

ARBORETUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TREE POLICY

The Arboretum Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is working to save all trees possible in our community. This is necessary to facilitate management of storm water and maintain the visual ambience of our neighborhood. To that end, only trees that meet the criteria of the Arboretum Tree Policy will be approved for removal.

Unless a signed **“Permit to Remove a Tree”** is obtained from the ARC, it is a violation and a finable offence to remove any:

- Hardwood or softwood trees larger than four inches in trunk diameter measured at a point 3 feet above ground level
- Small flowering trees larger than 2 inches in trunk diameter measured at a point 3 feet above ground level

An **“Application for Permit to Remove a Tree”** is available from the ARC (clubhouse) and can also be found on the Arboretum website.

ARC approval for tree removal may be given for the following specific reasons:

- Tree is dead or diseased
- Tree trunk is less than the required diameter minimum
- Tree is within 12 feet of the primary dwelling perimeter (roof overhang area)
- Tree is within 3 feet of a paved driveway or paved walkway
- Tree has been severely damaged by lightening affecting its structural soundness
- Tree presents a lean of 45 degrees or greater measured from ground level
- Tree represents a hazard to property, including but not limited to parked automobiles, structures, walkways and driveways *
- Tree appears to be aesthetically undesirable with respect to the design and layout of the property landscaping *
- Trees that must be removed to allow for construction of a new dwelling

*** in the sole opinion of the ARC**

A tree which the property owner believes to be diseased or dead, that the ARC has been unable to approve for removal, may have that decision revisited if such disease has been diagnosed by a certified member of the **“International Society of Arborists”** or a **“North Carolina Certified Forester.”** The opinion of a tree removal company representative is acceptable only if that person supplies either of the above-mentioned credentials and a written diagnosis that can be given to the ARC.

Once a tree(s) is approved for removal and an ARC **“Permit to Remove a Tree”** has been issued, the homeowner must also obtain from the Town of Caswell Beach a permit to remove the tree per Ordinance 150.072 (D).

Whenever possible and desirable, removed trees should be replaced by planting nursery quality trees. **The ARC may require you to replace removed trees.**

If tree removal contractors will position equipment on Arboretum roads, proper safety measures must be employed. The use of traffic cones, tape, or other means to alert and, if necessary, divert traffic, must be used.

TREE REMOVAL APPEALS PROCESS

Any homeowner who has submitted an **“Application for Permit to Remove a Tree”** and, has been denied a permit, may appeal the decision in writing to the Arboretum Board of Directors. The Board will review the appeal within 10 business days and will solicit written input from both the homeowner and the ARC. An appeal hearing date will be set to which both the homeowner and the ARC will be present. Within 10 business days after the hearing, the Board will inform the homeowner and ARC of its decision. Please refer to “The Arboretum Board of Directors’ Appeals Process” document for more complete information regarding Board appeal procedures.