

They are majestic – those large trees in our backyards. We love their shade and their beauty, but sometimes the leaves are a nuisance and need to be raked, grass is thinner beneath them, and we worry of branches falling. And the squirrels can be so rambunctious!

However, the advantages of large trees are often overlooked when owners elect to cut one down. They often realize the benefits too late. About 150 years too late – that's the typical age of a large Avon Lake oak. A new tree planted today will take generations of growth to replace a felled tree.

The professionals agree – trees provide essential benefits!. Their shade provides cooling –giving us comfort and utility bill savings. They clean our air and water, provide oxygen, and their green beauty relaxes us and uplifts 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 all the beautiful songbirds. **Importantly, benefits grow exponentially with bigger trees. Big Trees = Big Benefits.**

Sure, some trees become safety hazards, and it is extremely important that you consult a certified arborist (preferably one that has Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) and not just a tree removal company, to help determine any risk. Remember, there are often alternatives to removal of a tree that was alive long before our grandmothers were born.

***Each and every tree is a treasure for our community.***

So, should an annoyance at a tree arise, think of its advantages to our community. Try to let it do its job for another 150 years.

(Mark Kacik)

