

Nothing is quite as majestic as the big trees lining our City and our yards. Did you know that the average age of an Avon Lake oak is 150 years old – and these big trees deliver many benefits to our environment and our well-being. Their shade provides cooling, which can cut down on utility bills. They provide oxygen, clean our air and water, and their beauty improves our mental outlook. Trees help manage storm runoff, temper strong winds off the lake, and play important roles in preventing erosion. They provide food and shelter for songbirds. These benefits grow exponentially with bigger trees. If your yard is lucky enough to have one of these stately oaks, you may also wonder how healthy it is. Sometimes owners choose to remove these stately oaks because of bare spots on their lawn caused by the tree's shade, the chore of raking its fall leaves, or other maintenance issues. The City's Tree Commission recommends consulting a certified arborist (preferably one that has Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) instead of a tree removal company, to help determine any issues and assess the integrity of your tree. Remember, there are often alternatives to removing a tree that has stood strong for centuries.