

# BOSTON

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

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## **ANNE FRANK SAPLING REMOVED FOR CARE**

A sapling descended from a horse chestnut tree that stood outside Anne Frank's home in Amsterdam and was planted on Boston Common last June has been transferred to the Boston Parks and Recreation's Franklin Park greenhouses for special care after concerns were raised over its condition.

The Anne Frank Sapling Project came to life in 2009, when The Anne Frank Center USA awarded Boston and ten other sites saplings derived from the nearly 200-year-old horse chestnut tree that towered behind the Secret Annex where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis from 1942 to 1944. The Boston Common planting, coordinated by the Mayor's Office and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in 2013, was the culmination of a student project initiated by 15-year-old Aliyah Finkel.

Survival of the sapling became the concern of Parks Department arborists after it seemed to fail to thrive and evidence showed that the tree may have been vandalized with an unauthorized cutting. As a result the sapling was removed for its own safety on Friday, June 20, and will be cared for at Franklin Park until it is healthy and strong enough to be returned to Boston Common.

The Parks Department is working closely with the Anne Frank Center USA's Sapling Project to monitor the sapling's health as it is one-of-a-kind and a replacement is not available.



### **Boston Parks and Recreation Department**

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