

# LAKE ANGELUS

## WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT FAQ

### What is the purpose of the Woodlands Management Ordinance?

The City's long-standing preservation efforts have always recognized the importance of established vegetation to the overall quality of life in Lake Angelus. This Ordinance aims to protect the valuable tree cover from the threat of new development patterns in the City with a focus on preservation along property boundaries, where there is the most potential to impact other property owners. Similar examples of woodlands management ordinances are found throughout Michigan, and are especially prevalent in communities with waterfront resources.

### What is a protected tree?

A protected tree is any healthy tree greater than 6" in diameter, measured approximately 4' from the ground.

Protected trees can be trimmed and maintained without input from the City, as long as the health and viability of the trees are protected.

### What is the approval process for protected tree removal?

To ensure tree removals are supportive of the City's natural character, follow the guide below to approval:



### Do I need to pay a fee to the City to remove a protected tree?

The City believes that active tree preservation is in the best interests of the community as a whole, and will provide this service at no cost to the homeowner when a permit is not required, such as is the case for removal of a diseased tree or tree removal in an unregulated area. For removals requiring a Specific Tree Removal Plan or Generalized Management Plan, there will be a review fee, similar to other site plans reviewed by the City.

### What is the unregulated area on my property?

Generally, the areas 75' from the road, 15' from the side lot lines, and between the lake and 15' from the lake side of your home are protected. Inside that envelope is unregulated. Please read the Ordinance for specific details, as your situation may be slightly different.

### If a protected tree presents immediate danger to my property or well-being, do I need City approval to remove it?

No! If a tree presents a hazard, please take the necessary actions to ensure the safety of residents and neighbors. If possible, please document the dangerous conditions by picture or description.

### Can I still trim trees and remove brush and vines?

Yes, trees should be maintained in a manner that maintains their viability - don't remove so many branches that the tree can't survive. You can also remove brush and smaller trees, but take care to protect the soils with mulch, turf, or other plantings. Hillside erosion into the lake is a huge problem for lakes and once lake water is compromised there is no remedy. In nearly every case, the MDEQ requires soil erosion barriers until the stability of the slope is retained.

### I am working on plans for a new home, driveway, tennis court, or similar built feature. Do I need a separate permit?

For a new home project, the City will incorporate the review for tree removal into the traditional site plan review; no separate permit is needed.

### Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Please visit the Lake Angelus website and call the Building Official or Planner at McKenna Associates, (248) 596-0920.