The Important Roles of Dead Trees

You may notice in some of our wooded areas that fallen trees have not been removed. Whether the trees fell naturally or were felled by our certified and highly trained arborists, we generally leave the logs and debris in the woods. There are several reasons why the logs and brush remain in these natural areas. At every stage, trees are an essential part of the ecosystem. Whether standing, fallen, or chopped down to a stump, their existence serves many important roles for vegetation and wildlife. Furthermore, designated tree save areas must be naturally preserved as much as possible since there is a legal requirement to leave the remains of biomass, barring extenuating circumstances.

While dead or fallen trees may not be the most attractive part of a wooded area, they are essential to its health and provide the following key benefits:

1. Provides excellent habitat for the wildlife in our local ecosystem
2. Provides a food source for microbes and other organisms, and they in turn are food for birds and other small animals
3. Return valuable resources to the soil to perpetuate the growth of our forest as the trees break down

As you can see, there is a circle of life with plant material. Along with the benefits to the ecosystem, there is cost savings realized when leaving logs where they were chopped down. Of course, there are times we must remove logs or debris if they negatively impact the ecosystem, such as blocking drainage or creating an infestation, as with the Emerald Ash borer. And in some instances, trees are removed because they create a hazardous situation near properties, trails, or roads. However, in most cases you’ll see trees left in their native habitats, providing much needed enrichment to these natural areas.

Should you have questions regarding any wooded areas in our neighborhood, please contact the HOA at 703-729-9704 or [info@broadlandshoa.com](mailto:info@broadlandshoa.com).