

Fungus Growths

All trees are susceptible to decay. Decay occurs in old wounds, in poor branch crotches, and in the root system. The main concern about decay is tree failure. This can be the loss of a branch, a lead, or the entire tree may fall over. The most deceiving thing about decay is that the tree may look healthy. That is because decay is a structural problem and not so much a health problem.

Sure signs of decay are fruiting bodies (fungus growths or conks) growing on the outside of the tree, or mushrooms growing in the grass near the tree. These fruiting bodies or fungus growths occur in the fall. In Downers Grove, all larger parkway trees are annually inspected for fungus growths. Trees are removed when any large fungus growth or conks are found. Analysis after the tree has been removed shows the wood to be very spongy and discolored at the site of the fungus conk. A photographic record is kept of all findings.

