

## Evaluating Tree Health

The health of a tree is rated **good**, **fair**, or **poor** depending on five factors: 1) the density of leaves in the tree canopy; 2) the overall color of the leaves; 3) the presence or absence of broken branches; 4) the presence or absence of trunk wounds; and 5) the shape of the tree after repeated pruning or branch loss.

A tree that is in **good** health may have a dense canopy of leaves or needles with few, if any, bald spots. Few of the tree leaves or needles have brown spots, holes or other kinds of damage. Most leaves are consistently the same color. Few or none of the smaller branches may be broken. None of the larger branches are broken. There is little or no damage to the trunk and its bark.

A tree that is in **fair** health may have a canopy of leaves or needles with one or more obvious bald spots. Many of the tree leaves or needles may show brown spots, holes, or other kinds of damage. Many leaves show changes in color from the average. Some small branches may be broken. None of the larger branches are broken. There may be some damage to the trunk and its bark.

A tree that is in **poor** health may be missing many or most of its leaves. Any remaining leaves may show significant brown spots, holes or other kinds of damage. Most leaves have changed color from the average. Small and large branches may be broken. There may be significant damage to the trunk and its bark.

Look at the whole tree. Observe the condition of the canopy, or leaves, the branches and the trunk. Take no more than 30 seconds to decide if the tree is in good, fair or poor health.