

## TREE PRESERVATION STANDARDS FOR GRASSY CREEK

Having recognized the importance of preserving the natural landscape through the protection of existing trees, to lessen air pollution; to increase dust filtration; to reduce noise, to prevent soil erosion; to improve surface drainage and minimize flooding; to ensure that noise, glare, and other distractions of movement in one area do not adversely affect activity within other adjacent areas; to beautify and enhance improved and undeveloped land; to preserve and protect both the natural amenities within the neighborhood and to ensure that excessive tree cutting does not reduce property values; the Grassy Creek ARB does adopt the following with the intent to encourage the protection and replacement of trees consistent with the economic and healthful enjoyment of private property:

- (1) Regulating and restricting the removal of trees from all developed and undeveloped real property
- (2) Providing for replacement of trees
- (3) Establishing tree protection during land clearing and construction
- (4) Providing penalties for violations of this policy
  - a. Each tree removed shall be identified as a separate offense
  - b. Should a stop work order be issued, each day of violation also represents a separate offense and separate fine.
  - c. The fine shall be based on an average wholesale cost of \$550 per four-inch caliper for each tree that would be required for replacement on the site. Should the tree(s) be removed without determination of the caliper of tree(s), the ARB shall determine a minimum fine of \$1000 or more.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**REPLACEMENT TREE:** Any tree that is planted in order to replace an existing tree that must be removed. Replacement trees must have a minimum size of four inches in caliper and be 10 to 18 feet in height.

**CALIPER:** The diameter of a tree, measured 12 inches above the ground. This measurement is commonly associated with proposed or newly planted trees.

**DIAMETER BREAST HEIGHT (DBH):** The diameter of a tree, measured at breast height (4.5 feet) above the ground. If a tree trunk splits at ground level and does not share a common base, each trunk shall be measured as a separate tree. If a multi-trunk tree splits below the 4.5 foot mark all trunks shall be measured separately and count as one tree. This measurement is commonly associated with existing trees

**SITE PLAN:** Includes location map, property lines, name of property owner, the building lay-out with driveways or other hardscape areas, the tree protection zone, and a project contact's name and phone number. (often received in paperwork at closing)

***TREE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE.*** A plan showing the location, species and sizes of all replacement trees with total replacement caliper inches required.

In the event that any tree shall be determined to be severely damaged, of inferior quality, or in hazardous condition/location so as to endanger the public health, safety, or welfare, written authorization shall be given by the ARB, and the tree removed with replacement as determined by the ARB. To assist in making the above mentioned determination, the ARB may require that a written assessment by a certified arborist describing the condition of the tree be provided.

**TREE REMOVAL PROHIBITED:**

- (1) Pine trees or other trees will be maintained in buffer areas requiring protection of all vegetation or vegetation of a certain size, according to the requirements of the buffer.

**REPLACEMENT:**

In such cases when the ARB approves removal, the following standards shall apply:

- (1) The replacement inches shall be equal to the number of DBH inches removed or a minimum of 4" in caliper per replacement tree.

Replacement trees shall be selected from the canopy tree list provided below.

Trees shall be from the following species:

American Beech

Overcup Oak

Bald Cypress

Southern Magnolia

Eastern Red Cedar

Southern Red Oak

Live Oak

Swamp Chestnut Oak

Nuttall Oak

Replacement for trees protected by this section that are *removed without permission shall be calculated by twice the number of inches removed.*

If the DBH inches of the removed tree cannot be determined, replacement shall be based on the stump diameter. If the stump has been removed, replacement inches shall be at the discretion of the ARB.

To avoid a monoculture among plantings, the ARB shall require a diversity in the plantings required. Depending on the number of replacement trees required, there shall be a diversity of plantings as follows:

- (1) Five to ten trees. Minimum two types of trees to be planted
- (2) Ten to 20 trees. Minimum four types of trees to be planted;
- (3) Twenty to 100 trees. Minimum seven types of trees to be planted

All relocated or replaced trees shall be inspected by the ARB one year after their planting to ensure they are surviving in a healthy condition.

Replacement trees planted pursuant to the tree protection sections above, that are found to be in declining condition in the future, shall be replaced by the owner of the parcel within 30 days of notification from the ARB. If replacement is necessary, there shall be a re-inspection six months after the replacement planting.

**Please note that Grassy Creek ARB guidelines supercede the town of Mt Pleasant's guidelines for removal of trees.**