

Tree Removal Policy Statement

In the spirit of restoring native landscapes and the continuance of Arden being a Tree City USA, the Trustees are revising the Tree Removal Policy. The lease that every Arden leaseholder signs says "The Lessee agrees not to...cut timber without written leave from the Trustees" so we ask that leaseholders submit permits for tree removals. The permit form and policy are on the Trustees section of the www.arden.delaware.gov website. You can print the form and email to trustees@arden.delaware.gov which we will sign and return. If you need a written form, please contact us and we will provide one. The phone number is 302-475-7980. Forms will also be available at the Arden Library. Each permit for each tree is valid for 3 months and can be renewed upon request.

A tree is defined as a woody plant having erect perennial stems (usually one trunk) at least three inches in diameter at a point 4-1/2 feet above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a mature height of at least 13 feet. Some trees grow with multiple trunks.

The Trustees now require a permit to take out all trees over 6" in diameter, a change from the previous 18", because there are valuable slow growing native trees we need to protect including Black Gum *Nyssa Sylvatica* and Ironwood *Carpinus caroliniana*. To determine diameter, measure the circumference at 54" and divide by 3.1415. This is known as the standard Diameter at Breast Height (DBH).

We will always grant permission to remove Norway maple (*Acer plantanoides*), Japanese maple (*Acer japonica*) Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') In fact we encourage you to remove these species as soon as possible. Further you may not plant any of these trees on your leasehold. *A permit is needed as we need to know what trees are being removed.* People do call us if they hear chain saws and chippers, so please let us know if you have tree work planned. We also recognize that old Tulip Poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) can become unstable, however, they also need a permit before being removed.

If you need to take a tree down, and have submitted a permit, please consider replacing with a native tree, we can advise which tree will work in your site. If you wish to replant with a Japanese maple, please request approval from the Trustees. There are some which are not as invasive, and we can suggest specific varieties. A list of native species is posted on the Trustees section of the www.arden.delaware.gov website.

We began a new program in 2021 treating ash trees on leaseholds for Emerald Ash borer, a significant pest that has decimated ash tree populations across the country since 2008. Contact Carol Larson at carol2339@verizon.net for more information. We are proud of the Arden tree canopy, both in size, density and diversity and have plans to create a more complete tree registry to document our tree treasures.

As always, the Trustees are available for your questions and comments. You may reach us at: trustees.of.arden@gmail.com or by phone at 302-475-7980