

White County Planning Commission
1241 Helen Highway, Suite 200
Cleveland, GA, 30528



Tammy Carter, Senior Planner
Telephone (706) 865-6768

TREE CUTTING APPLICATION

FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, TREE CANOPY MAINTENANCE, AND TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION WITHIN THE DESIGNATED MOUNTAIN AND HILLSIDE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Applicant's Address: _____
City State Zip Code

Address for Tree Cutting: _____

City State Zip Code

Tax Map & Parcel - Obtained from Tax Assessor (706)865-5328: _____

Describe, in detail, what will be cut and reason why:

To be supplied in addition to this application:

- Plat of property where the tree cutting will occur
- Mountain Protection Plan (*meeting required with Planning Department 706-865-6768*)
- \$100 fee will be assessed for permit issuance

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Notary Signature _____ Date _____

Term Expires: ____ of _____, 20____

Seal

OFFICE USE ONLY

Permit #:

Date Applied:

Rev 12.20.23

DIVISION 8. - TREE PROTECTION (REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY AFFECTING ONGOING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, TREE CANOPY MAINTENANCE AND TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION WITHIN THE DESIGNATED MOUNTAIN AND HILLSIDE PROTECTION DISTRICT)

Sec. 30-291. - Purpose and intent.

This division applies to any cutting of trees eight inches, or greater, in diameter as part of the ongoing maintenance of property which does not require a land disturbing permit or building permit. (Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)

Sec. 30-292. - Pre-application review.

Property owners are urged to consult early and informally with the director of community development or designee. The purpose of this informal review is to consider the requirements and guidelines of this article, and to review any other regulations and conditions that may apply, and to request advice and guidance concerning the cutting of trees. No fee shall be charged and no formal application shall be required for the pre-application review. (Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)

Sec. 30-293. - Permits.

- a) *Permit application.* As part of the ongoing maintenance of property, no person shall cut or remove trees (eight inches in diameter or greater), or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a tree cutting permit for such activity.
 - 1) *When required.* Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to cut or remove trees, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the director of community development or designee and obtain the required permit for the work.
Exception: Permits shall not be required for the following work:
 - a. Minor trimming of branches;
 - b. Removal of dead, diseased or severely damaged tree; or
 - c. Emergency removal of downed trees presenting a hazard.

(Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)

Sec. 30-294. - Permit fees.

- a) *Prescribed fees.* A permit shall not be issued until the fees prescribed by the governing body have been paid. A fee, as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges on file in the county clerk's office, will be charged for the processing of a permit.
- b) *Work commencing before permit issuance.* Any person who commences any tree cutting work before obtaining the necessary permit, shall be subject to a penalty of 100 percent of the usual permit fee in addition to the required permit fees.

(Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)

Sec. 30-295. - Tree cutting activity.

- a) Trees eight inches, or greater, in diameter that are cut for view as part of the ongoing maintenance of the property will be done in a staggered fashion to eliminate the tunnel effect caused by clear cutting. Reducing clear-cuttings reduces the potential for erosion, storm water runoff and landscaping and grading costs. Keeping mature greenery is recommended wherever possible to provide immediate aesthetic, environmental, and potentially monetary value.
- b) Tree topping performed for view and/or as part of the ongoing maintenance of the property will be done in a staggered fashion to eliminate the tunnel effect caused by clear cutting.
- c) All stream buffers are to be maintained in a natural state pursuant to county soil and erosion regulations and state water quality control rules.

(Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)

Sec. 30-296. - Fees for loss of tree canopy.

The cutting of any trees in violation of this division shall be punished by a fine of \$100.00 per tree, per violation occurring on each tract, not to exceed a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500.00, in the alternative White County may choose to prosecute the violation as a criminal case not to exceed a fine in the amount \$1,000.00 and imprisonment in the county jail, not exceeding 180 days, or both a fine and sentence of imprisonment, or as specified by state laws and ordinances of the county. The fine per tree may be based on the number of felled trees and where trees have been removed the number of cut tree stumps measuring eight inches or greater.

(Res. No. 2019-14, 10-7-19)