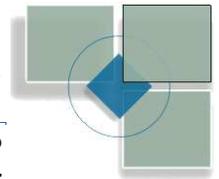




DeKalb County Department of Planning & Sustainability

Lee May
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Andrew A. Baker, AICP
Director



MEMORANDUM

TO: DeKalb County Citizens **FAX NO:** 404-371-2725

FROM: India A. Woodson
DeKalb County Arborist
DeKalb County Planning & Sustainability
Tel.: 404-371-4913 Email: ishahid@dekalbcountyga.gov

RE: DeKalb County Tree Ordinance for homeowners

Written notification should be submitted to the DeKalb County Arborist, via fax or e-mail **before** trees are removed from property.

- Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time.
- You may remove up to five (5) healthy trees on your property per calendar year, *provided that those trees are not specimen trees*. A specimen tree is defined as a tree with a life expectancy of 15 years or more, relative sound trunk with no extensive decay or hollow, less than 20% trunk dieback, no major insect or pathological problem and meets the following size guidelines:
 - For Overstory (large) trees, ex.: Oak, poplar & pine – diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 30 inches (which equates to a circumference of 94.2 inches); and has a life expectancy of; or
 - For Understory (small) trees, ex: Dogwood - diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 10 inches (which equates to a circumference of 31.4 inches)

If the tree in question meets the criteria for a specimen tree it **cannot** be removed *until* it is assessed by a certified arborist. If you need to remove more than five (5) trees, you must have all trees assessed by a certified arborist and forward tree assessments in writing to the DeKalb County Arborist. You can find arborists in the yellow pages or by going to the International Society of Arboriculture web site at www.isa-arbor.org.

If you have any further questions, feel free to call me at 404-371-4913.

IAS/2008