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10/14/2025

Town of Sullivan's Island
2056 Middle St.
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Subject: Tree Risk Assessment - Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), 21" DBH

Date: October 23, 2025

Address: 1118 Middle St.

I inspected a Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) located at 1118 Middle St. The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate the tree's overall health, structural stability, and potential risk to nearby targets.

Tree Description

Species: Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
DBH: 21 inches

Condition: Declining with pronounced lean

Observations

The tree displays significant canopy dieback and reduced foliage density, indicating general decline. Soil lifting and exposed roots were observed on the tension side of the lean, suggesting partial root plate disturbance. The pronounced lean increases the potential for structural failure, particularly during high winds or periods of saturated soil.

Risk Evaluation (per ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification – TRAQ Guidelines)

Target: Shed and fence

Likelihood of Failure: Probable

Likelihood of Impact: Likely

Consequences of Failure: Severe

Overall Risk Rating: High

Recommendations

Due to the combination of declining health, root plate disturbance, and the tree's pronounced lean toward the shed and fence, this Hackberry presents an unacceptable level of risk. I recommend removing the tree in the near term to mitigate potential hazards.

If immediate removal is not feasible, temporary mitigation such as target restriction (e.g., fencing or signage) or limited crown reduction pruning may provide short-term risk reduction. However, these are temporary measures, and complete removal remains the recommended long-term solution.

Conclusion

Based on current site and tree conditions, the 21" DBH Hackberry is assessed as a high-risk tree due to its declining condition and pronounced lean toward the shed and fence. Removal is advised to ensure the safety of nearby structures.

Please contact me if you would like to schedule removal services or discuss replacement options.

Respectfully,

Roger D. Davis
ISA Certified Arborist #SO-5759A