for problems. As our forests mature, they become more susceptible to problems. It's often a combination of factors over many years that lead to a tree's decline.

The forests in our areas have changed tremendously in the last few decades. Not only are they aging, but they have also been subjected to a tremendous amount of stress as the area becomes more urbanized. Construction damage is one of the leading causes of tree decline. Root systems are often damaged as heavy equipment disturbs vital root zones. Trees left along the limits of construction are exposed to a host of new pressures ranging from root damage to changed wind patterns through their crowns.

Extreme weather swings have been one of the biggest components of tree health in our area. Severe droughts of recent years have predisposed our trees to secondary pest and disease activity. High winds coupled with saturated soils during spring/summer storm events have caused a tremendous amount of tree failure. Heavy snow/ice loads during the winter have also contributed to premature failure/upheaval.

Pest and disease pressure is also a component of tree decline in many areas. As trees decline, they become more susceptible to attack from secondary pest and disease activity. Ambrosia beetle, Hypoxylon canker and phytophthora are among the many problems that our trees contend with in our area. There are also new pressures from introduced pest that have made their way into our area. The Emerald Ash Borer is one of the pest that is receiving a great deal of attention in the country and it has been confirmed in Fairfax County and the surrounding areas. Many of the newly introduced pests have no known biological control in the region, so damage can be exceptionally high.

I have included supporting documents from the Bartlett Tree Research Lab to provide additional information about tree decline. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss other aspects of our trees.

Sincerely,

Patrick Teague  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist MA-4128B

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