

# INNERARITY ISLAND ASSOCIATION

## TREE REMOVAL POLICIES

### **General Tree Removal**

Trees up to 5" in diameter (15.5" in circumference) at a height of 5 feet above the ground can be removed without approval from the HOA. Removal of all trees of this size is discouraged but removal of some to create space for others to grow is acceptable.

Trees over 5" in diameter (15.5" in circumference) at a height of 5 feet above the ground must be reviewed by the ACC and approved for removal. In order for a tree to be approved to be removed it must meet one of the following criteria:

1. It is located less than 10 feet from the house.
2. It is dead or dying. Trees that are dying require written confirmation from a Florida licensed Arborist. Arborist costs are at the homeowner's expense.
3. It is diseased. A report from a Florida Licensed Arborist is required to verify that it needs to be removed due to disease. Arborists costs are at the homeowner's expense.
4. It was damaged in a storm and is not going to survive. A report from a Florida Licensed Arborist is required to confirm that it needs to be removed. Arborist costs are at the homeowner's expense.

### **Tree Removal for Construction**

When construction is being done on a site, any trees that are within the footprint of the house, garage, driveway or pool are allowed to be removed. Any tree less than 10 feet from the foundation of the house, garage or pool can also be removed. All other trees on the site are to remain. Trees less than 5" in diameter can be removed to thin out the growth on the site but it is encouraged to leave many of these smaller trees on the site so they can grow in place of the larger ones that were removed due to construction and maintain the Island's natural beauty.

### **Tree Removal Mitigation**

If a homeowner wants to remove a tree that does not meet any of the above criteria, they must submit a request for review to the ACC. Trees that are further than 10 feet from the house but are still close enough that a Florida Licensed independent arborist or the homeowner's insurance company feels they could pose a danger to the structure can be removed if a letter from the licensed arborist or insurance agent is provided and the owner agrees to the following mitigation rules:

1. Live Oaks and any trees designated as "Heritage Trees" by the state of Florida cannot be removed unless they are dead or dying. They are protected and are a key part of what makes this island beautiful.

2. Trees greater than 5" in diameter and up to 15" in diameter can be removed if the homeowner agrees to plant 1 new tree for every tree of that size that is removed. (see note 4)
3. Trees greater than 15" in diameter can be removed if the homeowner agrees to plant 2 new trees for every tree that is removed. (see note 4)
4. New trees must be at least 9 feet in height, not including root ball. For current homes, new trees must be planted within 1 week of the removal of the existing trees. Planting delays due to the season new construction or stormy weather can be approved by the ACC and an agreed upon planting date selected. Replacement trees must be common to Northwest Florida and Innerarity Island foliage, live oaks, Sabal palms, magnolia trees, short and long needle pines. Additional tree varieties may be approved.
5. The new trees will be planted somewhere on the homeowner's lot. The new building guidelines include the landscaping plan which should include the replacement trees. (If there is absolutely no room to plant **all** the new trees on the homeowner's lot, the ACC will find a location elsewhere on the island to plant the trees. This could be along the greenways, the community lot or in one of the cul-de-sacs.)

Tree removal request address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trees in request: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of tree removal: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed replacement trees: \_\_\_\_\_

Planting date: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner signature: \_\_\_\_\_