



## DECISION OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD TREE WARDEN

### Re: Removal of Trees on LaSalle Road and South Main Street

Following the public meeting held on March 19, 2025, at West Hartford Town Hall, and after thorough consideration of all public comments, I have decided on the proposed removal of thirty-six (36) trees along LaSalle Road and one (1) tree on South Main Street as part of the West Hartford Center Infrastructure Project ("Project").

After careful evaluation, I affirm that removing these trees is necessary to support the overall scope of the Project, which aims to enhance the infrastructure, accessibility, and environmental sustainability of the West Hartford Center. This decision is based on the following considerations:

1. **Project Necessity:** The improvements require sidewalks, streetscapes, and utility infrastructure modifications that cannot be completed without removing the identified trees.
2. **Long-Term Sustainability:** The Project includes a comprehensive replanting initiative that will establish a more extensive, diverse, and superior-growing tree canopy. This approach ensures a resilient and vibrant urban forest for future generations.
3. **Public Safety and Urban Health:** The selected trees for removal have been evaluated for their long-term viability, and this decision aligns with best practices for urban forestry management and the public's safety.

As the Tree Warden for the Town of West Hartford, I remain committed to preserving and enhancing our urban forest. While tree removal is never taken lightly, the plan presented by the Town represents a strategic effort to balance development and sustainability. The Town will plant various tree species that are better suited to the evolving urban environment, providing greater ecological benefits and aesthetic appeal.

This decision is made in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §23-59 and is final. Any person aggrieved by this decision may appeal to the Hartford Superior Court within ten (10) days.

I appreciate the community's engagement in this process and look forward to working together to ensure a greener and more vibrant future for West Hartford.

Sincerely,  
John Phillips,  
Director of Public Works  
Tree Warden, Town of West Hartford

cc: Greg M. Sommer, Town Engineer  
Duane Martin, Director of Community Development