

Hamden Tree Commission Names “Notable Tree” for September 2018

Hamden, CT – September 24, 2018

The Hamden Tree Commission is proud to name this Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) as the Hamden Notable Tree for the month of September 2018. The tree is located at the southern end of the former picnic grove at Sleeping Giant Park. While almost all the trees around it were destroyed during the May 15th tornado, this blue spruce remained standing.

The small tree was likely shielded from damage by the larger trees surrounding it in the densely forested picnic area. After the storm, clearing crews protected the tree from trucks and machinery by piling broken picnic benches around it. According to Julie Hulten, Recording Secretary and Community Outreach Chair for the Sleeping Giant Park Association (SGPA), the “brave little tree” is “a testimony to the resilience of Nature.”

Due to the massive storm damage, the park remains closed, and may not reopen until Spring or Summer 2019, according to the SGPA’s website. Workers and volunteers are trying to clear 32 miles of trails to make sure the mountain is safe for visitors. While plans for the future of the picnic area are uncertain, the Hamden Tree Commission would like to honor this surviving tree. May it serve as a memorial to all the trees that were lost; may it foretell a verdant future for the Sleeping Giant.