

# Tree Protection Policy

Forest Hills is one of Columbia's premier in-town residential neighborhoods. Much of its character as a green oasis in the midst of Columbia's asphalt and concrete sprawl, and indeed its very name derives from its stately, old-growth trees. The neighborhood's appeal has supported property values at a high level for many years.

Recently, the neighborhood has experienced instances of dramatic tree cutting. Clear cutting of residential lots and the removal of individual, healthy trees have noticeably damaged the character of the neighborhood. The damage is irreparable, at least in the lifetime of the current residents. The **Forest Hills Neighborhood Association** has grown increasingly concerned that further indiscriminant tree cutting will damage property values and ultimately destroy the unique character of Forest Hills.

Consequently, the **Forest Hills Neighborhood Association** adopts this **Tree Protection Policy** to discourage any further cutting of healthy trees within the neighborhood boundaries. For the purposes of this Policy, healthy trees include those dangerous, damaged, or diseased trees that might reasonably be rendered safe or saved through treatment or professional intervention. Residents are strongly encouraged to avoid cutting any existing hardwood or softwood tree, and to incorporate existing trees into landscape or building plans. Particular attention should be given to the protection of old or historic trees as defined by the City of Columbia Tree Protection Ordinance and the Landscaping requirements of the City of Columbia Land Use Plan.

It is the intent of the **Forest Hills Neighborhood Association** to adopt and avail itself of, to the fullest extent possible, the tree removal restrictions and procedures set forth in the City of Columbia Tree Protection Ordinance.

It is the **Forest Hills Neighborhood Association's** further intent to publicize this **Tree Protection Policy** directly to all existing neighborhood property owners and to all potential property owners through real estate agents and brokers who have property listings in the neighborhood.