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# Landmark tree pruned

Tree



A passer-by carries a budding branch to save as a memento.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

A cherry picker carries a worker high into the branches of the aging landmark walnut tree.



Bill Williams of Williams Tree service saws away at one of the venerable old tree's massive limbs.

## 145-year-old giant is deemed a hazard

Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — With chain saws, a cherry picker and other heavy equipment Thursday, workers pruned dead and decaying branches from a rare and aging Eastern walnut tree.

Santa Cruz arborist Ray Sherrod said the 145-year-old tree, which towers above a parking lot at the north end of Cedar Street, is nearly dead and was in danger of dropping some of its heavier rotted limbs.

Despite public opposition, city officials decided this week that safety outweighs sentiment and ordered the tree trimmed.

Sherrod noticed the tree was in ill health six years ago. Fertilization and irrigation have failed to slow the tree's gradual decline, and a parasitic fungus is consuming its trunk.

Even so, many of its branches are budding, and it has been suggested that some of its live limbs could be used to propagate another tree for the site.