



# Trees at Cayce Place

Cayce Place is undergoing a major transformation known as Envision Cayce. The Master Plan calls for a mixed-income, mixed-use community, a one-for-one replacement of all existing units and 11 acres of green space.

MDHA has held more than 80 community meetings since the Envision Cayce planning process began in 2013. The number one goal has always been to provide a better home for the families we serve by listening to their needs and wants for their neighborhood. Residents expressed a great desire for a grocery store, a new school and a safer community.

As we plan each phase of construction, we look at how we can create a defensible design, and we consider the tree population at the site. Our goal is and has always been to preserve as many healthy legacy trees as possible, while building critical modern resources for our families.

The delicate balance of environmental protection and enhancing lives of our Cayce families has been at the forefront of the Envision Cayce plans from day one, and that remains true today.

Here are some of the things we took into consideration when looking at the tree canopy at the future site of Explore! Community School.

- At least 23 trees will remain at the site, including eight oak trees ranging from 22 to 60 inches.
- We designed around the largest oak tree in this immediate area; a 60 inch willow oak in good condition.
- In an effort to save more trees, we've limited the amount of parking next to the school, and created additional parking in an area where no trees would need to be removed.
- We consolidated the school from two buildings to one, which allowed us save two rows of trees including four oak trees ranging in size from 22 to 54 inches.
- We are also planting 60 new trees at the school site; the majority of which are at least four inches in diameter.

Throughout the process, we are making sure that no tree is removed that doesn't have to be. In fact, we walked the site with our landscape architects and an urban forester as recently as this week to ensure our plan is up-to-date.

We value our legacy trees. It is unfortunate that some have to be removed, some due to a tree's health and some due to construction. These decisions at the site of the future school were made in concert with a professional landscape architect and signed off on by Metro's urban forester.

Some of you have asked about tree preservation and protection at Kirkpatrick Park. We recently had to remove the protected barriers/fences so that we could install utilities. An arborist was present during the removal of the fence and the utility work. If the tree roots were disturbed, the arborist treated and pruned the roots appropriately to preserve the trees. After the work is complete, the dirt will be replaced and the fences put back in place, all with an arborist onsite.

If you have questions or concerns about trees at Cayce Place, feel free to contact MDHA Director of Communications Jamie Berry at [jberry@nashville-mdha.org](mailto:jberry@nashville-mdha.org).