

# Retirement home proposed in Long Grove would remove hundreds of trees

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A proposal for a retirement home in Long Grove would require the removal of hundreds of trees.

Long Grove authorities will have plenty to consider in the coming months, as they review a request from Long Grove Senior Care, LLC, to build a 100-resident home for the elderly on the south side of Illinois Route 53 between Old Hicks and Long Grove roads.

The facility, to be named Inspired Living, would mark development of land that a partnership led by Peter Tosto has pushed for 28 years.

Among the trees that would be removed, some are healthy, some in poor condition, and most somewhere in the middle — which caused debate over their value at a Village Board meeting Tuesday.

“They are in very sorry condition,” said Jordan Glazov, one of the principals of the Northbrook-based Gart Partners, LLC real estate firm. “These trees are not preservable trees.”

Nor are they expendable, some audience members said. In Glazov’s report to the board, many of the trees are listed in “condition three,” which means fair, or “condition four,” which means good, former Trustee Karen Schmitt said.

The report used a scale ranking near-death trees as “one” and perfect trees as “five.”

“There’s no amount of money that will replace a number-three tree or a number-four tree that has to go down for a building,” Schmitt said. 

The money she referred to is the \$670,000 fee the village would charge Long Grove Senior Care for the trees’ removal, should construction plans be approved.

On Tuesday, the board denied a request from Glazov and his group to waive most of that fee.

The site contains numerous species, including more than 30 ashes. Both supporters and opponents of the project agreed that emerald ash borer beetles have devastated ash trees in the area and none of the ashes on the property could be saved.

Though debate focused on trees, several audience members asked how a retirement home might affect traffic. Glazov said only about 5 percent of the facility’s clients would have cars on site, and three staff shifts would change around 6 a.m., 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. to avoid common rush hours.

The proposal went to the Plan Commission, which next meets on July 1.

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“They’re going to be left in their natural state,” Glazov said.

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