25-27 COMMONWEALTH AVE

Norway Maple Tree Removal and Replacement Project

FOXROCK

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Proposed Tree Replacement Project

The proposed project includes the removal of the existing Norway Maple located in the front lawn of 27 Commonwealth Ave. A tree risk assessment was completed by a certified arborist, with mitigation options identified as part of the assessment. The full arborist report has been submitted with the application as supporting documentation. Following removal, the existing tree will be replaced with a new Swamp White Oak to provide a long-term, native canopy tree at the site.



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Existing Conditions





Tree Risk Assessment Report Summary

Tree Risk Assessment completed by ISA Board Certified Master Arborist Timothy Armstrong from Bartlett Tree Experts with mitigation options shown below by certified arborist.
Full assessment report provided in application as additional documentation.

Summary

The Norway maple located at the left of building was assessed for risk on June 25, 2026 by Timothy Armstrong. Using the methods outlined in this report and the results of the examination of this tree, it is my professional judgment that this tree has a **high risk rating**.

Mitigation is recommended for the tree parts listed below.

Tree Part	Mitigation Options	Estimated Residual Risk
Trunk	Remove tree to eliminate the potential for failures	None

Tree risk assessment definitions are provided at the end of this report to help with understanding the terminology and with selecting the level of risk you are comfortable with when making decisions on your tree care needs.

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Existing Conditions



Image of dieback in upper canopy



Image of decay in stem



Image of decay in co-dominant stem

Proposed Replacement – Swamp White Oak



The swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor) is a tough, medium-to-large native deciduous tree reaching 50 to 70 feet tall. Known for its unique bi-colored leaves (dark green top, silvery-white underside) and peeling, rugged bark, it thrives in wet, poorly drained soils but adapts well to urban landscapes and compaction.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

SIZE: 50–70 feet in height with an equal spread and a rounded crown.

LEAVES: Dark green above and fuzzy white or silvery underneath, turning yellow in autumn.

BARK: Deeply furrowed with distinctive, decorative peeling flakes on younger branches.

LIFESPAN: Long-lived, often surviving for 300 years or more.

GROWING CONDITIONS & CAREX HARDINESS ZONES: Grows best in USDA zones 4 through 8.

SUNLIGHT: Prefers full sun (3 to 6+ hours daily).

SOIL: Highly tolerant of wet, clay, or poorly drained soils, though it adjusts surprisingly well to average dry urban soil once established.

GROWTH RATE: Moderate to fast for an oak species.

ENVIRONMENTAL & LANDSCAPE BENEFITS/WILDLIFE VALUE: Produces sweet acorns loved by deer, squirrels, turkeys, and ducks.

VERSATILITY: Frequently planted as a high-performance shade or street tree in parks, large yards, and tough urban spaces.

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Proposed Tree Replacement Project – Conclusion & Recommendation

Conclusion

Based on the assessment of the existing Norway Maple, the following recommendation is proposed:

- **Norway Maple Removal**
  - Remove dead, declining, structurally compromised Norway Maple on property
  - Complete removal in accordance with applicable local requirements and with appropriate consideration for surrounding trees, buildings, utilities, and pedestrian areas.
- **Tree Replacement**
  - Replace removed tree with healthy, appropriately sized Swamp White Oak Tree that is well suited to the site conditions. Select species provides long-term canopy coverage, seasonal interest, and aesthetic value.
- **Overall Recommendation:** Proceed with the proposed tree removal and implement a thoughtful replacement tree that enhances the property's appearance, tree canopy, and long-term landscape value.



