

Dear Monarch,

They came and pruned the trees on the slope but hardly touched my tree! I'd like to direct them on how to prune the way I want.

TREE PRUNING

Dear Concerned Resident,

Rest assured, we **inspect** your trees and **verify** that they are pruned correctly. Tree and landscape crews are not allowed to take direction from homeowners so it's best to leave this one to the arborists!

- When a tree has been properly pruned, there should not be a stark difference in its before and after look; we want to promote **healthy**, structurally **stable** trees that will develop sustainably in a manner that is consistent with each species' natural form and growth habits

Common pruning goals:

- Cleaning the crown to remove dead, dying, diseased, destructive, or dangerous branches, and to improve overall canopy health
 - Thinning the crown to reduce density / wind load, and promote better air flow
 - Raising or selectively tipping back the lowest branches to provide adequate clearance from streets, sidewalks, light posts, buildings, etc.
 - Improving the overall canopy structure through targeted pruning to select a dominant central leader, remove crossing / rubbing or heavy lateral limbs that may be at risk of failure, or other techniques that will help to reduce risk.
- Tree care companies are paid to prune according to **ISA and ANSI standards***, and to follow the scope of work that has been agreed upon by the board of directors, management, and their landscape consultant. They cannot deviate from this scope unless directed to by the property manager.
 - According to the ANSI, "Not more than 25 percent of the foliage should be removed in an annual growing season. The percentage and distribution of foliage to be removed shall be adjusted according to the plant's species, age, health and site."
 - Depending on the species, growth rates and planting location, trees need to be pruned anywhere between twice per year, annually, every other year or even every 5 years.

*ISA = International Society of Arboriculture; ANSI = American National Standards Institute

MONARCH TIP

The more **aggressively** you prune certain species, the more aggressively they may grow back in an effort to replace live foliage needed to **photosynthesize!**