

Update on Bradford Pear Trees

With a life span of about 25 years in an urban setting, many of the Bradford Pear trees in First Colony are at a point where removal is necessary. Realizing this and the significant financial impact this will have due to the number of trees in FCCA's common areas, our Landscape Department formed a task force in 2004 to develop a plan to remove and replace trees where needed over the next several years, as well as attempt to extend the life of our younger, healthier trees.

The Landscape Department performed an inventory and assessment of all the Bradford Pear trees in First Colony. Since the trees will be replaced in groups, not just one at a time in different areas, the trees were individually evaluated with an average rating calculated for each group. A "group" was one section of an esplanade, a landscape reserve, a section of a set-back between intersections, etc.

Another part of the plan was to selectively remove trees where they are too dense to aid in the long term health and condition of remaining trees. Removing selected trees will reduce the competition for nutrients in the soil and will improve canopy condition and air circulation. Trees are an important and valued part of First Colony; however, they have been over-planted in the past and the selective removal of certain trees will result in better health, appearance, and longevity of the remaining trees.

Work will be done in the following areas: Woodstream in the Wood Cove park, Lake Colony at the Highway 6 entrance and the reserve at the corner of Cross Lakes and Double Lakes, Lakefield, and Riverbend North on the esplanades and Riverbend South. If you have any questions about this, please contact Steve Spears at 281-634-9552.