



# Proposed Changes to Lake Forest Park Tree Regulations

Over the last 18 months, the City of Lake Forest Park has worked with the community, forestry experts, and the tree board to update the City's tree regulations. As a result of this effort, the Planning Commission has developed a draft of new regulations, including the following proposals:

## **Streamline the Permitting Process.**

The current code requires four different permit types, creating unnecessary complexity for citizens and staff. The Commission proposes to consolidate these into one permit type, while still maintaining similar triggers for arborist review.

## **Close Loopholes for Developers.**

Require all new single-family, multi-family, and commercial construction to meet canopy coverage goals, and place a five-year restriction on removal of viable\* trees after construction is completed.

## **Protect Landmark and Exceptional Trees.**

Require double canopy replacement for removal of any viable landmark trees. Strengthen provisions for denying removal of exceptional trees that are viable.

## **Clarify Permit Exemptions and Exceptions.**

No permit needed for removal of invasive trees after consultation with the City.

## **Create a Five-Year Permit for Responsible Forest Care.**

Allow residents to create a five-year forest management plan for their property and avoid applying for multiple permits.

## **Provide Flexibility for Residents over the Canopy Coverage Goal.**

Give the City the ability to waive tree replacement when the property will remain above the canopy coverage goal after tree removal.



**\*A tree that is low-risk, in good health, windfirm, and therefore worthy of long-term retention.**

Public Open House July 26, 2016 from 7-9 p.m. at Lake Forest Park City Hall

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