

# Birchwood Lakes Community Association

## Tree Guidelines

*(Effective November 10, 2016)*

The BLCA Tree Guidelines are intended to preserve the natural beauty and character of our community and to protect our property values. Therefore, the Association will only allow the removal of trees on residential lots in the community if there will be no adverse impact on the community or the environment.

- A. Except for guidelines, no person shall remove any trees over 5 (five) inches in diameter without first obtaining approval in writing from the BLCA office.
1. A Member may remove one tree per year at Members discretion. Prior to removal a Tree Removal Notification Form must be completed and submitted to the BLCA office.
  2. Any request to remove more than 1 (one) tree (over 5 inches diameter at the base) per year will require inspection and approval by a BLCA Board member followed by approval of the Board of Directors.
  3. In the event of an emergency, a BLCA staff member may inspect the tree(s) to be removed and upon confirmation that it is an emergency situation, approval will be given immediately.
- B. Prior to inspection by a BLCA Board member or staff member, all trees must be conspicuously flagged, and property boundary markings identified. The total number of trees to be removed must be noted on the Request Form along with a detailed reason for removal of each tree. Trees will be approved for the following reasons only:
- a. The tree is dead with no leaf growth over the past six-month period.
  - b. The tree has been severely damaged by storm or other natural occurrence.
  - c. The tree is a threat to a home, including decks, sheds, garages and septic systems.
  - d. Trees need to be taken down for new construction (house, shed, garage, septic, perk test, etc) or landscaping.
- C. No trees are to be removed for construction projects until all well, septic, and other applicable zoning and building permits and approvals are in place from the Township and BLCA, including a Tree Removal Request Form.
- A Tree Removal Request Form must be approved before any construction may begin and must include the exact number of trees to be removed.
  - In the event that a new building or other structure is not completed for any reason, all trees that were removed for this construction must be replaced. BLCA will require replacement with native trees 6.0' in height and 1.5" in diameter measured one foot above finished grade. BLCA will determine the placement of replacement trees based on trees indigenous to the area to be completed within six months of violation and at violator's sole cost.

### Penalties:

- D. Each tree removed or damaged shall constitute a separate offense. In addition, any member or tenant who, in violation, causes a tree to be removed or damaged shall repair or replace the tree at the violator's sole cost and expense within six months of violation. The location and planting specifications for replacement trees shall be approved by BLCA prior to replanting.
1. Violations of A1 shall be fined \$25.00
  2. Violations of all other guidelines shall be fined \$350.00

**BIRCHWOOD LAKES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**212 ASPEN ROAD**

**DINGMANS FERRY PA 18328**

**Telephone: (570) 828-2111**

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**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST FORM**

Request Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Request: Yes No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

**TREES MUST BE MARKED PRIOR TO REVIEW FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT**

List # of trees and size of trees: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for tree removal: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that a follow-up inspection of my property may be done without notice. My signature is authorization for a BLCA representative to enter my property and inspect the completed work. Failure to comply with the information provided above may result in the issuance of a citation. The BLCA Rules & Regulations Section 98-50-17 states No Clear Cutting Permitted and carries a fine of \$350.00 for each violation.*

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sketch location of trees to be cut

***Office Use Only***

***Board Approval***

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

BLCA Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Trees previously removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Authorization to remove indicated trees expires one year from approval date.  
CONTACT THE OFFICE AFTER THE TREE(S) HAVE BEEN TAKEN DOWN.***