

Bowman Field tree cutting plan narrowed as study could start soon

Written by James Bruggers The Courier-Journal
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Tower at Bowman Field. Feb. 23, 2013

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Tower at Bowman Field. Feb. 23, 2013 / Arza Barnett/The Courier-Journal

A long-awaited environmental study of tree cutting and trimming near Bowman Field could begin this spring, as aviation officials narrow the scope of the project they first announced more than two years ago.

The affected area of trees that are too tall will be smaller than authorities first announced in December 2012.

The Louisville Regional [Airport](#)

✚ Authority's Bowman Field Airport Safety Plan seeks to clear air space so pilots are restricted less frequently by weather and lighting.

The authority's board this week authorized Hanson Professional Services to proceed with a \$495,502 environmental assessment of some 150 trees or tree clusters relatively close to the runways. The FAA identified the vegetation last July as too high.

A letter sent to Bowman-area residents this week said local officials are awaiting a federal grant before they start the study.

CLICK THE MAP | [The trees and clusters the FAA says need cutting](#)

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The Courier-Journal obtained the July FAA letter identifying the coordinates of 150 trees and tree clusters, and mapped their locations at courier-journal.com in an interactive graphic. They are clustered at the ends of each runway.

Earlier maps provided by the airport authority suggested as many as 1,000 trees could be in jeopardy, said Michael Hayman, a Seneca Gardens arborist who has closely tracked the issue.

The authority first informed Bowman Field area residents in May 2013 that it would [focus](#)

✚ on a smaller area. At the time, the consultants were identifying about 200 to 250 areas of interest where trees may be too tall.

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