

TREE MAINTENANCE & REMOVAL

One of the greatest concerns to the Board is tree maintenance in the community. Indeed, there is a line item in our yearly budget dedicated to tree maintenance. The trees in the community are inspected each year to determine if any are vulnerable to storm damage, afflicted with any serious diseases/pests or if they are potentially unsafe to people or property.

We also have some tall trees located close to drainage systems which can weaken root systems. If trees are in a vulnerable state, have damaged root systems or disease, we have several options. We can prune the tree raising the level of the lower branches where they may be interfering with parking, lighting or walkways. Sometimes we can treat a diseased tree if it is caught early enough and it is not cost prohibitive. We can have a professional tree company thin out the canopy of trees to make them less vulnerable to wind and ice storms or we can have the tree removed.

Please know that none of these decisions, especially tree removal, are made without thoughtful consideration. Rather they are made after the board has received recommendations from the landscaper and/or a certified arborist and after careful consideration by each board member. Most often tree pruning is done to address encroaching branches that are unsafe and thin out canopies to make them less vulnerable to severe weather. This is because as the development ages trees mature and are subjected to weather patterns, that include: long periods of rain, icing and prolonged high winds. These conditions can also have a significant impact, especially on aging trees. Obviously, we take safety issues created by trees seriously and it is always paramount in our decision-making process. One home, in the lower Old Mill Lane section of the development, has been struck by two falling trees in less than two years. At the same time a decision to remove a tree is also taken with serious consideration and input and guidance from tree professionals with safety in mind. If a tree can be preserved safely then we pursue that option.

I hope this provides some insight into the issue of tree safety. Please feel free to share your thoughts or feelings via the website or email.

Bill Bell
Board President