**Wildlife Habitat/Hazardous Tree Decision Model**

This model provides a logical approach to deciding whether to convert a hazardous tree into a wildlife habitat tree. The model’s function is to help maintain and create wildlife habitat and reduce public safety risks associated with trees with hazardous defects.

**Assumptions of the model**

1. A hazardous tree exists, and various mitigation actions recommended by a Certified Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborist can be performed to reduce public safety risks to an acceptable level.
2. Wildlife is using or could potentially use the tree.
3. All relevant wildlife protection regulations are considered before removing a tree in which wildlife is actively breeding, or in which there is a protected nest; and an appropriate certified wildlife rehabilitation center is consulted for guidance before removing eggs or young from the tree.

1. Is it possible to move possible targets such as picnic tables?
   - Yes: Move the target
   - No: Can you perform mitigative actions such as pruning and reduction cuts, and/or regular monitoring that will reduce risk to public safety with minimum impact to wildlife; or minimally, allow actively breeding wildlife to remain until young have left?
   - Yes: Perform actions
   - No: Is closing the site possible either temporarily or permanently?
     - Yes: Close site
     - No: If necessary, remove the tree entirely, or leave a section of trunk as tall as safety allows.

2. Can the felled tree, or sections of it, be left on site to create wildlife habitat? (E.g. a log to provide cover, a bridge across a creek, a corridor to connect habitat patches, to prevent erosion, trap leaf litter or snow, branches stacked as woodpiles for cover.)

This model was adapted from an illustration provided by USDA Urban Tree Risk Management. *A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation.*