

## **Ashborough East Tree Removal and Trimming Criteria**

Trees represent an important asset to our community. They provide our community with an established appearance which enhances property values. During summer, they provide cool refreshing shade and reduce home air conditioning costs. They provide shelter for birds and other wildlife, delighting young and old alike. Throughout the fall and into winter, leaves with a variety of textures and shapes change from green to muted browns, reds, and yellows. Trees create a verdant park-like setting, giving an established character to our community. Because trees are important to the maintenance of our property values and community, their removal is regulated and requires approval by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) as authorized by the Ashborough East Community Covenants (Article VII General Provisions, Section h) & Bylaws and the Board of Directors. Ashborough East ARB approval is required for ALL tree removals. In addition, Dorchester County approval is required for removal of hardwood trees which are 24" in diameter or larger.

**TREE REMOVAL:** Tree trunk diameter determines whether ARB review is required. Trees which are 2" in diameter or less at chest height (48") are exempted from ARB review and may be removed at the discretion of the homeowner. All other trees require ARB review. Trees must be site-inspected and approved by an ARB representative prior to removal. Removal Form A-1 is required (see page 4 in this document).

Tree removal criteria applied by the ARB are simple and straightforward. An ARB representative can approve a removal, after having conducted a site review, if:

- 1.) The tree is dead or gives evidence of dying;
- 2.) The tree is tipping dangerously over or toward a house;
- 3.) The tree roots are causing visible damage to a house, driveway, or sidewalk;
- 4.) The tree is located in an area where the ARB has approved construction of a swimming pool, outbuilding, or fence or other major structural or property addition;
- 5.) The tree canopy and root system are adversely affecting lawn growth or appearance
  - a. Note: Homeowners must commit to lawn re-sodding, heavy lawn reseeded, or planting of acceptable and durable ground cover if they wish to improve lawn or groundcover growth and appearance by removing trees. The **Supplemental Bare Earth Remediation** form (see page 6) must be included with FORM A-1 in these cases.

These criteria are applied strictly in front yards. More latitude of interpretation is applied in rear yards, which are out of public view. A homeowner's willingness to replace a tree or re-landscape an area where tree removal is requested is encouraged by the ARB.

**TREE TRIMMING:** ARB Form A-2 (see page 5) for trimming is required, for:

- 1.) Removal of more than 25% of the existing crown of a tree, and/or
- 2.) Removal of limbs 6" in diameter or larger

Lower limbs of trees which are less than 6" in diameter may be removed without ARB approval, provided tree service personnel DO NOT USE SPIKES on shoes to climb trees to remove branches. This practice, called "spiking", while convenient for tree service personnel, is a common cause of insect infestation, disease, and tree death. Delimiting a tree to cause tree death is absolutely forbidden.

Removal of all side limbs causing the tree look like a telephone pole (also known as "lion-tailing") is forbidden.

The ARB is committed to working with, balancing, and evaluating the tree-related needs of each applicant fairly with due consideration of precedent and the Ashborough East Community Covenants & Bylaws.

### **DORCHESTER COUNTY REVIEW AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS – 24" dia. or larger Hardwoods**

Dorchester County has a Grand Tree inspection ordinance requiring tree removal permitting for large hardwood trees. An approved Dorchester County Tree Removal Permit must be included with ARB FORM A-1 for all hardwoods which are 24" dia. or larger. Contact the Dorchester Building and Zoning Department for details and to arrange an inspection visit.

## **DEBRIS REMOVAL REQUIREMENT**

All portions of downed trees must be removed from homeowner properties and not deposited within or adjacent to lands surrounding Ashborough East. All debris must be deposited in approved landfill sites per local ordinance. All stumps must be cut down to ground level ("grade"). Stump removal by grinding out is recommended.

## **VIOLATION**

Violation of the Ashborough East ARB and/or Dorchester County review processes (i.e., unauthorized tree removal or intentionally creating conditions to cause tree death) can have serious legal and financial consequences. Please contact the ARB at 821-1275 if you have any questions.

## **Tree Identification**

The following information was developed to help homeowners determine the difference between TREES (ARB removal approval required) and SHRUBS (ARB removal approval not required) growing within Ashborough East.

### **Ashborough East Tree List**

(species requiring ARB approval for removal)

1. Apple (ornamental & fruiting varieties)
2. Ash (Green and Mountain)
3. Bald Cypress
4. Beech
5. Birch (River and White)
6. Black Tupelo
7. Cedar
8. Cherry (ornamental & fruiting varieties)
9. Chinese Tallow (Popcorn Tree)
10. Crabapple
11. Dogwood (Flowering & Kousa)
12. Elm
13. Ginkgo
14. Golden Rain Tree
15. Hackberry
16. Hemlock
17. Honey Locust
18. Hornbeam (also known as Ironwood)
19. Japanese Zelkova
20. Linden
21. Magnolia ("Grandiflora", "Soulangiana", etc.)
22. Maple (Red, Silver, Norway, Sugar, Japanese)
23. Mimosa
24. Oak (all varieties)
25. Palmetto
26. Peach (ornamental & fruiting varieties)
27. Pear (ornamental & fruiting varieties)
28. Pecan
29. Pine (all varieties)
30. Plum (ornamental & fruiting varieties)
31. Redbud
32. Sassafras
33. Sourwood
34. Sweetgum (ARB is more lenient in approving Sweetgum removals)
35. Sycamore (including London Plane-Tree)
36. Tulip Tree
37. Walnut
38. Willow

The above flora are identified as TREES in Landscape Plants of the Southeast\*, R. Gordon Halfacre and Anne R. Shawcroft, (1979), Sparks Press, Raleigh, NC.

### **Definitions of Tree, Shrub, and Bush**

(from Webster's 3<sup>rd</sup> New International Dictionary, editor in chief Philip Babcock Gove, Ph.D., Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, MA (1993))

#### **A. Tree**

"A woody perennial plant having a single main stem that may be short, but is usually considerably elongated, has generally few or no branches on its lower part, and is crowned with a head of branches and foliage" (p. 2435)

#### **B. Shrub**

"A low, usually several-stemmed woody plant" (p.2108)

#### **C. Bush**

"A low densely branched shrub, suggesting a single plant." (p.301)

### **Examples of Species of Shrubs**

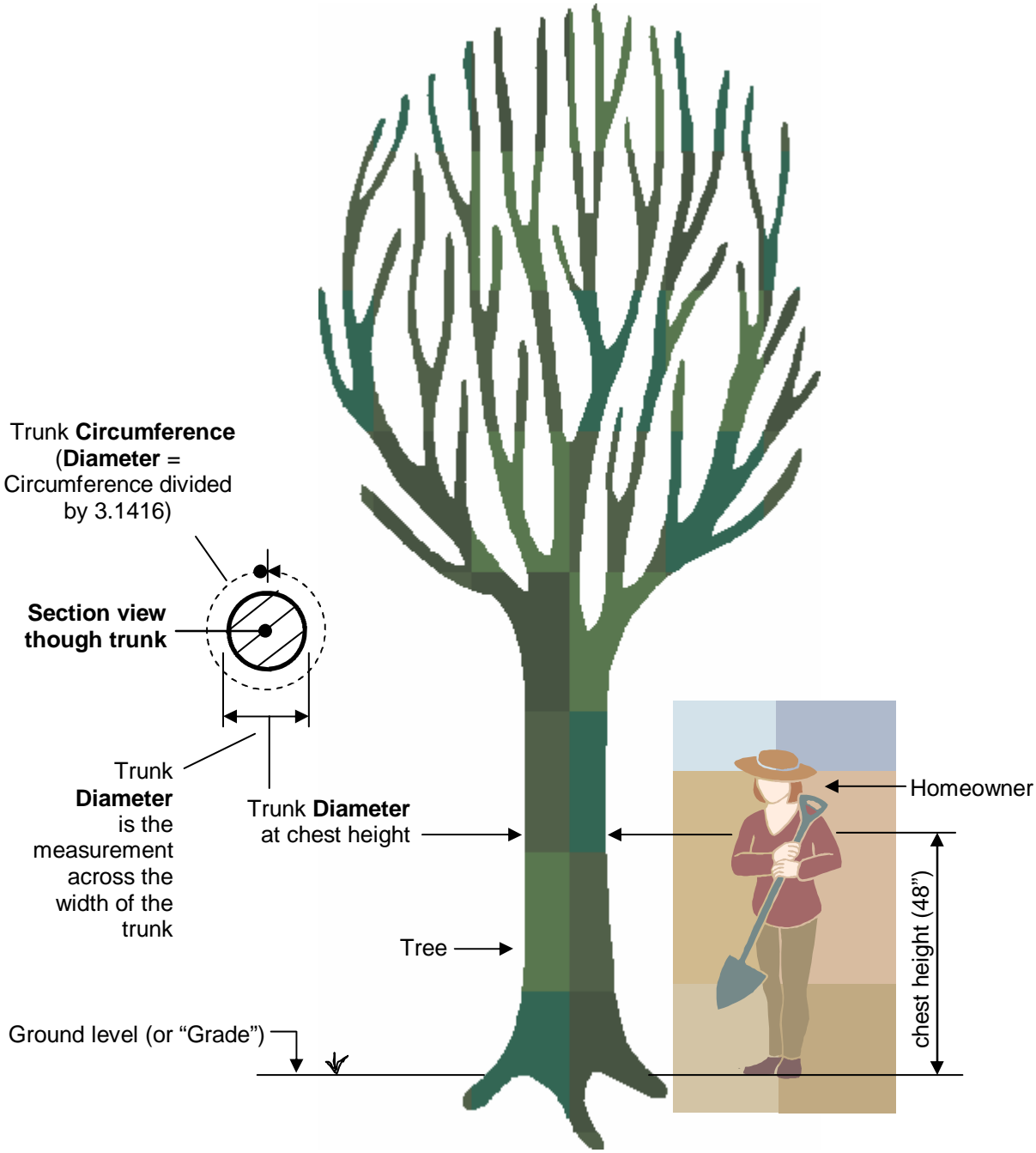
(shrubs do not require ARB approval for removal)

Azalea	Gardenia	Privet
Bamboo	Holly	Quince
Boxwood	Honeysuckle	Raphiolepis
Camelia	Hydrangea	Rhododendron
Cleyera	Jasmine	Rose
Cotoneaster	Juniper	Spirea
Crape Myrtle	Laurel	Star Magnolia
Deutzia	Ligustrum	Sweet Bay
Elaeagnus	Lilac	Viburnum
Euonymus	Oleander	Wax Myrtle
Fatsia	Pampas Grass	Yucca
Firethorn	Pittosporum	
Forsythia	Podocarpus	

The above flora are identified as SHRUBS in Landscape Plants of the Southeast\*, R. Gordon Halfacre and Anne R. Shawcroft, (1979), Sparks Press, Raleigh, NC.

#### **\*Notes:**

1. Landscape Plants of the Southeast is available at the Summerville Library under call number "635.9 HAL".
2. Contact John Mojonier, Chairman – ARB (821-1275), if you have any questions or need help regarding identification of trees or shrubs on your property.
3. Identification information is also available on the Internet, other gardening books (e.g., "Southern Living" series), local master gardeners, landscapers, and the Clemson Extension Service.



**Tree Measurement Reference Data**  
 Ashborough East and Dorchester County Tree Policies  
 (determination of Trunk Diameter)

**Tree Removal Application**  
*Ashborough East Homeowners Association, Inc.*

**FORM A-1 – Tree Removal**

**TO:** Architectural Review Board  
Ashborough East Homeowners Association, Inc.  
221 Brandywine Drive  
Summerville, SC 29485

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number Email address

I have attached a **MARKED PLOT PLAN** showing the following trees, which I hereby request approval to remove:

Type of tree (Oak, Gum, Pine, etc.)	Tree Diameter	Reason for removal	To be replaced?
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____

If you plan to replace any of the above, please identify type, size, and location of replacement tree(s) on a **marked plot plan**. Trees are a valuable asset of our community, adding shade, color, beauty, texture, and variety to our environment, and enhancing our property values. We encourage replacement wherever and whenever possible.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tree removal service: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Est. cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree Trimming Application**  
*Ashborough East Homeowners Association, Inc.*

**FORM A-2 – Tree Trimming Application**

**TO:** Architectural Review Board  
Ashborough East Homeowners Association, Inc.  
221 Brandywine Drive  
Summerville, SC 29485

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number Email address date

I have attached a **MARKED PLOT PLAN** showing the following trees, which I hereby request approval to trim by removing more than 25% of the crown, or limbs 6" in diameter or greater:

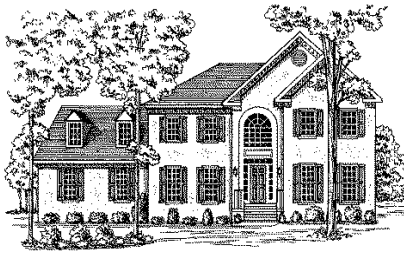
Type of tree (Oak, Gum, Pine, etc.)	Tree Diameter	Trimming intention (removal of 25%+ crown or 6"+ dia. limbs)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Trees are a valuable asset of our community, adding shade, color, beauty, texture, and variety to our environment, and enhancing our property values. We encourage careful trimming to maintain attractive tree shape, appearance, and health.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tree removal service: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Est. cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Ashborough East Architectural Review Board

221 Brandywine Drive  
Summerville, SC 29485

Phone/Fax : 843-821-1275

### SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT TO REMEDIATE BARE EARTH AREAS AS A CONDITION FOR TREE REMOVAL APPROVAL

I wish to remove one or more trees on my property to eliminate bare earth areas in order to re-establish healthy lawn and/or healthy groundcover growth. I understand that if these trees are approved by the ARB for removal for this reason, the ARB will require that I re-sod, heavily reseed, or plant approved groundcover to eliminate bare earth areas that currently exist around said trees within the time period specified and agreed to below (which can be no later than six (6) months from the date of ARB tree removal approval, per our Community Covenants). I further understand that these areas must be kept in good on-going condition, and if the remediation planting should die, it will be replaced with healthy like landscape material until such time as normal lawn or groundcover growth is sustained on a continuing basis\*:

1. A **property plan** is attached with location of subject trees and remediation areas shown.
2. Trees under consideration for removal (indicate species and diameter):
  - a. Tree #1: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Tree #2: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Tree #3: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Tree #4: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Attach supplemental list if other trees are to be included.
3. Type of remediation (type of sod, type of heavy reseeding, or type of groundcover):  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Area will be remediated by (indicate date): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Homeowner (print name): \_\_\_\_\_
9. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Ashborough East Covenants, Article VII, General Provisions:**

"Maintenance Required By Owner

*Each Owner shall keep all lots owned by him and all improvements therein or thereon in good order and repair, including but not by way of limitation, the seeding, watering and mowing of all lawns, the pruning and cutting of all trees and shrubbery and the painting (or other appropriate external care) of all buildings and other improvements, all in a manner and with such frequency as is consistent with safety and good property management."*