



## Case Study

### Lake Barrington Shores

#### At a Glance

**Client:**

Lake Barrington Shores

**Location:**

Lake Barrington, Illinois

**Tree Care Needs:**

Trees and natural beauty are central to a high quality of life at the condominium community. With more than 13,000 trees, the site requires skilled and consistent care.

**The Care of Trees Advantage:**

For nearly 30 years, an experienced team from The Care of Trees has provided comprehensive tree care, which includes preservation, pruning on rotating cycles, fertilization, disease prevention, removal and planting. Additionally, the team collaborates with resident groups and others involved in care of the site, which further enhances the vitality of the community's trees.

### For 30 Years, The Care of Trees Remains Integral to Partnership That Preserves Beauty of Condo Community

#### The Client

Lake Barrington Shores is an award-winning condominium community in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Thirteen condo buildings, housing about 2,500 residents, are set on 512 acres surrounding the beautiful mile-long Lake Barrington.

The area offers residents extensive recreation and social opportunities, with indoor and outdoor sports facilities, a 33-acre forest preserve with trails, a marina with boating activities and a variety of interest groups that residents can join. The Lake Barrington Shores Community Homeowner's Association officially oversees the community.

#### Unique Tree Care Needs

Natural beauty has become the hallmark of Lake Barrington Shores, inspiring the motto, "Where the beauty of the land and the serenity of the lake enrich our lives." Since it was established in the mid 1970s as one of the area's first conservation developments, it has built a legacy of environmental stewardship. From the start, developers chose to retain 33 acres adjoining the northeast corner of the lake as a forest preserve and aimed to minimize any tree loss during construction.

Through the 13-year construction phase to today, conscientious tree care has been essential for retaining the community's beauty and appeal. The sheer size of the property, featuring more than 13,000 oak, hickory, maple, locust, pine, conifer and other trees in the forest and around the condos, demands continuous attention to ensure that the natural areas remain vibrant.

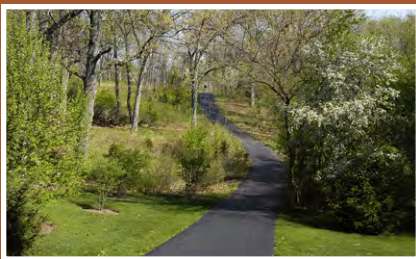
"We try to be good stewards of the trees to preserve them for many years to come," explained Dave Coulter, landscape coordinator for the community. "The lifestyle makes this place what it is and the trees are a big component of that. But this look and this appeal don't happen by accident."

#### The Care of Trees Difference

For nearly 30 years, The Care of Trees has been integral in a partnership working to protect the trees and natural areas of Lake Barrington Shores. Initially, The Care of Trees teamed with Urban Forest Management and Greengard Engineering to create a construction plan that preserved as many trees as possible.

“The fact that The Care of Trees has been here for nearly 30 years is the highest compliment you can get. There are very high expectations of contractors here. They wouldn’t still be here if they didn’t have the trust and respect of the community.”

**Dave Coulter**  
Landscape Contractor



**(top to bottom)** The trees at Lake Barrington shores are well maintained by The Care of Trees; one of the many forest preserve paths; removing non-native plant species with controlled burning.

Before construction commenced, The Care of Trees cleared only the trees that had to be removed to make way for the condos, then pruned and fertilized remaining trees to fortify them. They met regularly with builders and contractors to ensure that construction took the trees into consideration.

### From Preservation to Ongoing Care

Throughout the 13 years of construction to today, a team from The Care of Trees has kept the Lake Barrington Shores tree population thriving. Their comprehensive management of the site’s diverse tree population includes pruning on a rotating cycle, fertilization, disease control, planting, and removal of any dead trees or invasive, non-native plant material.

Coulter values the team’s knowledge and experience, whether they are working with saplings or 200-year-old trees. “It’s not just their experience, but their skill in implementing that experience all the way up and down,” he said. “The Care of Trees does magnificent work. They’re probably one of the best in the country – if not the best.”

While most of the work happens on a set schedule, nature occasionally has plans of its own. The Care of Trees has proven to be particularly valuable in helping save and protect trees during some of Illinois’ powerful storms. “The Care of Trees team seems to be at its best after storms,” Coulter said. “They’re very responsive and consistent. They never let us down.”

### Educating, Collaborating With Residents

Coulter also notes that The Care of Trees professionals are especially responsive and attentive in interfacing with residents. The Care of Trees steps in when trees in private resident courtyards need care and are respectful of residents’ concerns.

Additionally, Charlie Keppel, Vice President of Midwest Sales and Restoration for The Care of Trees, involves residents by attending at least one community meeting each month, where he reports on tree care and landscape issues. The Care of Trees further fosters relations with residents by coordinating Earth Day activities and educational tours that point out various tree species.

Keppel meets regularly with the Conservators, an active group of residents with a passion for the community’s natural preservation, to listen to their concerns and assist with the group’s native plant regeneration efforts. The Care of Trees provides support by removing non-native species such as buckthorn, Japanese honeysuckle, grapevines and multiflora rose, which block light from reaching native plants. In fact, on Earth Day in 2001, as a result of restoration work spearheaded by the Conservators, Lake Barrington Shores earned the honor of being a certified National Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

### Partnership Enhances Community’s Quality of Life

In addition to teaming with the Conservators, The Care of Trees also collaborates today with Coulter and Chicagoland Management, the management company. Both Coulter and Keppel agree that the team approach keeps the community’s trees and vegetation beautiful, and The Care of Trees’ expertise continues to be an essential part of that partnership.

“The fact that The Care of Trees has been here for nearly 30 years is the highest compliment you can get,” Coulter said. “There are some very high expectations. They wouldn’t still be here if they didn’t have the trust and respect of the community.”

**The Care of Trees** is one of the foremost, full service tree care companies in the industry. We have over 15 offices and more than 350 dedicated arborists and support staff serving more than 60,000 residential and commercial clients. We have offices serving Greater Metropolitan areas of Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. We are able to provide a full range of high quality, state-of-the-art, environmentally responsible tree care services. Our strength is that we offer our clients the extensive resources of a large firm combined with the responsiveness and commitment from our local offices.

