



February 25, 2026

Dear Dinsmoor Woods Property Abutter,

This letter is to let you know about a planned Red Pine tree harvest in Dinsmoor Woods next to your property. Work is expected to begin around **April 27, 2026** and finish by **May 15, 2026**.

The harvest is necessary because an invasive insect, **Red Pine Scale**, has been found in these trees. This pest only attacks Red Pine and causes them to decline and die quickly. There is no effective large-scale treatment - harvesting the trees is the only way to stop Red Pine Scale from spreading.

The Red Pines in this area are also near the end of their natural lifespan. Taking them down now helps prevent falling trees, reduces future safety risks, and avoids higher removal costs for taxpayers. Red Pine also has market value only while it is still alive, so acting now is the most responsible option.

We understand this work may be unexpected. Over the past year, the City has shared information through public meetings, radio interviews, community events, and upcoming presentations and site walks to explain the issue and the plan. For a list of these opportunities and helpful links, please see the back of this letter.

During the project, you may notice **temporary equipment noise and truck traffic**. The active work will be short, but the area will look different afterward. Once harvesting is complete, the focus will be on:

- Allowing native trees to grow back naturally
- Cleaning up trails and access areas
- Monitoring forest health and invasive species

This project has been planned with professional foresters and follows forest-management best practices. The goal is a **healthier, safer, and more diverse forest** that can better withstand pests, storms, and climate impacts.

For updates and more information, please visit www.KeeneParks.com or contact **Carrah Fisk-Hennessey, Parks & Recreation Director** at cfiskhennessy@keenenh.gov. Thank you for your patience and for supporting the long-term care of Dinsmoor Woods.

Sincerely,

Carrah Fisk-Hennessey
Parks & Recreation Director

Keene Parks & Recreation Red Pine Scale Educational Outreach:

- Keene City Council MSFI Committee Presentation (MSFI December 4, 2024)
 - <https://youtu.be/Yr5PXQm044Q?t=2177>
- WKBK Radio Interview with Dan Mitchell (December 6, 2024)
 - <https://mykeenenow.com/news/219912-keene-takes-action-against-red-pine-scale-threat-in-city-parks/>
- WKBK Radio Interview with Dan Mitchell (April 1, 2025)
 - <https://mykeenenow.com/news/219912-keene-parks-and-recreation-director-discusses-upcoming-red-pine-scale-walk-and-talk-on-wkbk/>
- Wheelock Park Red Pine Scale Walk & Talk hosted by KPRD & NH State Foresters (April 6, 2025)
- Red Pine Scale Community Call with City & State officials (October 7, 2025)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_REAuZkBDoA&t=1s
- Keene City Council MSFI Committee Presentation – Red Pine Harvest plans (upcoming March 25, 2026)
- Dinsmoor “Woods Walk” with Long View Forest’s Alex Barrett (upcoming April 11, 2026 at 3:00pm)