

## **Spring Projects and Procedures**

[Weed and Feed](#)  
[Trail Entrance Flower Beds](#)  
[Edging and Mulching](#)  
[Shrub Pruning](#)  
[Plant Removal and Replacement](#)  
[Weed Control](#)  
[Garlic Mustard](#)  
[Summer Paint Schedule](#)  
[East Border Fence](#)

## **Seasonal Reminders**

[Grill Safety](#)  
[Yard Waste Disposal](#)  
[Digging by Your Post Lights](#)  
[Adopt an Ash Tree](#)

## **Policy Reminders**

[Landscape Changes Require Approval](#)  
[Exterior Modifications Require Architectural Review Board Approval](#)

## **May – September Projects**

**Weed & Feed for the Turf** – Last week Maple Leaf treated all turf with a weed & feed product. This will kill emergent dandelions and broad leaf weeds. The application also provides a barrier that will stop new weed seeds from germinating.

**Trail Entrance Flower Beds** - Tamarack grounds staff installs the annual flowers at the beginning of June.

### **Edging and Mulching**

Tamarack staff will edge and mulch existing beds at all homes east of Westfield and south of Tree Lane this year. Work began the last week of April starting at Randolph Road and proceed in the following order: Tree Lane, S. Westfield, Red Oak, Winterberry, Honeylocust, Bayberry, Pin Oak, White Pine, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Gray Birch, Hemlock, and Millstone.

Mulch completed as of May 10 – Randolph and 7379-7445 Tree Lane.

Tentative timeline – 7331 – 7379 Tree Lane by May 22, S. Westfield, Red Cedar, Mt Ash, Honey Locust by 6/20, Bayberry/Pin Oak/White Pine/Sugar Maple by 7/20, Red Maple/Gray Birch/Hemlock/Millstone by 8/30.



If there is an area that you do not want mulched please submit a detailed written request to the Tamarack office. White flags are available at the office for residents to mark flowerbeds or areas that should be skipped. For those not wanting mulch, specify “No mulch” on the written maintenance request. Addresses of the homes currently on the “No Mulch” list are posted on the website and on the Clubhouse bulletin board.

If you have questions, would like to be removed from the *No Mulch List*, or need white flags, contact Jean at 833-1615 or via email to [Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com).

### **What if I’m not scheduled to be mulched this year?**

If you reside in the unscheduled area, mulch is available for your use only at your Tamarack home. The mulch is located in the bin to the west of the tennis courts. If you would like a load of mulch, it can be delivered to your drive or patio by a written request at a cost of \$15 for a Bobcat bucket. The Mulch Policy is available on the Tamarack website at [www.tamaracktrails.com](http://www.tamaracktrails.com). It is your responsibility to see that the mulch is spread within a week of its delivery.

### **Caution on Mulch Depth**

Some homeowners mulch their own beds every year. In several areas the mulch is significantly higher than the sidewalk. This holds water on the walk and creates icy conditions in the winter. Another problem is the mulch bed height coming too close to the 1x12 trim board below the siding. If drainage permits there should be at least 2" to 3" of space from the top of the mulch to the bottom of the trim board.

**Shearing and Pruning** - In late May and early June the Tamarack grounds crew will prune/shear lilacs and other early blooming plants. The timing is important as delayed shearing will result in no flowers next year. In mid-June shearing will start on shrubs overhanging walks or encroaching on air conditioner units. Shearing and hand pruning all remaining shrubs (at the sides and back of homes) will be completed in late summer/early fall.

**No Pruning: Flags and List** - If you have any bushes or shrubs that you don't want pruned please mark them with a yellow (do not prune) flag. The flags are available at the Tamarack office or can be delivered upon written request.

Some Tamarack residents prefer to do their own gardening and trimming of their shrubs. This is allowed as long as the trimming does not include larger trees and evergreens. If you wish to perform your own gardening and trimming (of bushes and shrubs) please submit a request to the office stating "No Pruning". The current no pruning list is posted on website and on the Clubhouse bulletin board.

**Plant Removal and Replacement** - Requests for removals and replacements received this spring will be completed from August - October. Plant removal will be completed during the hot and dry month of August. Replacement plants will be installed in the cooler fall months (September/October).

### **Weed Control**

Tamarack grounds staff begins treating weeds in common area beds in May. They will not treat perennial beds around the homes. Roundup is used to spot treat visible weeds. If you do not wish to have herbicides applied near your home please send your request via email to [Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com). A list of current addresses requesting no herbicide treatment is posted on the website.

**Garlic Mustard - An Invasive Weed:** We are looking for volunteers to help locate and remove this invasive weed. Volunteers will be given an area of responsibility and instructions from Bob Schroeder. If interested in helping out please email [Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com).

**Identification:** First year plants have dark green heart or kidney-shaped leaves with scalloped-edges and wrinkled appearance. Leaves and stems smell like garlic when crushed. Second year plants have small, white, 4-petaled flowers that bloom throughout the spring. See picture to the right.

**Control:** Pull when soil conditions permit (after a heavy rain). Cut plants at their base just below the soil with a sharp trowel. Place pulled/cut plants in plastic bags for trash disposal (do **not** place them out with your yard waste).

For more information on control techniques, visit the [Garlic Mustard factsheet](#) published by the University of Wisconsin-Extension.



## **Summer Painting, Fences and Deck Staining**

This year's scheduled work will start with deck rail painting at all of the homes in Phase 1 (Blue Spruce, Red Cedar, White Pine, Sugar Maple and Pin Oak). The work will begin the last week in May. The paint crew will then start on the list of resident painting work orders. Deck staining based on inspections will be performed in July and August. In late fall the crew will switch over to fence painting.

**East Border Fence** – With the exception of two leaning fence sections and at 4x4 posts, all of the new fence boards are attached from 9 Red Maple thru 15 Hemlock. We plan to straighten fence posts along this stretch this summer.

## **Seasonal Reminders**

### **Grill Safety**

The careful use of outdoor grills remains the best way to prevent fires. The City of Madison Fire Code states that open flame cooking devices (gas/LP/charcoal grills) cannot be operated within 10 feet of combustible construction (i.e. building or deck). Although this ordinance only applies to buildings with 3 or more units it is in the interest of safety that it should be adhered to by all Tamarack homeowners.

As an alternative, electric grills are not restricted by the open flame ordinance and can be used on a deck and within 10' of the building.

Please observe the following guide lines when grilling outdoors.

- If at all possible the grill should be placed over a concrete surface away from the building when in use.
- Do not use the grill under a deck and be aware of overhanging branches.
- LP Grills cannot be stored on decks above the first floor. Propane gas is very flammable and easily ignited by a single spark.
- Do not grill on windy days.
- When using a propane grill make sure to shut off the valve at the tank after each use.
- Most importantly never leave the grill unattended when in use.

### **Yard Waste Disposal**

**Yard Waste Dumpster** - Small amounts of yard waste can be placed loosely in the bin labeled "Yard Waste" located to the **north** of the tennis courts. Remove the yard waste from its bag or container when it is dropped in the "Yard Waste" bin and properly dispose of the bag/container in the trash.

**What is Yard Waste** - Yard waste includes leaves, straw, weeds, flower stalks and grass clippings. **Please do not mix any plastic containers, dirt or other refuse with the yard waste, as it requires additional sorting time.**

**Curbside Yard Waste Collection** - Tamarack Staff will pick up yard waste each Monday morning from April thru the end of October. Preferably the yard waste should be placed in a Rubbermaid tote, small trash can, or piled loosely near the end of your driveway. Please do not mix dirt or planters with yard waste to be picked up. Large sticks should be placed adjacent to the container.

**Digging by Your Post Lights** - When planting shrubs or flowers near the white fence at the front of your unit, be aware of the wire that runs from the garage to the post light. If you intend to do any planting in this area, dig cautiously to avoid damaging or severing the wire that operates the post light.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an insect that has decimated thousands of ash trees in the Midwest. The area affected by the EAB continues to grow and there are now several confirmed sightings in Madison. During 2017 budget deliberations, the Maintenance Committee increased the number of ash trees to be removed each year due to the local presence of the EAB. Since the beginning of the Tamarack's EAB plan the number of ash trees has been reduced from 93 to 70 ash trees. The following is a summary of Tamarack's EAB plan:

1. The Association will remove and replace five to six ash trees per year.
2. The ash trees removed will be selected on a basis of overall health, location and branch structure.
3. The most undesirable/unhealthy trees will be removed first.
4. Trees will be replaced as space permits.
5. Residents will be allowed to adopt an ash tree and pay for annual insecticide treatment through a group treatment program organized by the Association.

The group treatment program is scheduled for late May or early June and approximately half of the owners sign up to treat an ash tree near their home. A list of ash trees that will not be treated is available on the Tamarack website. If you would like to adopt an ash tree please contact Jean at the Tamarack office [Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com](mailto:Jean.Hilgers@tamaracktrails.com). The cost to adopt and pay for the treatment for one tree is \$100 every two years.

Homeowners can keep a close watch on ash trees for signs of possible EAB infestation and report them to the grounds staff. Signs include a thinning canopy, D-shaped holes in the bark, new branches sprouting low on the trunk, cracked bark and woodpeckers pulling at the bark to get to insect larvae beneath it.

The following websites provide detailed information on the EAB, [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/toolkit.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/toolkit.cfm), and [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

### **Frequently Overlooked Policies**

**Landscaping Changes Require Approval** - Landscaping changes involving trees or shrubs, and flower garden expansion must be approved by the Association. If you are considering landscaping changes around your home, please observe the following rules:

Flowers, small shrubs or other ornamental plants may be planted within 4 ft. of a foundation wall, sidewalk, patio, or decorative fence without requiring approval. However, there must be a 4 inch area between any plantings or fencing and the turf in order to facilitate mowing of the turf. The homeowner assumes all responsibility for maintenance of any new planting areas they establish.

Planting areas extending beyond 4 ft. from a foundation wall, sidewalk, patio, or decorative fence or in any other area (such as along a driveway, or in the middle of a turf area) that would replace existing turf requires Association approval.

For more details on trimming, shrub replacement or planting guidelines see Policy Resolution V-500 (Landscape Policy) available on the Tamarack website.

**Lawn Ornaments – Limited in Number & Subject to Review** - The following items are permitted within a unit Owner's planting beds: bird feeders, lawn figures or ornamental sculptures. Such items should be limited in quantity and size and kept in good repair. If any Tamarack Owner has objections to another Owner's use of such items, he/she may bring a petition before the Architectural Review Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

**Trash & Recycling Containers** – These are to be stored inside your garage.

**Exterior Modifications Require Architectural Review Board Approval** - As a reminder to all residents, any exterior building modifications or improvements require the approval of the Architectural Review Board. Policy Resolution IV-401 provides guidelines for getting your project approved. Copies of Policy Resolutions are available at the office and on the website.