

Ash Tree Removal FAQs

Q: Why are we removing these ash trees?

A: The longer dead or dying ash trees are not addressed, the higher the risk of trees falling increases. It is recommended to resolve the entire issue this year as one large project using one or more contractors.

Q: How much will my annual HOA fees go up?

A: Your annual HOA fees will go up \$150 to \$1,500 for the next three years to help offset the costs.

Q: How will this project be funded?

A: The project is being funded through a combination of existing operating residual, a \$150 increase in annual assessment to homeowners and a \$250,000 line of credit through Bank First. A time and expense approach (daily rate) is recommended for the most cost effective and timely means of completing this project.

Q: What's the timeline to pay it down?

A: The line of credit will be paid off at a rate of \$50,000/year for 4.5 years (more if no other capital projects are needed), which will allow \$30,000/annually for other capital projects.

Q: Who will be taking the trees down?

A: To expedite the process, we'll have multiple vendors combining to remove the trees, including [Gollnick & Sons](#) and Lucas Steele.

Q: How long will it take to remove every tree?

A: We're targeting the removal of every removable tree by the end of 2020. There will be some communal trees that we won't be able to remove, including trees within 10 feet of power lines and trees in swampy areas.

Q: In what order will the trees be taken down?

A: We're prioritizing removals according to public-property trees near homes, power lines and heavily-traveled common areas.

Q: What's the plan to replace the trees we're taking down?

A: We feel the removal of the old ash trees will create growth for new trees to naturally grow in their place. There's currently no plan in place to replant.

Q: Will trees on my property be taken down as part of this effort?

A: No trees will be removed on private property. This effort will focus only on trees in communal areas of LDC.

Q: I don't have any ash trees. Why do I have to pay for this?

A: Dead or dying ash trees present a problem for all LDC residents. They're a safety problem in communal areas and an aesthetic issue that can reduce the property values of all LDC properties, even those with no ash trees in direct proximity.

Q: When will the project begin?

A: The project will begin when the ground freezes so that damage to property is minimized as much as possible. Work may temporarily stop if temperatures increase.

Q: Will I be notified when the removal begins?

A: Yes, residents will be notified as far in advance as possible when trees in their vicinity are being removed.

Q: Will machinery be cutting through my yard? If so, will damages be taken care of?

A: Vendors may need access to trees via homeowners' properties. Large sheets of wood will be laid on grass to minimize damage.

Q: Who can I contact to remove Ash trees on my private property?

A: There are many licensed and insured residential tree removal companies in the area. LDC has contracted with Gollnick& Sons (262.375.2237) and Lucas Steele (920.207.4133) and both offer residential services as well.

Please note when removing trees on your property that the City of Mequon has an ordinance related to tree removal. Please consult with the Mequon City Forester prior to removal of specimen trees.

Q: Who should I contact with questions?

A: Please contact Meg Noyes (414.405.9257) or Chris Korjenek (414.507.2326) with any questions.