



## **TREE AND SHRUB CUTTING RULES AND PROVISIONS**

### **Please Read All of the Provisions before Filling out the Attached Form**

(Keep these Provisions for reference; submit Form to WMPOA Office)

#### **Overview & Purpose:**

Walnut Mountain (WM) is an architecturally controlled community, established to protect and preserve the beauty and integrity of the environmental and property values of the WM community. This is achieved by establishing architectural standards for consistent development, and maintaining aesthetic harmony and compatibility among the homes on the mountain. WM follows The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for Tree Modification (REVISED: 10/20/15).

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is a standing committee provided for in the WM CCR,s and Bylaws and is charged with assisting in establishing and maintaining architectural standards for Walnut Mountain (WM). **The ACC is given the authority to enforce rules, and use other means to ensure compliance with these standards.**

#### **Definitions Used:**

**Vista Pruning** is defined as removal or pruning of trees and shrubs for a view or for other needs. Views of all kind can be achieved by very careful removal and pruning of trees in harmony with the natural environment. **Excessive removal and pruning is not allowed by WM** and often occurs in the attempt to achieve a "panoramic" view. The goal is to vista prune in such a way that on completion the tree appears natural. The approved method for opening up a view is to create a "window" within the forest. The "window" typically consists of an opening large enough to provide a view, but small enough so that much of the foliage remains. A top canopy of foliage shall partially cover the opened area. This can be best accomplished through a combination of side pruning or crown cleaning. This includes dead, dying, rubbing and structurally unsound limbs. This improves tree health and enhances appearance.

**Crown Cleaning** The tree "Crown" is defined as all of the branches above the trunk. The ANSI standard specifies that not more than one quarter (1/4) of the leaf surface of an individual tree be removed. **"Topping," "hat-racking" and "de-horning" is not permitted on WM** under the ANSI published research (see above), since damage caused by this drastic pruning technique often cause tree death and risks related to; wood-eating insects and decay organisms that can quickly destroy the tree, and tree limbs unable to handle the weight of rapid re-growth, leaving new branches susceptible to breakage and falling.

**Side Pruning** is generally pruning on one side of the tree, but may be both, to allow for a vista view, and in accordance with the above not more than ¼ of the leaf surface of the individual tree.

**Natural Flowering Trees And Shrubs** are identified as dogwoods, native azaleas, mountain laurel and rhododendron. These are common to the mountain and as much as possible WMPOA will try to preserve them for their beauty and to stabilize the soil to help prevent erosion.

#### **Provisions:**

In reviewing each request the ACC will consider the impact each request has as it relates to other adjacent properties, the view from a distance and the impact on the WM forest.

**Request for Approval Form:** This form is available at the main office or from the web site at ([www.walnutmtnga.com](http://www.walnutmtnga.com)).

This form **must** be submitted by the property owner prior to any tree work. All trees to be altered **must** be identified for the ACC with brightly colored tape as follows: wrapping the tape around the tree, use ONE circle around the tree for pruning and TWO circles for possible removal.

The ACC will review the request and complete a site inspection, noting the trees to be altered. Upon completing this review, the ACC will submit its approval or disapproval to the home owner.

Please note that it is the property owners' responsibility to direct and manage the tree trimming service. The tree trimming service is only allowed for what was approved by the ACC as indicated on the approval form. **The Property owner will be subject up to \$500 per infraction for any trees removed not identified or approved by the ACC.**

Upon completion of the tree work, the property owner **must** notify the ACC that the work has been completed. Upon receiving such notice, the ACC will conduct a final review of the property to ensure compliance in accordance with the WMPOA rules.

**PLEASE CALL ACC UPON COMPLETION AT 706-635-2565**