

Bowman Field Neighbors Warned About Trees

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Louisville Airport Authority: Trees To Be Cut Down Due To New Guidelines

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About 500 residents surrounding Bowman Fields said they recently received letters from the Louisville Airport Authority on Saturday, telling them that some of their trees may have to be trimmed or taken down because of new Federal Aviation Administration guidelines.



"We've put together a proposed plan that includes no cost to the residents. We would take care of the trimming or removal. There's a tree replacement and yard restoration element to the program," Trish Burke, of LAA, said.

According to the new federal regulations, Bowman Field Airport will be required to manage the height of trees in the area to protect the aircrafts and surrounding neighborhoods during arrival and departure.

Officials said the size of planes taking off won't change, but the airspace will be larger -- affecting communities like Seneca Gardens and Kingsley, which are south and west of the airport.

But many residents said they're upset with the trimming and cutting down of trees in their neighborhood.

"It's a beautiful neighborhood because it's older and grown up and the trees add so much to it. I think it would do a lot to home values. It would take a lot out of the neighborhood," resident Joyce Elder said.

"Neighbors are concerned, and the one thing everyone wants to know is, 'Does it affect my tree, or the tree that is on the road that I enjoy?' But unfortunately, that's just an answer we won't have right away," Burke said.

Bowman Field is more than 90 years old, and officials said the project will take several years to complete.

Field surveys will begin sometime after July 2012, and officials said that's when more details will be available about which properties will be affected.

The Airport Authority said it will host two workshops in an attempt to answer any questions about the new regulations. The first one will be on Dec. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Bowman Field Administration building on Taylorsville Road.