

June 23, 2011

Kipling Street
East Forest Park
Springfield, MA



Tornado Damage Quick Facts Impacts on Springfield's Street Trees

On June 1, 2011 a series of three tornadoes ripped through Western Massachusetts, and included the second strongest tornado ever recorded in Massachusetts, with wind speeds estimated at 136 to 165 mph, according to the National Weather Service. The most severe tornado was the EF-3, on the Enhanced Fujita Damage Classification Scale, that carved a half-mile-wide path for 39 miles from Westfield to Charlton, killing three people and injuring 200. In Springfield, the tornados impacted city's South End, Six Corners, East Forest Park and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods.

In the neighborhoods of Springfield affected by the storms, damage to the street trees was extensive, destroying or severely many of the public trees growing in these areas. A team of US Forest Service and City of Springfield personnel conducted a preliminary review of the streets in these neighborhoods, and an initial summary of the storm impacts was developed.

A preliminary review of the storm damage to Springfield public street trees follows here:

- 87 miles of the 540 total miles of city streets were impacted by the storms;
- 16.1 % of Springfield's streets showed some damage to the public trees growing on them;
- Approximately 1,340 of the 3,830 streets trees, growing in the impacted areas, were destroyed or severely damaged, necessitating removal;
- Immediate impacts include the reduction of rainwater interception by 2,444,252 gallons;
- Reduced storage of 7,220,361 pounds of carbon;
- Approximately 331,232 pounds of sequestered CO² has been lost.



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