



The Ceres Society of Belle Meade would like to remind residents about Belle Meade’s newly enacted tree ordinance that protects the existing tree canopy and Heritage trees that make Belle Meade such a wonderful place to live. The ordinance allows residents to freely remove small trees, saplings, and understory brush on their property, but the removal of “Mature” trees (defined as over 4” width of trunk) must be approved by the City of Belle Meade PRIOR to removal, with the exception of the following cases:

12-504. Exemptions. The following development or construction activities and types of vegetation are exempt from the standards of this Chapter:

- (1) The removal of dead, fatally diseased, or naturally fallen trees or vegetation.
- (2) The selective and limited removal of trees necessary to obtain clear visibility at driveways or intersections.
- (3) The actions of public and private utility companies within their utility easements.
- (4) Removal of trees listed in the current edition of Invasive Exotic Pest Plants, published by the Tennessee Exotic Pest Council.
- (5) Removal of trees causing damage to public facilities or improvements to the subject property.

In the event that you want to remove a mature tree, this TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION must be filed and approved by the City. Replacement plantings, as defined below, are required in order to maintain the tree canopy in Belle Meade.

EXISTING TREE SIZE REMOVED TREES	REQUIRED REPLACEMENT CALIPER MINIMUM	RATIO OF REPLACEMENT TREES TO
4” - 15” D.B.H.	3”	2:1
16” - 30” D.B.H.		4:1

To explain this in layman’s terms, any tree with a trunk 4-15” across will need to be replaced with 2 trees with a trunk size of 3” or more. If the tree has a trunk 16-30” across, it will need to be replaced with 4 trees with a trunk size of 3” or more. These trees can be placed anywhere on your property.

To read the complete ordinance that addresses these issues along with New Construction guidelines pertaining to tree removal, click here:

["TREE ORDINANCE"](#), Ordinance 2019-11, For questions or additional information, contact the Building and Codes Dept., Lyle Patterson, 615-297-2364 or lpatterson@citybellemeade.org.