

Statement about the removal of several oak trees from various Haddonfield School District (HSD) properties

Over the last several months, HSD buildings and grounds crew have noticed that certain oak trees on our properties appeared to be dying. In consultation with the Haddonfield Borough arborist, several trees were identified as having Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS), a systemic disease seen most often in pin oaks and red oaks.

BLS is caused by a bacterium (*Xylella Fasdiosa*) which invades the xylem (the water and nutrient conducting tissues) of susceptible trees. The symptoms of BLS are most easily seen in mid to late summer when leaves begin to turn brown prematurely. The browning begins at the edges of the leaves and spreads to look as though the leaf is being painted brown. Once the leaves on the branches turn brown, those branches die, leaving an increasingly bare canopy. Dying and dead branches present the added danger of possibly falling on passers-by.

There is no cure for this disease at this time. Generally, once the a tree shows symptoms of the disease, it will fail within five to eight years.

Trees have long been an important part of our beautiful community, and we work very hard to avoid losing any tree, when possible. Although we regret the recent tree removals, we have been advised that this is completely unavoidable and is required to prevent the spread of BLS and to eliminate the possibility of falling branches.

Thank you for your interest in HSD, our properties and especially our trees.

[READ MORE](#) on the website from the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission website.