

ALA Tree and Vegetation Trimming/Removal Policy

Trees and vegetation are a vital part of the flora, fauna and beauty of the Lake Arrowhead area. They provide shelter and food for wildlife. They provide shade, oxygen, conserve energy and help to prevent water pollution and soil erosion. They muffle sounds, mask unsightly views, absorb dust and wind and reduce glare and UV-B exposure. They also increase property values. It is for these reasons that the ALA is committed to preserving the forest and vegetation of the Lake Arrowhead area.

The Arrowhead Lake Association owns the Lake and portions of the Trail that surround the Lake. All Property Owners must obtain ALA approval prior to removing, pruning, shaping, or in any way altering trees or vegetation on the Shoreline or Reserve Strip.

Applications for tree or vegetation trimming or removal may be obtained online at www.ala-ca.org, or by calling the office at (909) 337-2595 ext. 106. Upon receipt of an application, an ALA representative inspector will review your request, and you will receive written notification of the decision within fifteen (15) days. If approval is granted, a permit will be issued. **If you have a hazardous condition that needs to be addressed immediately, please call our office to expedite the process.**

The location of the tree(s) and/or vegetation must be clearly identified on the application. In some cases, identification of property corners by a Licensed Surveyor may be required by the requesting party. An ALA representative inspector may want to meet you or your contractor on-site to discuss the proposed tree removal or trimming. In some cases, an arborist report may be required to ascertain the health and stability of the proposed tree(s). Upon receipt of the arborist report, a final decision will be made.

The Forest and Vegetation Committee at the Arrowhead Lake Association is the overseeing committee for decisions regarding the forest surrounding Lake Arrowhead. The committee may impose a damage assessment for any unapproved removal, pruning, shaping or altering of trees or vegetation around the Lake.

Due to the wide variety of tree, vegetation, locations, conditions and other mitigating factors, determining a damage assessment for unapproved trimming or removal may be difficult to assess. Therefore, the following procedure is implemented to calculate the damage assessment in a fair and reasonable manner, giving the dock owner or member every opportunity to defend their actions.

Hearing:

The dock owner or member will be given at least fifteen (15) business days written notice of (i) the hearing date set for consideration by the ALA of imposing a damage assessment and (ii) the reasons for the hearing. The dock owner, member or counsel for that individual may appear at said hearing and provide a defense and/or evidence regarding the matters resulting in the notice of the hearing. For additional information, please see Article II, sections F and G of the ALA Bylaws.

Damage Assessment:

The following guidelines are established for damages assessed for trees and vegetation which have been removed, pruned, shaped, or in any way altered without prior consent. The following amounts are not the maximum amount that can be imposed. The committee may impose a greater assessment, depending on the situation, the lifespan of the tree, the value of the tree and other mitigating factors. The committee will also take into consideration the tree location, hazards presented by the tree, possible declining health, requirements or recommendations by insurance carriers and/or government entities, and defense and/or evidence provided by the dock owner or member.

A) Unauthorized Tree Removal:

The diameter of the tree is measured at 4-1/2 feet above the ground from the lowest point of the exposed trunk. In instances where the tree has been removed completely, the diameter of the remaining stump will be used to determine the trees previous size.

<u>Size in Diameter</u>	<u>Fine Amount (PER TREE)</u>
6 to 12 Inches	\$10,000.00
13 to 24 Inches	\$20,000.00
25 Inches or More	\$30,000.00

Assessed damages will be DOUBLED for any tree removed to enhance or create a Lake view.

B) Trees or Vegetation Pruned, Shaped or in Any Way Altered:

Prior approval is required to cut the branches of a tree in any way. If branches up to 2" in diameter are cut, assessed damages will be calculated by the number of branches pruned, shaped, or altered on a "per branch" basis. The tree will be assessed for the number of branches cut, and an assessed damage will be given to each branch removed as follows:

\$250.00 per branch or

\$500 per branch if the pruning, shaping or altering was done to enhance or create a Lake view.

If branches larger than 2" are cut, then the Committee will review the damage, and may classify the violation as unauthorized "Removal" if the tree is unable to recover from the damage.

C) Additional Actions Imposed by the Forest and Vegetation Committee:

- 1) For trees that have been removed, the committee will require the REPLACEMENT of the removed or irreversibly damaged tree. The size of the replacement tree will be determined by the committee, which will usually be at least 50% of the height and width of the original removed tree. The committee may impose additional replacement requirements if the area of the removed tree cannot sustain a replacement tree.
- 2) Education, reforestation and forest protection of the area where the damage occurred.
- 3) Reimbursement to the committee for costs incurred, including contractor fees, arborist fees, expert witnesses, court costs and legal fees, etc...