

Looking to the future beside new trees

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The four cherry trees that flank Indian Field near Reynolds Theater will be removed due to deterioration. Four new Kwanzan cherry trees will be installed in their place. Photo by Tom Zimmerman.



Oct. 8, 2009 – Due to rotten wood found within their trunks, four cherry trees near Indian Field will be removed and Carlisle Barracks will become the home to four new Kwanzan cherry trees for the next generation to watch over and care for.

The trees, located near Reynolds Theater, alongside Indian Field, have deteriorated and have become a safety issue, post officials said Thursday.

"We will start Oct. 13 and complete the project Oct. 16," said Tom Kelly, director of the Directorate of Public Works. "These cherry trees have deteriorated in the trunks and limbs, and we have had several big limbs break off this year. Our DPW Environmentalist took a look at them and deemed them to be hazardous."

Kelly said that the 50 to 60 year old trees have dropped large limbs and branches in heavy winds and under the weight of ice last winter.

"It really became a safety issue and we don't want to see anyone get hurt," he said.

Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander, said that the new trees would be a welcome addition to post just in time for Oktoberfest.

"We had planned to wait later in the season to remove the trees, but decided to err on the side of safety and remove the rotted trees as soon as possible," she said. "We are committed to being stewards of the environment, and are proud to be part of Tree City USA so we are planting new trees in their place." In April,

Carlisle Barracks was recognized for being a Tree City USA community for the 18th consecutive year.

"We have an active Tree Management Committee Chaired by the Deputy Garrison Commander that oversees the care and management of our urban forestry program," Kelly explained. "We also reach out to Pennsylvania State Foresters for their expertise on tree care issues."

Kelly said that DPW will remove the trees and grind down the stumps and roots, then plant Kwanzan cherry trees that are approximately 6 feet tall.

"We have been trimming these trees and keeping an eye on them and they have just continued to deteriorate. We will replace them with trees like the ones over near the Frederick the Great Statue, which produce a beautiful pink blossom in the spring," Kelly said.

"Removal of the stumps is going to cause some turf damage so we also planning to bring in top soil, in addition to placing turf sod down so it looks presentable for Oktoberfest."

Kelly said that while the old trees have reached the end of their life cycle, the new trees will enjoy the care of generations to come.

"They are at the end of their life cycle, but we are planting something in their place for future generations to enjoy," he said.



The replacement Kwanzan cherry trees are similar to the ones near the Frederick the Great Statue and will look like them as they mature, Kelly said. Photo by Tom Zimmerman.

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