

# What is happening to our maple trees?

Maple trees are experiencing increased die offs due to several factors that can stress the tree. This situation is not a problem limited to Homewood. Morton Arboretum has confirmed that this is a regional issue.

## Environmental factors:

- ❖ **Drought**
  - ❖ It takes maples 10 years to recover from a drought. We have had 2-3 in the past 10 years.
- ❖ **Water Conduction**
  - ❖ Periods of thaw/freeze with minimal snow cover impairs water conduction, leading to crown die back.
- ❖ **Illness**
  - ❖ Maple trees are susceptible to several different illnesses such as wilt, cankers & root diseases.

## What to look for:

- ❖ Thinning canopy and reduced foliage
- ❖ Leaf scorch, a browning of the plant tissues
- ❖ Wilting, early fall color
- ❖ Dead branches
- ❖ Poor root condition

## What can you do:

Prevention is key. While maple die off cannot be reversed in most cases, providing care may help prolong the life of the tree.

- ❖ Provide adequate water during dry spells (1"/week across the entire root zone).
- ❖ Water the parkway in the spring to help leach de-icing salt.

Homewood Public Works and the Tree Committee are aware of the issue, and we are developing strategies to help mitigate. Please contact Public Works at [publicworks@homewoodil.gov](mailto:publicworks@homewoodil.gov) to add your tree to the list of affected trees. Please note that there may be an extended response time due to volume. Your patience is appreciated. If the tree is on private property, contact a certified arborist. The International Society of Arboriculture provides a list of qualified arborists at <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>

