

POLICY NO. 5

OLD TITLE: NATURAL AREAS - DESIGNATION, PRESERVATION, ALTERATION AND MAINTENANCE

NEW TITLE: NATURAL AREAS - NATURAL AREA MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION

PURPOSE: To provide for the preservation and maintenance of Natural Areas that require special attention to ensure their long-term viability.

I. DEFINITION OF NATURAL AREAS AND NATIVE TREES

- A. In addition to the Forest Preserve, 83 additional Natural Areas have been identified by the Landscape Commission throughout the property.
- B. These special Common Areas contain a mix of native and non-native plants that provide a natural appearance to many portions of the community.
- C. In 2014, the LBCHA adopted and funded a Natural Area Management Plan to improve the character and appearance of these Natural Areas.
- D. A map identifying these areas is maintained in the Management Office.
- E. "Diameter at breast height" for single-stem trees shall be the diameter of the trunk size as measured at fifty-four inches (54") above the established ground level, or for replacement trees, fifty-four inches (54") above the top of the root ball. Diameter at breast height (dbh) for multi-stem or "clump form" trees shall be calculated as the sum of the dbh of each of the stems.
- F. Native Trees are defined as those trees located within Natural Areas, of any size, including saplings (those smaller than four inches (4") dbh), of those genera (and their cultivars and varieties) that were present in Northern Illinois prior to the arrival of European settlers. A list of Native Trees is attached as Exhibit A for reference.

II. LBCHA MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL AREAS

- A. Natural Areas are maintained and improved by a contractor specializing in natural area restoration under the guidelines of the Natural Area Management Plan adopted in 2014.
- B. Periodically, to maintain the health and longevity of native wooded areas within LBS, LBCHA Landscape operations will manage the succession of native trees through "thinning" in forested areas. "Thinning" refers to selectively removing, over time, a percentage of the sapling trees (<3.75" dbh) within a growing stand of trees so there is less competition for sunlight, water and nutrients, which promotes the stronger growth of the remaining trees. This is a standard forestry management practice to ensure that new tree stock is continually developing to replace mature trees. Only the LBCHA Landscape Manager, in consultation with the LBCHA approved arborist and LBCHA approved natural area contractor, may authorize such "thinning" operations within LBS.
- C. The Forest Preserve is the largest and most complex Natural Area in Lake Barrington Shores. The chartered Lake Barrington Shores club called the Conservators, from time to time and under the direction of the Landscape Manager, may assist in implementation of the guidelines and practices in the Natural Area Management Plan.

III. UNIT OWNER AND/OR RESIDENT ALTERATIONS IN NATURAL AREAS

- A. No planting, plant removals, or landscape maintenance of any kind by Unit Owners and/or Residents is allowed in Natural Areas including the Forest Preserve.
- B. Native Trees of any size, including saplings as defined above, are specially protected in Natural Areas as they represent the future generations of trees for Lake Barrington Shores.

Pruning or removal of Native Trees by Unit Owners and/or Residents is not permitted in Natural Areas.

- C. Unit Owners and/or Residents who are alleged to have violated the provisions of this policy may be subject to fines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for hearing as described in Landscape Policy 15. If the alleged violation involves pruning, removal or vandalism/damage to property against Native Trees as defined in this policy and in Landscape Policies 9, 13 and 14, Unit Owners and/or Residents may also be subject to paying the costs to purchase, plant and water for two years replacement Native Trees to be planted elsewhere in the Common Areas in accordance with the following schedule:

Size of Existing Tree dbh (in inches)	Number of Replacement Trees
Native Trees:	
13 - 19	10
8 - 12	8
4 - 7	6
0 - 3	4

- D. In interpreting the above exchange rate, in the event of a fraction of an inch, if a fraction is equal to one-half inch (1/2") or greater, the higher full number shall be used.
- E. All replacement trees shall have a minimum size of one inch (1") dbh upon installation, or in the case of Conifers or Multi-Stem Trees, a three foot (3') height.
- F. Any replacement trees will be obtained by the Landscape Manager at competitive pricing.

IV. MEMORIAL TREES IN NATURAL AREAS

A Unit Owner may make a request to the Landscape Manager to plant one or more Native Trees in Natural Areas as a memorial tribute. The Landscape Manager will offer the Unit Owner making such a request several options of suitable Native Trees from which the Unit Owner may select. The Landscape Manager will determine the proper siting and placement of the tree(s), including consideration of access to water, and all memorial trees must be planted by the LBCHA authorized tree contractor, acting under the direction of the Landscape Manager. The Unit Owner making the request will be billed for the cost of the tree(s), the cost of planting the tree(s), and the cost of care of the tree(s) for two years during the period of establishment.