

## **Parkwood Tree Policy, Approved by Parkwood Board of Directors 10/12/2023**

The Parkwood Association allocates funds in its annual budget to maintain parkland trees for the safety of people and property and to keep our grounds aesthetically pleasing. The funds are managed by the Parks and Lawns Committee which can authorize a maximum of \$1,000 in any month without prior Board approval. The Parkwood Association does not have the resources to undertake a comprehensive tree inspection and maintenance program, but endeavors to respond to any tree management issues brought to its attention.

### **I. Safety**

- A. Homeowners are responsible for notifying the Association of trees on adjacent parkland they believe have become a threat to their safety or property.
- B. When given prior notification, the Association will be responsible for cutting down any tree or any major branch on a tree located on parkland in imminent danger of falling that threatens people or structures (e.g., houses, garages, sheds and fencing) on Homeowner properties.

### **II. Aesthetics and Responsibilities**

- A. Parkland trees and branches that are felled onto parkland are generally left in place to rot.
- B. Unless the Association has been notified that a tree on parkland is posing a threat, the Homeowner shall be responsible for removing the tree or tree parts that have fallen onto their property from parkland, and for any resultant damage.
- C. When a Homeowner pays to remove a tree that fell from parkland, the Homeowner will be allowed with prior approval of the Association to place the tree parts on the adjacent parkland. The Association shall be notified by the Homeowner prior to exercising this option and the Parks and Lawns Committee will decide either to have them removed or moved further onto the parkland at its discretion.
- D. When a fallen tree lands onto private property from parklands and the Parks and Lawns Committee determines that portions of the tree that remain on parklands need to be removed or cleaned up for either safety or aesthetic reasons, the remains will be removed in a manner that shall prevent further damage to the Homeowner's property.
- E. A Parkwood Homeowner may request that the Association remove portions of a fallen tree at the Association's expense, as the budget allows. After validation of the Homeowner's request for assistance, the Parks and Lawns Committee will make a determination of the monetary amount not to exceed \$1000. This provision of assistance to the Homeowner is only applicable when removal or clean-up of portions that remain on parklands are determined to be necessary (Section II.D), and the Homeowner agrees to use the same tree removal service that the Association uses to manage the removal in a coordinated manner.

- F. As the budget allows, the Parks and Lawns Committee may decide to expend funds to further move a downed tree or branch on parkland either by hauling it farther into parkland or hauling it away.
- G. As the budget allows, the Parks and Lawns Committee may decide to cut down or remove non-threatening trees or branches to improve the beauty of parklands.

### **III. Pest Control**

- A. This policy is for acute management of dead/dying and diseased trees whose condition is brought to the attention of the Parks and Lawns Committee. Parkland trees believed to be under attack by Southern Pine Beetles (SPB), Emerald Ash Borers (EAB), and other insects shall be felled and either removed from parklands, chipped into mulch, or treated with the appropriate pesticides the entire length and circumference of the tree in accordance with Forestry Service guidelines, subject to available budget. However, the cut and leave method shall be employed when no other feasible option is available.
- B. If determined to be necessary to mitigate the spread of disease and as suggested by the Forest Service, healthy trees adjacent to an infected tree or stand of trees may also be removed, as practicable and dependent upon the availability of funds.
- C. Trees already dead as a result of SPB, EAB, or other insect attack shall be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines presented under the Safety and Aesthetics and Responsibilities Sections of this Parkwood Tree Policy, above.

### **IV. Invasive Species Removal:**

- A. Permission may be sought by homeowners to remove invasive plant species such as English ivy, poison ivy and privet found in adjacent parkland within ten (10) feet of their property line, with prior permission of the Association. Any plant that is cut shall be removed entirely from the common area by the Homeowner or their contractor. Failure to remove cut plant debris from the common area will result in the Homeowner being charged with the cost of removal by the Association.
- B. Requests for approval to remove invasive species are made by the Homeowner filing an Indemnity, Release and Hold Harmless Agreement form with the Association Office. A representative of the Parks and Lawns Committee will meet with the Homeowner to assess the situation and communicate with the Committee and Association Board to obtain approval to proceed.