

GRAND HAVEN COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM REGARDING LIVE OAK STREET TREES, SIDEWALKS, ROADWAYS AND HOMES

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

I do not have a question to submit but I would like to offer some information to the panel. I have been a resident of Grand Haven for over 16 years and I have contributed my time and efforts to Grand Haven in many ways, including the Master Association Board and the ADC. I and most of my friends, neighbors and acquaintances are extremely happy living in Grand Haven . We love the beauty and shade provided by our oak trees and are more than willing to replace sections of our sidewalks when necessary, most of us have had occasion to do that over the years. We built in and moved to GH because we fell in love with the neighborhoods and Waterside Parkway, in effect, we fell in love with the trees. We truly do not want to change.

The number of trees and shrubs required in Grand Haven for patio sized lots is ridiculous. Literally 95% of what little land is left on our postage stamp sized lots is filled with trees, bushes and plants. I have no front or back lawn. Only the strip by the street which has two trees and various plantings. I do have three oaks, a crepe myrtle, six cypress trees, two weeping cypress trees and two magnolia trees along with 100 feet of hedges next to the house. Who in their right mind would require this level of plantings?

Houses are so close together you can't walk between them and grass does not grow between them. Sidewalks are uplifted by the live oaks planted within a few feet of the roadway. Trees overhangs block truck passage. Upkeep is very expensive, trimming annually raised sidewalk repairs, leaves everywhere choking growth.

Trees now overgrow house roofs and lanais causing potential for storm damage that could have been avoided with thoughtful planning requiring even more pruning for safety purpose.

Those in charge of the MHOA and CDD are of no help alleviating these issues. All they do is enforce with no sympathy whatsoever.

Also requiring watering using only city instead of recycled water is prohibitively expensive, at \$70-\$100 per month. Not to mention the use of precious water resources for no good reason.

The only one happy about the landscaping and tree plan is Austin Outdoor and Asplundh. They make out very well trimming and pruning.

We need to conserve our water and reduce ongoing maintenance costs for unneeded plants and trees. Thin them out by at least 50% and reduce the cost burden. The boom times are over.

Questions should not be handed in beforehand...Lets them answer questions spontaneously. Lets hear from the developers when not handed questions in advance.

Will you repeat these sessions when all residents from up north can participate, say in November?

In response to the Boards concern for property violations we found several delays (up to 8 months) in addressing solutions to the up keep of residential properties. Adverse conditions of subject property created a devaluation of adjacent properties and general varmint infestation. It became necessary for surrounding owners to intervene for a solution with non-resident owners.

My husband and I have lived in Grand Haven for fifteen and a half years. One of the primary reasons for choosing this development over others was the thought given to the planting and the laying out of the community, especially the landscaping. We've waited all these years to finally see the beautiful canopy of our live oak trees develop. To change or take down any of these shade providing, beautifying trees, would not only be a travesty, but a monumental cost burden.

It seems a small price to pay for an occasional section of sidewalk to be repaired, in order to maintain the integrity of our community. Visitors always comment first of the beauty of the drive into and through Grand Haven.

We would be very disappointed to see any changes to the existing live oaks, especially those bordering Waterside Parkway.

My husband and I have grave concerns about a live oak planted by our builder (without any prior approval by us) 11 feet from the rear of our home as to its compromising the integrity of the home's foundation. The tree is now 6'4" in circumference and is more than 35 feet tall. Four years ago we had to replace a damaged section of our front sidewalk from a Live Oak planted at the same time as the one in the rear of our home. The roots were very large in size and we have since had to have sprinklers reworked and replaced as well from subsequent root damage. As a result, we fear that the tree at the rear of our home could be causing unseen damage to our foundation. We plan to attend the morning segments of the symposium, but have other commitments both afternoons so would appreciate written feedback to this question should we miss an experts valued opinion. Many thanks.

Our concerns are Oak Trees too close to home foundations and roofs...and the problems that have been sited by the city and the sewer and water systems to the homes. There has been approval given for the removal of an Oak Tree at 11 Jasmine Dr by the City of Palm Coast and Grand Haven rejected the tree being removed. The driveway is heaving, the water system underground is being jeopardized and continually threatens the tile roof structure on two homes, 11 and 13 Jasmine. I am sure that this issue is not the only one in our community. There really needs to be a change to our Grand Haven Bylaws that are not functional for our mature community. Logic and concern for retaining a beautiful gated community without Major issues should be forefront. Not, is this tree healthy and disregard the homeowner's Financial investment in brick and mortar, Their home.

I have been a native Floridian born in Jacksonville, spending most of my life as a licensed general contractor in Jacksonville. I have developed many residential subdivisions in Duval and Clay County. I have also had experience hundreds of homes, with this experience I gained knowledge about our native trees and shrubs. Having said that, so you could understand my background I have some suggestions about how to cope and manage a problem with our Live Oak. These trees have a rather shallow root system without a tap root spreading out spreading out as far as the limbs, when this happens as you know these roots encroach under our sidewalks, curbs and streets. In the past when repairing our sidewalks these roots have been cut off causing no harm to the trees. I have not witnessed any of our trees dying because of this. Therefore my suggestion is as follows. Hire a contractor that would utilize a ditch digging machine with a 4 to 6 inch wide blade and have them dig a trench 4 to 6 inches wide just behind the curb with a length approximately 20 feet long centered on each tree, with a depth of 4 feet after this is done then back fill the trench with concrete forming a barrier so that the roots find their way under our current constraints.

In Jacksonville tree roots have been cut from the oak trees without killing the trees and they have lived for many years. I think this method is worth the risk and should stop the roots from encroaching under our curbs and roads.

When we first purchased here the CDD did not exist. We are very happy with the amenities and the way our community has developed. The issue is the over treed plots which many of us who have been here 15 yrs. or more are faced with. The street oak trees in Front Street have wreaked chaos with the sidewalks, homeowner's irrigation systems and home plumbing. As well as the lake walls (which we are responsible for) have been compromised by tree roots.

We are out of town for the summer as I expect many people are so the unfortunate timing of the symposium prevents from attending the very important subjects. Hopefully I you will input our concerns about one alternative that was stated regarding the tree problem. Suggestion was to turn the responsibility over to Grand Haven and add the costs to the homeowner's tab. Our home is on the stub street and we do not have a sidewalk. We paid a premium for that lot as it was obvious by that time, and should have been from the very beginning at least to Austin, what would happen. So if that alternative is considered it should be with the condition that those without sidewalks be excluded from any of the costs. Also in our case, we don't have storm sewers as they are being raised avoiding proper drainage.

From: Harold C. Jurgensen, 13 Sand Pine Drive, Palm Coast, Florida

To: All Home and Lot Owners of Grand Haven, CDD and MOA

SUBJECT: TREES AND DAMAGE TO ALL MAN-MADE STRUCTURES / EQUIPMENT

REFERENCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20250, Subject: Standards for Tree Plantings

I am providing you this memorandum in response to the symposium on Tuesday, September 1st, and Wednesday, September 2nd, at the Grand Haven Room, Village Center, starting at 9 AM each day, regarding trees, and man-made structures such as sidewalks, driveways, roads, garages and homes, and underground utility lines.

The United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, has published federal standards (for government agencies) / guidelines (for the public) with regard to the planting of trees in proximity to sidewalks, driveways, roads, garages and homes, and underground utility lines, to avoid damage and destruction to these man-made structures. The roots of trees are very capable of causing, and do cause, immense damage and destruction to man-made structures and equipment. The damage that the roots of trees can cause was quite evident in the older, more established, communities and cities of Europe and the United States of America. The representative that I talked to at the Washington, D.C., headquarters

emphatically stated that failure to abide by those standards will result in significant damage to property. For example, oak trees and elm trees need to be planted at least 30 feet away from man-made structures to avoid damage to those man-made structures. I invite all my fellow homeowners of Grand Haven to view the federal standards / guidelines. There are some damage avoidance / mitigation techniques available under limited circumstances / conditions (for example, digging trenches and incorporating appropriate barriers).

Not only is the damage and destruction caused by trees very costly, but in almost all cases:

- (1) That damage will **not** be covered by any insurance firm,
- (2) **Nor** will the government legally allow you to deduct those losses on your tax forms.

The reason is that the destruction was long-term, that is, over an extended period of time, and furthermore, was self-inflicted (the owner actually caused the damage and destruction to occur and that destructive effect was evident over a long period of time).

That damage and destruction, or at least the beginning of it, is already evident throughout Grand Haven; just take a look at the sidewalks and some of the roads and driveways. Believe me, the destruction is already starting to the foundations of garages and houses in this community.

In addition to the damage caused by the root system of trees, the crown of trees (branches) can also cause damage to man-made structures including powerlines and houses. The federal standards are there to help protect against damage from both the root system and the crown system of the trees. I believe that it is not possible to satisfy the current Grand Haven MOA Landscape Requirements without violating the Federal Standards / Guidelines; and thus over time causing significant damage to your property. The MOA and CDD really need to make critical changes to the Homeowners Landscape Requirements and the Community Landscape Plan, respectively. I have done my civic duty on behalf of my fellow residents and homeowners of Grand Haven.

VERY RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY SUBMITTED,