

# Very important information

## Tree replacement program

We have all heard the term “one size fits all”. This usually works for clothing, but when it comes to landscaping we are all seeing it definitely doesn’t FIT. Issues regarding the trees and evergreens on the community perimeter that were planted by the developer are becoming quite a problem.

Briar Cove was built on a clay floodplain, where wet-site plant species naturally occurred. The primary tree species in the area is Eastern Cottonwood. From a landscape management perspective, this should be the first consideration in regards to plant species selections and plantings. The vast majority of the perimeter plantings are spruce and pine. These trees in general prefer well-drained loamy habitats. When trees are planted outside of their ideal habitat, they typically are predisposed to stress factors.

While fresh and new they did indeed look very attractive.

As with any aging process things happen. In Briar Cove those things took the form of:

- 1 Excessive water from the wet lands
- 2 Planting too close to existing trees or heavy vegetation
- 3 Disease rapidly spreads because of the quantity of the same species of evergreens
- 4 Soil is just not suitable for some evergreens.
- 5 Last but not least the weed killer that was provided by DuPont corp. and applied by our fertilizer contractor has been found to have a damaging effect on two of the species of evergreens we have in Briar Cove. As of this writing it is not known what long term result it will have on the affected evergreens. DuPont is still gathering information.

It should be noted that Issues associated with item 5 is damage that has just occurred in the last 30 days and will be distinguished from our tree replacement program that has been in the planning for the last 6 to 9 months.

The intent of our tree replacement program as discussed by the board and a professional Arborist is to diversify and plant trees, bushes or evergreens that are more suitable for our environment.

Example..... if an evergreen (which doesn’t like wet roots all the time) is constantly in water from the wet land, it should be replaced with a bush or tree which is more tolerant of water. We cannot do anything about the water from the wet land. It is a conservation area.

Example..... If a particular evergreen is suffering from a disease that is present on many other evergreens in the area. A tree, bush, or evergreen of a different species should be considered.

Example..... If a evergreen is being overgrown by trees that are native to area (cottonwood) before it was developed, the homeowner will have to make a choice, one or the other will have to be removed. Trees that were NOT supplied by the developer have to be maintained by the homeowner. The homeowner will have to pay for the cost to remove if they want to maintain the evergreens planted by the developer.

A dead branch here or there would not dictate the removal of the tree or evergreen. The thrust of the program to remove or replace trees or evergreens on the perimeter of the community is to address dead or severely deformed evergreens. An initial inspection has been made by a board member and an arborist to assess the condition of the evergreens. Evergreens were tagged and the board was briefed on the results, so a budget could be developed.

**Obvious dead or diseased evergreens will be replaced with a suitable tree, bush, or evergreen as determined by our arborists. If the homeowner has a specific request or is not comfortable with Association making the replacement decision they should contact Peter Bylen. Those requests will be reviewed and could be granted if the homeowner wants to accept responsibility and pay for any additional costs for that particular replacement.**

AS stated earlier if current evergreens are being overgrown by trees that were not planted by the developer they will be removed unless the homeowner wants to keep the evergreens and pay for the removal of native trees that are causing the problem.

It should also be noted at this time, that if a native tree (not a tree planted by the developer) is in need of trimming because of potential damage to a home, the homeowner is to bear the cost of the service.

Finally, since the Association is to maintain the perimeter trees and evergreens, these changes have to take place in order to make that task possible.