



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

January 2017

Management Survey of Cluster Trees Completed

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Next Board Meeting

Feb. 13 2017, 7:30 pm.

Location TBD

In November we completed a comprehensive survey of the trees on our common grounds to update the information from the last survey we did in 2004.

Bartlett Tree Experts conducted the survey and presented their 200 page report just before Christmas. We have 341 cluster trees representing 49 different species including, among others, 64 maples, 67 pines, 54 oaks, 26 cherries, and 22 dogwoods.

In conducting the survey, Bartlett attached a small brass numbered identification tag to each tree (except the very smallest ones), that is keyed to the overall inventory and evaluation data, and mapped each tree's location using a GPS coordinate system. The information reported about each tree includes its botanic and common names, trunk diameter, canopy radius, general age, height and condition, any notable defects or other issues, root zone and soil conditions, and branch structure.

With this information, and following the guidelines in the National Standards for Tree Care Operations published by the Tree Care Industry Association, Bartlett assigned each tree to (1) a condition group,

- **Poor** Most of the canopy displays dieback and undesirable leaf color, inappropriate leaf size or inadequate new growth. Tree or parts of tree are in the process of failure.
- **Fair** Parts of canopy display undesirable leaf color, inappropriate leaf size, and inadequate new growth. Parts of the tree are likely to fail.
- **Good** Tree health and condition are acceptable

and (2) a risk category that reports both the likelihood of failure (**Imminent, Probable, Possible, Improbable**) and the potential impact of such a failure on private property (**Very Low, Low, Medium, High**).

Bartlett also included specific recommendations regarding pruning, structural support, soil enhancement, etc. for each tree and assigned a priority rating to each tree needing work. We're happy to report that 51% of our trees are rated in good condition, 39% fair and only 10% as poor. In addition, the two most "problematic" trees have a low risk rating meaning that the

2017 Assessments Due

If you pay your assessment quarterly, your first installment of \$255 is due January 15, 2017.

If you want to pay in a lump sum, your check in the amount of \$918 must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2017. After February 1st, you must pay the full \$1,020.

likelihood of failure is "unlikely." It's important to remember that trees, like people, lose some of their vitality as they age. In a mature landscape like ours, it's normal for our older trees to weaken, show some signs of aging in their bark and be more susceptible to parasites.

Interestingly, Bartlett also provided a Tree Asset Value for each tree. They calculate the asset value of a tree using a version of the Trunk Formula Method published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers. The formula integrates factors for a tree's:

- **size**,
- **species** (relative desirability of the species in the geographical area),
- **condition**, and
- **location** (placement in the landscape/community).

Although it's a subjective measure, the asset value reflects the relative added value (curb appeal?) the tree creates in our landscape. They calculated the cumulative total asset value for all of the cluster's trees at just under \$2 million. The ten "most valuable" trees in the cluster have asset values between \$30,600 and \$34,000 for three tulip trees, a white oak and a red maple, and between \$22,800 and \$28,500 for four other white oaks and another tulip tree.

The comprehensive information in the survey report will be extremely valuable in guiding our ongoing tree maintenance efforts. We would need to triple the annual assessment to pay for all of the work recommended in the report, but we've already begun soil improvement and root enhancement efforts for four of our valuable old and stressed white oaks.

The ID tags on the trees will also help you report problems or concerns that you have with cluster trees near your house. Just find the tag (it's a little above eye level) and use that number to identify the tree when you contact Patty Williamson or the board to report it.

Change in RA Covenants Advisor

We were notified last month that Robert Chambliss, the covenants advisor assigned to our cluster for the past few years, is no longer employed by RA.

A new advisor has yet to be assigned to us. Until we learn the name of the new advisor, we suggest that you forward any DRB applications you want to submit to Sarah Marsden. Her email address is sarah@reston.org. and you can reach her by phone at 703-435-6568.