

## URBAN FOREST PRESERVATION Act of 2002

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### **PURPOSE**

To establish an urban forest preservation program; to require community notification prior to the removal or replacement of trees on public space; to revise penalties for injuring trees on public space and private property; and for other purposes. The urban forest of the District of Columbia refers to vegetation growing on both public and private land.

### **LAW**

Except as otherwise provided, no person or non-governmental entity shall remove a Special Tree without a Special Tree Removal Permit issued by the Urban Forestry Administration, as provided in the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, effective June 12, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-309; D.C. Official Code 8-651.01 et seq.)

*Special Tree – a tree within the District of Columbia that has a minimum circumference of fifty-five inches (55 in.).*

### **ISSUANCE OF PERMITS**

(1) An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist asserts the tree as hazardous to life and/or property.

(2) The tree is of a species exempt from the law. The three exempt tree species are: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven); *Morus species* (Mulberry); *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple).

(3) The property owner declares on the permit application to: (a) plant a quantity of saplings whose aggregated circumference equals or exceeds the circumference of the Special Tree(s) to be removed; (b) pay into the Tree Fund a tree replacement fee of \$35 per inch of circumference of each Special Tree to be removed; or (c) perform a combination of both (a) and (b).

### **PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS**

#### **UFA Arborist**

Application is available online, by email, by fax or at the Public Space Permits Office (PSPO).

Completed application is submitted and entered into database at PSPO.

UFA arborist inspects the tree, completes report and makes a recommendation.

Applicant is notified of determination by phone or email.

If application was approved, applicant is directed to the PSPO to secure permit.

If applicable, applicant makes the declared deposit into the Tree Fund.

Applicant receives permit for removal of Special Tree.

#### **ISA-Certified Arborist**

Application is available online, by email, by fax or at the Public Space Permits Office (PSPO).

ISA-certified arborist (hired by applicant) inspects the tree, completes report and makes a recommendation.

Completed application is submitted and entered into database at PSPO.

UFA staff verifies arborist's certification and report.

Applicant is notified of determination by phone or email.

If application was approved, applicant is directed to the PSPO to secure permit.

If applicable, applicant makes the declared deposit into the Tree Fund.

Applicant receives permit for removal of Special Tree.

**Failure to comply** with the conditions contained in a Special Tree removal permit, shall constitute a violation subject to a fine of not less than \$100 per each inch of the circumference of the Special Tree in question.

### **Effective Date**

January 21, 2005