



Nearly every tree on this slope is one of two short-lived, weak-wooded, shallow-rooted volunteer species: Black Cherry (left) and Black Locust (right).

Approximately 85% of the trees on this slope in Williamsburg Park are dead or dying. They are likely to fall during the next 10 years, posing a safety hazard, and potentially leaving the park denuded of its lawn-and-canopy character. Removing trees one at a time is costly and inefficient, and the process is often hampered by the saturated soils on this slope, which make equipment access difficult.



As Black Cherries and Black Locusts age, they begin to rot from the inside, as seen in this stump at the site.



At left, note trees that are leaning or displaying dead crowns, indications they are not going to be around much longer. Above, a multistem tree that fell in Spring 2020 – each trunk is 18" diameter and the rootball is about 7' diameter – indicators of the hazard.

This sketch shows a planting concept in which new trees would be installed in groups in the spaces created by removals. The sledding-run would not be planted over.



Mt. Lebanon Parks Advisory Board Tree replacement proposal Williamsburg Park, 2020

PAGE 2 - PROPOSED CONDITIONS

The PAB recommends a design similar to that of Spalding Circle, where 25 trees were added in groves and groupings in 2013. In seven years, they have grown in enough to have an impact.

Plant selections at Williamsburg would be based on nativity, seasonal value, habitat value, species diversity, and aesthetic value to highlight flowering trees, unique forms or fall color. There's a potential to add specimen trees to the Mt. Lebanon Arboretum collection, and to help screen private property as appropriate.

Suggested canopy tree species: Kentucky Coffeetree, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Red Maple, Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, American Larch, White Pine, River Birch, Sweetbay Magnolia, Cucumber Magnolia

Ornamental understory tree species: Serviceberry, Redbud, Flowering Crabapple, Flowering Cherry

Hybrids and non-natives: Elm cultivars, Katsura, Persian Parrotia, Dove Tree, Japanese Stewartia, Amur Maackia.



Larch in fall



Coffeetree silhouette



Black gum in fall



Dove Tree in May