

**AMENDMENT #3: OAK WILT MITIGATION**

*Oaks trees shall not be cut from February 1 through June 30, except in response to an act of nature, life-threatening emergency, or removal of the entire tree. Each cut shall be properly sealed within 30 minutes. Property Owners who become aware of oak wilt infection within their lot shall promptly advise owners of adjoining properties.*

**Why is this amendment being proposed?**

Oak Wilt is an infectious, lethal, and costly threat to our namesake neighborhood. This amendment establishes common sense safeguards to mitigate additional outbreaks and thereby protect neighboring properties from preventable losses.

**Is Oak Wilt a community-wide threat?**

Yes. The east side of Whispering Oaks has battled an outbreak for over a decade and the west side is equally susceptible. Once an outbreak starts, it can't be easily contained and is likely spread to dozens of neighboring properties for years afterward. Owners of affected properties can incur thousands of dollars in otherwise avoidable expense and risk loss of valuable trees.

**Why does the amendment prohibit cutting an oak during February 1 through June 30?**

These five months are the active season for an insect that can transmit fungal spores to open wounds.

**Can I cut my oaks year-round if necessary?**

Yes. Only non-essential cuts would be prohibited during the high risk months. Oaks could still be cut anytime due to an Act of Nature such as removal of broken branches from a storm, life threatening emergency, or for removal of the entire tree.

**Why would I need to advise adjoining property owners if Oak Wilt is discovered on my property?**

The spread of Oak Wilt can be difficult to track. This simple courtesy may allow neighbors ample time to take preventative action and avoid costly tree loss.

**How would I advise my neighbor if Oak Wilt is discovered on my property.**

How you communicate this information is up to you.