



Ashborough East Architectural Review Board

221 Brandywine Drive
Summerville, SC 29485

Phone/Fax : 843-821-1275

Tree Removal Review Process for Larger Diameter Trees in Ashborough East

Ashborough East ARB approval is required for ALL tree removals in Ashborough East.

In addition, Dorchester County approval is required for removal of all trees which are 24" in diameter or larger. An abridged version of the latest Dorchester County Tree Protection Ordinance 12.4, as applicable to Ashborough East homeowners, is attached.

Ashborough East residents wishing to remove trees meeting the large tree criteria must obtain a Dorchester County Tree Removal Permit first and attach a copy of the permit to the standard Ashborough East ARB Tree Removal Application when applying for ARB review.

The process for scheduling a Dorchester County tree inspection and obtaining a Dorchester County Tree Removal Permit is as follows:

1. Fill in and complete the County Permit Form (last page).
2. Deliver the completed form by any of the following methods to the Dorchester County Planning and Codes Enforcement Department:
 - a. Scan the completed form, convert it to a PDF file, and attach it to an explanatory email addressed to the Department administrator (contact the Department at 843-832-0020 for the most current email address).
 - b. Fax the completed form to the at 843-832-0037 with an explanatory cover sheet.
 - c. Mail (or deliver the completed form in person) to the Planning and Codes Enforcement Department, 500 N. Main St. – Box 3, Summerville, SC 29483.
3. Contact the Department by phone (843-832-0020) to advise that you have sent the completed form. The administrator may be able to tell you how soon the inspector will be able to visit your property.
4. The inspector will visit your property and review your application usually within 3 days. The inspector may or may not knock on your door to discuss the application with you. If approved, the inspector will leave a copy of the Tree Removal Permit with comments and signature on your front porch. A copy of this signed Permit must be included with your Ashborough East ARB Tree Removal Request application.
5. Further County information can be found at <https://www.dorchestercountysc.gov/government/planning-development/planning-zoning>

Dorchester County Ordinance
- Section 12.4 Tree and Canopy Protection Standards

(abridged to include sections applying only to Ashborough East homeowners)

12.4.2 Tree Classifications

Trees protected by ordinance are defined and categorized as follows. Any tree defined in subsections (a) through (c), immediately below, shall be considered Protected trees.

(a) Significant Tree.

A tree twelve inches (12") in diameter at breast height (DBH) to twenty-four inches (24"), excluding pine, shall be protected by Dorchester County under this Ordinance because of its contribution to the environment, property values, and quality of life.

(b) Required Tree.

Any tree provided as required under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be protected by Dorchester County.

(c) Grand Tree.

A tree of special value due to its age and stature is deemed of irreplaceable value to Dorchester County. Trees twenty-four inches (24") in DBH or greater, including pine, shall be considered Grand trees and protected by Dorchester County under this Ordinance.

12.4.3 Applicability

The regulations set forth in this section shall apply to all trees and land in Dorchester County except as noted herein and elsewhere in this Ordinance. No provision of this section shall be construed to exempt or relieve one from wetlands protection standards in this Ordinance. Those not requiring land disturbance and Tree Removal Permits are those parties listed below. Such are, however, strongly encouraged by Dorchester County to conserve trees so as to uphold the intent of this Ordinance and the quality of life enjoyed by residents of the county.

(a) Parties exempt:

The parties listed below are exempt from this section to the extent defined in regard to each party

(6) Occupied single-family residence:

A single-family residential site equal to or smaller than one (1) acre shall be exempt from protecting Significant Trees, Required Trees, **but not Grand Trees**, provided the lot is occupied by one (1) single-family house.

Dorchester County Ordinance
- Section 12.4 Tree and Canopy Protection Standards

(abridged to include sections applying only to Ashborough East homeowners)

12.4.4 Tree Removal Permit

It shall be unlawful to fell, improperly prune, or otherwise destroy a Protected Tree without first obtaining a Tree Removal Permit from the Zoning Administrator.

(a) Exception:

A Tree Removal Permit is not necessary to remove a tree creating imminent danger to other trees, crops, permanent structures, public utilities, rights of way, or persons. A tree posing imminent danger shall be defined as one damaged by a storm, fire, or vehicular accident such that its structural integrity is seriously compromised and that the tree can be reasonably expected to fall and injure persons or structures within three (3) business days.

(b) Procedure

(1) Application for permits must be made at least three (3) business days in advance of proposed tree removal. The Zoning Administrator or his assign shall issue the permit, valid for six (6) months, if the proposal meets the criteria for tree removal.

(4) Trees to be removed will be physically marked with brightly colored Engineer's Tape. The property may first be inspected by the County Zoning Administrator, or his designee, before approval is granted. The tape on those trees approved for cutting will be left in place. Any engineer tape errantly placed on those trees to be preserved (not approved for cutting) will be removed by the inspector. Following inspection by the County inspector, the permit will be granted for full approval, partial approval, or disapproval.

(5) It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to post the Tree Removal Permit on the property in a place on the site visible from the public right-of-way throughout any tree removal activity.

(c) General criteria:

The following criteria shall constitute grounds for a Tree Removal Permit regardless of use or zone.

(1) Trees potentially hazardous to surrounding trees, crops, permanent structures, public utilities, rights of way, or persons due to a loss of stability caused by high wind, unstable soil, age, or other natural forces, as certified by a registered forester or certified, qualified arborist who holds a County business license.

(2) Diseased and/or infectious trees and trees in decline, as certified by a registered forester or certified, qualified arborist who holds a Dorchester County business license.

(3) Trees or their root systems causing visible damage to permanent structures that cannot be prevented through proper pruning, as determined by a certified, qualified arborist who holds a County business license.

Dorchester County Ordinance
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(4) Trees or their root systems causing damage to utility lines that cannot be prevented through proper pruning, as certified by a registered forester or certified, qualified arborist who holds a County business license.

(5) Trees inhibiting access through a public right-of-way such that proper pruning cannot mitigate the condition.

(6) Trees creating hazardous conditions on pedestrian walkways underneath such trees due to excessive debris of a size and shape known to cause injuries from tripping and falling (e.g., seed pods of sweet gum trees), as determined by the Zoning Administrator.



DORCHESTER COUNTY
TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Planning & Codes Enforcement Department
500 N. Main Street, Box 3
Summerville, South Carolina 29483
Phone: (843) 832-0020 • Fax: (843) 832-0037

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____ Staff: _____ PERMIT NUMBER: _____

Instructions: Applicants must complete and submit this application with all the required information to the **Department of Planning & Codes Enforcement** at 500 N. Main Street, Box 3, Summerville.

Please complete and submit both pages. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicant Information

Applicant: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Site Information

Location/address: _____

Subdivision: _____ TMS# _____
(Name of subdivision or neighborhood) (Tax Map Serial Number can be found on your tax bill)

Have you lived at this address for more than two years? Yes No

Do you own the property? Yes No (If no, the owner must provide **written** permission to remove tree(s).)

Property Owner: _____ Same as applicant

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Information

Number of trees to be removed: _____ Approximate diameter of trees: _____

Reason for removal: _____

(May require verification and certification from an Arborist.)

DORCHESTER COUNTY
TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION
(CONTINUED)

Use this space to draw a site plan depicting the property and showing the approximate location of structure(s) and the tree(s) being considered for removal.

Upon receipt of this application, an inspection will be scheduled and conducted.

MARK TREES WITH PAINT OR RIBBON

Upon approval, the applicant will be given a tree removal permit to be prominently displayed on or near the tree location any time work is being conducted.

PERMIT EXPIRES IN SIX (6) MONTHS

Pursuant to Section 6-29-1145 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, is this tract or parcel of land restricted by any recorded covenant that is contrary to, conflicts with or prohibits the activity described in the application?

Yes No

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Planning Staff Use Only

Approved _____ Denied _____ Unnecessary

Notes: _____

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____ RETURNED DATE: _____