

## **Breezy Knoll Association Tree Guidelines 2014**

The Breezy Knoll Association is responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees and large shrubbery on Association grounds. "Trees and large shrubbery" for the purpose of this document are defined as vegetation 5' and over. The Grounds Committee handles any shorter vegetation. The Tree and Grounds Committees will confer and collaborate on any additions or modifications to existing shrubbery on Association common grounds.

The Tree Committee and its selected arborist will periodically tour the grounds. The trees on the property will be inspected in order to assess their overall health and general well-being, results of storm damage and signs of insect or fungal infestation. In the late fall, after the leaves have fallen, the Tree Committee will review the current year's plan and will establish a maintenance agenda for the following year.

Homeowners are responsible for the care and maintenance of all growth within 10' of their house to ensure that walkways, rights of way and emergency routes remain clear for easy and safe access. In addition, please note the following guidelines:

- No trees may be planted within 10' of a house.
- New trees can only be installed or existing trees removed, with the approval of the Tree Committee. [Please see below for tree planting policy.]
- Trees planted anywhere without the Committee's approval will be subject to removal at the expense of the homeowner.

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### **Maintenance includes:**

**Pruning** – Removal of broken and overgrown limbs and dead branches typically 2" or larger in diameter.

**Feeding** – Done to support the constitution of trees which are frail and aging. Also done when a tree has suffered trauma or needs to be supported in order to prevent opportunistic disease or insect infestation.

**Cabling** – Implemented for safety when necessary to support limbs and reinforce trees that are structurally compromised.

**Spraying** – Environmentally approved products are used by a licensed and insured arborist on a case-by-case basis with advance notice to the community.

**Removal of dead or felled trees** – Anually, the Committee notifies the community of trees at risk. Trees are removed with at least a two-week notice to the community if possible; less in the case of emergency. Stumps are generally cut below grade where practical. The affected area will be seeded and graded where feasible. Dead and felled trees will not be replaced without community discussion. Replacement of any tree must be approved by the committee. [See below for Tree Planting policy]

**Storm damage** – Work includes preservation of existing trees, cleanup and removal of debris. The committee head will provide updates to the community.

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### **Tree Planting Policy**

New trees will be considered capital improvements to Association property. There is an annual budget line for 'New Tree planting'.

Procedures:

1. Member of the BK community submits a written or emailed tree request to the Tree Committe [trees@breezyknoll.org](mailto:trees@breezyknoll.org) or the Tree Committee proposes a tree.
2. The Tree Committee confers with immediately impacted neighbors.
3. The Tree Committee confers with the landscaping professional on the following:
  - a. Species of tree to be planted with recommendations for optimal planting conditions including the location.
  - b. Erosion, ground absorbancy, shade and views are all taken into consideration.
4. Annually, preferably in the spring, the Tree Committee will put up flags designating proposed placement for the installation of new trees intended for installation that season.
  - a. The flag remains up for 4-6 weeks during the late spring / early summer season.

b. Simultaneously, the Committee sends out an e-mail to the community announcing its recommendations for placement and species. Included in the email will be images of representative mature trees.

c. The Committee receives written or e-mailed (trees@breezyknoll.org) comments from the members of the community over this time period of 4-6 weeks. The Committee as a whole reviews comments.

Unresolved disputes between homeowners regarding the addition or placement of new trees will be mediated by the Board.

5. Notice of approval and planting is sent out to the community.

6. Once the tree is planted, the tree committee will coordinate with all proximate homeowners to weed, water and be vigilant regarding the maintenance of newly-installed trees. Any changes in the overall condition of the trees should be immediately reported to the committee.

We appreciate your compliance with these guidelines and policies and hope that you enjoy our trees!

**The Breezy Knoll Association Board, June 2014**  
board@breezyknoll.org

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**The 2014 Breezy Knoll Tree Committee, trees@breezyknoll.org**  
Chair: **Rani Levy**  
Members: **Jackie Sherman, Stefanie Siegmund**