

Canal Shores Golf Course: Tree Management Policy

Dated: September 15, 2017

The Board of Directors of Canal Shores seeks to maintain its property, consistent with its primary use as a golf course, also as a park-like environment for the benefit of golfers as well as neighborhood and community users of the facility. The Board also seeks to protect bird habitat on the property while improving wildlife habitat and plant diversity.

The goal of this policy is to outline the parameters associated with maintaining and enhancing a desirable tree population on the property. To that end, Canal Shores will work to remove invasive species and to maintain and introduce indigenous (“native”) species on the property. Over time, Canal Shores seeks a diverse native-species tree population, with no one species representing more than 10% of the total tree population. This policy will be implemented in accordance with the ordinances and municipal codes of the City of Evanston and the Village of Wilmette. The Addendum to this Policy lists the tree species that are considered acceptable for all areas of the property.

With regard to the course playing area (defined as the tee boxes, fairways, roughs, greens, and lateral hazard areas), it is a priority to remove invasive species and introduce native species as needed. All trees will be maintained to enhance the playability of the course and the growth of grass in the tee boxes, fairways, roughs, and greens. To the extent feasible and not detrimental to the playing surfaces, existing canopies will be maintained. Where such canopies interfere with play or inhibit the proper growth of grass and other desired vegetation, they will be pruned to eliminate the adverse effect on the course.

Dead, diseased and damaged trees that pose safety issues for users of the course will be removed as soon as possible. Other dead, diseased and damaged trees will be removed or remediated as necessary in the judgment of the course superintendent. In many cases, however, dead trees (also know as “snags”) will be retained as habitats for birds and other animals and for aesthetic purposes in all areas of the property.

With regard to the course perimeter (defined as the border of the course to all adjacent properties), the goal is to remove invasive species and replace them with native species, as funding is available within the constraints of overall course management and enhancement, to maintain an appropriate boundary to the course. To the extent feasible, any neighbor, whose property is immediately adjacent to the area in which a tree is being removed or replaced, will be consulted about the activity to be undertaken. To the extent economically feasible, diseased, damaged and dead trees, other than snags, will be removed from the course perimeter.

With regard to the canal border (defined as the banks of the canal to and including the forest edge of the course playing area and out-of-play areas), the Board's goal is to maintain it as a woodland, moving toward a tiered canopy effect, with the recognition of the need to have open areas across the canal for cross-canal play, habitat diversity, view sheds and woodland edges on certain holes. To the extent economically feasible within overall course maintenance and improvement, invasive species will be removed from the canal border, resulting in a thinning of the canopy. Native species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants will be added to the canal border, with the aim of creating a tiered canopy with improved cross-canal sight lines through thinned woodlands. To the extent economically feasible, diseased, damaged and dead trees, other than snags, will be removed from the canal border.

With regard to the other areas of the course ("out-of-play areas"), it is the Board's goal to remove invasive species and to replace them with native species. Diseased, damaged and dead trees in the out-of-play areas will be dealt with in the same manner as is specified above for those trees in the perimeter and canal border areas.

Offers to donate memorial trees for planting on the property will be considered, with gratitude. The species of tree and its placement will be mutually discussed, although the final determination will be made by Canal Shores.

Addendum to Tree Management Policy

The following are acceptable species for future planting on the Canal Shores property:

Ginkgo (male trees only)
Red Maple
Sugar Maple
Black Gum
American Hornbeam
Hop Hornbeam
Hackberry
Honey locust
Ohio Buckeye
Red Oak
Burr Oak
Pin Oak
White Oak
Swamp Oak
River Birch
Beech
Northern Catalpa
Sycamore
Hickory

Understory Trees

Redbud
Hawthorne
Serviceberry
Native Crabapple
Native Wild Plum
Native Black Cherry

Conifers

Eastern Red Cedar

Other species will be considered by the Grounds Committee of Canal Shores and will be approved in the discretion of the Committee as it deems appropriate.