

## Before You Remove Any Trees . . .

Before you get that chain saw out, take the time to talk to a licensed arborist who works for a reputable tree company in Maryland. It is the law in Maryland that all tree work must be done by a licensed arborist.



In most cases, tree removal is acceptable in Carderock Springs; however the covenants recorded by the developer of Carderock Springs for all Carderock homes require approval of the designated tree removal contact person from the Carderock Springs Citizens Association prior to the removal of any mature hardwood tree that is not dead or diseased and that is over 12" in diameter (measured at chest level). A *hardwood* tree is a broadleaved tree that loses its leaves in autumn, such as the oak, beech, or maple.

At present, Mark Zimsky is the designated tree removal contact. Please note that it is not his role or responsibility to conduct assessments on prospective tree removal or provide consultation or advice on which trees on individual properties should be kept or removed. Please contact Mark at least two weeks in advance of removing any healthy trees, to accommodate his travel schedule. Contact [CSCATree@gmail.com](mailto:CSCATree@gmail.com).

Again, please consult with a licensed arborist before you contact Mark. No prior approval is required in the event that a tree is damaged by a storm to the extent that it is likely to cause imminent damage to person or property. However, if the tree is well-rooted, and it is possible to remove only the damaged limbs, this is the preferred course of action.

As noted, no prior approval is needed for the removal a *softwood* tree, which is an evergreen tree such as pine or cedar, or a tree that is dead or diseased. Generally, a tree is *dead* when it has lost the ability to bear leaves. A *diseased* tree is one which 50% or more of the tree exhibits obvious sign of disease or which a licensed arborist determines cannot be saved. Please consult with a licensed arborist to confirm that a tree is diseased or dead before removing it.

Mark will consider your request in light of the results of the recent tree survey in which residents expressed that the following factors that should be taken into account when making a removal decision:

1. Safety and the prevention of damage to persons or property
2. Screening or privacy
3. Tree canopy conservation
4. Lawn and garden preservation

Once Mark has met with you and gives approval, you can post a sign displaying this approval as shown above in your yard. It makes a positive statement that you respect the community covenants as well as your neighbors.

Lastly, please remember that cutting down trees affects the look and feel of the neighborhood for all homeowners—not just the person on whose lot they grow. Many residents feel strongly about tree preservation. It is most important to talk with the neighbors whose property has views of any trees you wish to remove. The courtesy you show will come back to you in the future.