

# **WOODLAND RESERVE TREE POLICY**

Approved by the Board of Directors August 7, 2019 as authorized by Covenant Article 14.05 "Additional Rules  
Updated City of Lenexa Code 3-5-J-2 information June 2, 2021

## **Lenexa Code Article 3-5-J-2 Trees & Shrubs**

- A. Maintenance or removal of trees or shrubs on private property:
1. The City shall have the right to cause the maintenance or removal of trees or shrubs on private property when such trees or shrubs:
    - a. Constitute a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare or otherwise endanger persons or property; or
    - b. Are infested with or harbor any tree or plant disease or insect pest or larvae, the uncontrolled presence of which may constitute a hazard to or result in the damage or destruction of other trees or shrubs in the City.

### **TREES WITHIN PROPERTY (NOT IN RIGHT OF WAY)**

- 1). Homeowners are required to maintain trees within their lots (including easement areas) in a manner and frequency consistent with good property management.
- 2). Homeowners are required to have at least 1 tree in the front yard and 1 tree in the back yard.
- 3). Homeowners are required to remove dead trees (with 50% or more dead branches) from their property. The stump must be removed to below the ground surface and the grass replaced.
- 4). Homeowners must obtain approval by submitting an Architectural Change Request (found on the Woodland Reserve eNeighbors website) before removing any healthy tree that is 4 inches in diameter or greater when measured at a height of 2 feet above the ground.
- 5). Removal of dead trees does not require Architectural Change Request approval.
- 6). Trimming of live trees to remove dead branches, etc. does not require Architectural Change Request approval.

### **RIGHT OF WAY TREES (NEXT TO THE STREET)**

- 1). Trees that are on the homeowner's property and located in the public right of way are homeowner responsibility. The right of way is defined by the City of Lenexa as the zone approximately 12-15 feet from the back of the curb.
- 2). Homeowners are responsible for trimming trees and shrubs as needed to remove dead branches and to provide adequate clearance above sidewalks and streets. According to Lenexa ordinance there must be 8' of clearance above sidewalks and 13' of clearance above streets. The City of Lenexa has the right to trim or remove trees in the right of way for safety reasons, but general maintenance is the property owner's responsibility.
- 3). Shrubs and decorative grasses should not obstruct sidewalk areas.
- 4). Homeowners must obtain approval by submitting an Architectural Change Request (found on the Woodland Reserve eNeighbors website) before removing any healthy tree that is 4 inches in diameter or greater when measured at a height of 2 feet above the ground.
- 5). Trees planted by the City of Lenexa have a 1-year warranty. Trees out of warranty are the homeowner's responsibility. Dead trees (with 50% or more dead branches) within the city warranty will be replaced by the city, but it is the homeowner's responsibility to contact the City Of Lenexa at

913-477-7146. If an Ash tree dies and is out of "city warranty", Lenexa will give up to a \$200 credit toward an approved replacement tree.

**6). Dead Right Of Way trees must be removed and replaced by the homeowner. Replacement trees must conform to the following guidelines:**

- a. The stump must be removed to below the ground surface and the grass replaced.
- b. An Architectural Change Request approval is required for the type of tree to be planted.
- c. Trees must be a shade tree variety rather than an ornamental tree or evergreen.
- d. Trees must reach a minimum height of 35' at maturity.
- e. Trees must have a rounded type canopy (not columnar).
- f. Trees must be well suited to our climate (plant zone 6).
- g. Trees must be strong-wooded to avoid frequent broken branches.
- h. Trees must be set back at least 20' from street lights and stop signs.
- i. Trees must be set back at least 10' from fire hydrants.
- k. **Trees recommended by the City of Lenexa for Right Of Way areas:**
  - Bald Cypress, Black Gum, Elm, Ginko, Honey Locust, Red or White Oak, Red or Sugar Maple, Zelkova
- l. **Trees not allowed in Right Of Way areas:**
  - Ash, Bradford Pear, Evergreen, Silver Maple or Willow.

## **ASH TREES & EMERALD ASH BORERS**

Emerald ash borer beetles are now present throughout the Kansas City area, including Woodland Reserve. These insects kill Ash trees by starving them of nutrients and water. Once the female lays her eggs on the bark of an ash tree, they pupate and become larvae. The larvae tunnel under the bark and disrupt the tree's vascular system by chewing on soft tissue that transports water and nutrients throughout the tree. After a couple of years, the emerald ash borer population grows exponentially inside the tree, and the combined damage will eventually kill the tree. The City of Lenexa does treat trees in parks and public areas, but does not treat Ash trees on private property.

Due to the ongoing threat by the Emerald Ash Borer, homeowners are not allowed to plant new Ash trees along right of way areas (see previous section for guidelines on acceptable tree types). Homeowners are allowed to plant Ash trees in the non-right of way areas of their property, but are discouraged from doing so due to the high risk of the tree being destroyed if left untreated.

Homeowners who currently have healthy Ash trees on their property are encouraged to treat them every 2 years with chemicals intended to prevent Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Younger Ash trees can be treated by the homeowner with commercially available products. Mature Ash trees with a base diameter of 6 inches or more need to be treated by a tree care professional. If an Ash tree dies and is out of "city warranty", Lenexa will give up to a \$200 credit toward an approved replacement tree. Additional information can be found at the websites below or by calling the City of Lenexa at 913-477-7146.

## MANAGING EMERALD ASH BORER DECISION GUIDE

[https://www.lenexa.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_4323159/File/Government/Departments/ParksRec/EAB\\_DecisionGuide.pdf](https://www.lenexa.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4323159/File/Government/Departments/ParksRec/EAB_DecisionGuide.pdf)

## ASH TREE LOCATION MAP – LENEXA

<http://lenexa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=574b93b86b7d4d02a851e83d8bb174c9>