

We live in a special place.

The Windings is special because of its woodland setting. Many of us moved here because we loved the trees that surround our homes.

The Windings is set in what ecologists call a *woodland community*, which dates back thousands of years. The arrival of settlers dramatically changed the woodland communities, and in some cases decimated them.

Today we have only a tiny fragment of the woodland communities that once flourished in Northern Illinois and elsewhere.

Look around you. If you are lucky, you have oak trees, hickories or walnuts growing on your property or growing nearby.

If you walk through The Windings today, you will see numerous tree skeletons—trees still standing upright that have died due to age, infestation or changes in the landscape that we homeowners have brought into effect.

Without our trees' ability to replace themselves, we are slowly losing our thousands-of-years-old legacy and the characteristic that makes The Windings so very special.

Fortunately the end of our story hasn't been written. We can take action to conserve and restore our natural heritage. You can learn the steps you can take to restore the health and appearance of the woodland community that includes and surrounds The Windings subdivision.

--Doug D.

When you are thinking about taking a tree down, think also about replacing it with one of the native large trees from this list.

Red Oak



Swamp White Oak



Burr Oak



Chinquapin Oak



Shagbark Hickory



Linden or American Basswood



A more complete listing of possible tree replacements will be published in future Windings' newsletter.

Replacing a downed tree with one of these understory trees can provide color and interest on your property.

Redbud



Serviceberry



Pagoda Dogwood



Witch Hazel



Watch upcoming newsletters for articles about the trees in our area and how we can preserve the special place we have here in the Windings.



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Preserving and Restoring the Windings' Woodland Community



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