

January 15, 2008

Dear Campus Community,

I wanted to bring some upcoming campus tree work to your attention. As part of the newly reorganized Massachusetts dam certification and inspection process, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Dam Safety has required all dam owners to have their dams inspected by a state approved consulting engineering firm. The August 2006 inspection reports for MHC's upper, middle and lower dams recommend removal of trees and woody vegetation and associated root systems which can cause serious structural deterioration of earthen dams. Officials are concerned about tree blow-overs during high wind events which would dislodge the tree's root-ball weakening the earthen berms. Trees and brush also hinder proper inspections as well as attracting burrowing animals.

This work will visually impact Lower Lake Dam more significantly; however, some tree work is required at Upper Dam as well. The South Hadley Conservation Commission and the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection have given approval for this work to commence. Our Plan is to begin work on this project during the winter months.

Thank you

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