



Benefits of Trees

Trees provide enormous benefits to us including lessening air pollution which enhances respiratory health, absorbing CO2 which reduces the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, cutting energy consumption by reducing heat, preventing soil erosion, and minimizing flooding. Access to trees and green spaces like parks also promotes physical activity and reduces stress while simultaneously improving the quality of life in our towns. It is for these reasons that Beech Mountain is proudly committed to maintaining, protecting, replacing, and planting trees throughout our town.



The Town of Beech Mountain has a list of tree workers that have signed up. Note: the list does not endorse or confirm tree workers credentials



Beech Mountain: a Tree City USA



management. Tree Cities meet four core standards of urban forestry management:

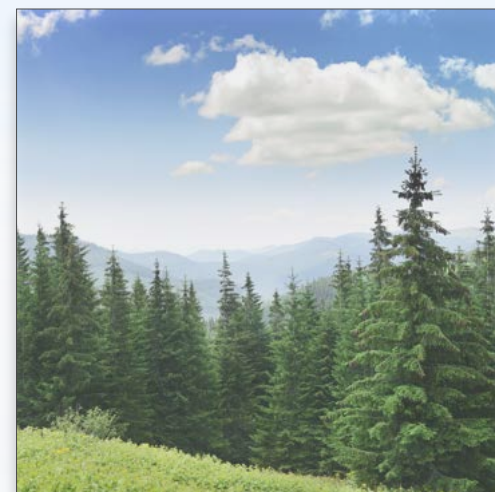
1. Maintaining a tree board or department
2. Having a community tree ordinance
3. Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
4. Celebrating Arbor Day

Beech Mountain is proud to be one of the 3,400 communities that have made a commitment to becoming a Tree City USA.

The Town of Beech Mountain is proud to be a Tree City USA since 2009. The Tree City USA program recognizes cities for their excellence in urban forestry

Town of Beech Mountain

Tree Regulation Guide



This brochure contains information pertaining to the Town's tree permits and regulations. The regulations contained herein may change periodically. Please contact the Department of Planning and Inspection for the most up to date regulations.



For additional information on tree regulation, contact the Planning and Inspection Department at (828) 387-4236 or visit us at townofbeechmountain.com



Tree Protection



For trees located on public property, the following restrictions apply to any tree, regardless of size. For trees located on private property, the following applies to trees in excess of six inches in diameter measured four feet above the ground.

◆ No one may, without a permit, mutilate, injure, remove or relocate any live tree within the town, or injure any structure placed to protect any such tree.

◆ No one may, without a permit, attach any sign, wire, or electrical attachment to the trees in town.

◆ No permit is required for removing dead trees on personal property or for removing or cutting live trees under six inches in diameter measured four feet above the ground.

◆ Under no circumstances can more than 50% of the natural vegetation across the entire lot be cut regardless of the size or diameter of the vegetation without approval of the Town Manager.



Permits

FREE ◆ SIMPLE ◆ EASY

Anyone may download the application for the issuance of a permit online on the Town website. The application and permit are free. Access to this simple one-page form can be found on the Planning and Inspection department page under Building and Zoning Forms and Applications. Permits are valid for 90 calendar days and must be approved by a town official.

Applications for a permit are available online at townofbeechmountain.com

The unlawful cutting or removal of trees without a valid permit will subject the property owner to a penalty of \$1,000 per tree to be recovered by the town.



Tree Replacement

Trees in need of replacement must be of an appropriate species and type for the location and elevation in which they will be planted. A list of replacement tree types and their appropriate locations may be obtained by the Town Manager. Tree replacement must also be in accordance with the next growing season.

Criteria for cutting/ removing/ trimming trees:

- ◆ Trees are within 15 feet of structure
- ◆ Trees are within 5 feet of approved septic tank/ drain field
- ◆ Trees are within 5 feet of approved driveway/ parking area
- ◆ Trees pose a hazard
- ◆ The cutting of the trees promotes the growth of other trees
- ◆ Trees are diseased or damaged
- ◆ Trees are within a temporary service route for construction (must be replaced)
- ◆ Approved landscaping plan
- ◆ Trimming trees (must not be done to an extent that the tree's life or health is jeopardized- generally no more than 1/3 canopy may be removed)
- ◆ If property owners hire a tree service, they must be registered with the town
- ◆ To acquire a permit, property owners are required to take a photograph of the trees that will be altered for record keeping purposes



How to Measure a Tree

In order to measure the diameter of your tree, you will need a loose tape measure and a calculator. From the ground, measure a spot about 4 feet up the tree. From that point, wrap the tape measure around the tree to get the circumference. Finally, divide that circumference by pi (3.14) to get the diameter. If the tree has multiple stems that split at ground level and does not share a common base, each trunk will be measured as a separate tree. If the tree splits below the 4' mark, all trunks 6 inches in diameter or larger will be measured separately and count as one tree.