

# VERONA RESERVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Landscaping: Hardwood Tree Removal or Replacement Policy

**Purpose:** To establish policy and procedures regarding the removal or replacement of hardwood trees\* within Verona Reserve.

**Policy Statement:** Sarasota County's Environmental Protection Division has regulatory authority over the removal or replacement of hardwood trees for 7 years from the date the original Certificate of Occupancy (COO) was issued, and as such, owners must apply for a permit, or be granted a written waiver, to remove or replace any live hardwood tree planted on their lot.

### Process (Live Trees):

If an owner wishes to have a live oak or black olive tree removed or replaced at their expense, they MUST contact Sarasota County's Environmental Protection Division and **apply for a permit prior to submitting an architectural review application**. Visit [www.scgov.net/government/departments/planning-and-development-services/environmental-protection/environmental-permitting](http://www.scgov.net/government/departments/planning-and-development-services/environmental-protection/environmental-permitting) or call 941-861-5000 more information. If the original Certificate of Occupancy was issued over 7 years ago, a permit is not required, but the owner **must submit proof** when submitting an architectural review application. To search permits to see when the COO was issued, visit <https://building.scgov.net/PublicPortal/Sarasota/SearchPermits.jsp>.

Once the owner has received either a permit, written waiver or evidence of a COO over 7 years, an architectural review application may be submitted for consideration. Owners may choose from the following County-approved trees as replacements:

- Black Olive
- Dahoosn Holly
- Little Gem Magnolia
- Live Oak

**The architectural review committee will not review any application that does not include either the permit, written waiver from the County or evidence that the COO was issued over 7 years ago, nor will the Board of Directors approve any application without the proper documentation.**

### Process (Dead Trees):

Any hardwood tree that has died, with no green or yellow leaves remaining, shall be replaced as soon as scheduling permits, at the expense of the Association. In this situation, a permit is not required and it is a function of grounds maintenance. ARC review and Board approval is not required. Owners should contact the property management company, who will then create a work order to have the tree replaced.

- Owners of the residence will have an opportunity to choose a suitable replacement tree from the list of approved trees.
- The property management company will notify the owners when the tree removal and replacement is scheduled, continue to monitor the owners concerns throughout the process and follow-up to ensure the replacement tree is installed to the owners' satisfaction.

### Board Approved Replacement Trees:

- Black Olive
- Dahoosn Holly
- Desert Cassia
- Jatropha
- Little Gem Magnolia
- Live Oak
- Simpson's Stopper

**\*This policy excludes those trees that are considered "Grand Trees" as defined by Sarasota County and have specific restrictions on removal.**