



Chatham County Board of Commissioners
124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Chatham County Cleanup of Whitemarsh Island Preserve

SAVANNAH, GA (December 20, 2016) – In November Chatham County staff evaluated the Whitemarsh Island Preserve and found damage to many of the trees. Chatham County asked Ashbritt, the contractor handling debris removal, to evaluate the Preserve. It was determined that downed trees, hanging branches, and dangerous leaning trees would need to be removed to ensure the safety of the citizens who use the Preserve for recreational purposes. Staff then requested the Chatham County Risk Manager to evaluate the area and he recommended closure the Preserve during the cleanup process for safety purposes. The Preserve closed on December 7, 2016, and will remain closed until the cleanup is completed.

Ashbritt used the following criteria to determine what needed to be removed:

5.15.1 The Contractor may be required to remove hazardous hanging limbs and branches over right-of-ways and public property that have not completely fallen to the ground and hazardous leaning or damaged trees that are still standing. The determination of the existence of a hazardous situation is the responsibility of the County debris manager.

5.15.2

Under this contract, work shall consist of all labor, equipment, fuel, traffic control costs, and other associated costs necessary to remove all Eligible hazardous trees that are six (6) inches or greater in diameter, measured 4.5 feet from the base of the tree and eligible hazardous hanging limbs that are two (2) inches or great in diameter existing on the County ROW. Debris generated from the removal of eligible hazardous trees and hanging limbs will be placed in the safest possible location on the County ROW and subsequently removed in accordance with TASK 2 of the scope of services.

5.15.3 Eligible hazardous leaning trees less than six (6) inches in diameter, measured 4.5 feet from the base of the tree, will be flush cut, loaded and removed as debris in accordance with TASK 2 of the scope of services. The County will not compensate the Contractor for cutting leaning trees less than six (6) inches in diameter on a unit rate basis.

5.15.4 In order for a leaning or hazardous tree to be removed and eligible for reimbursement, it must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- It has more than 50 percent of the crown damaged or destroyed;
- It has a split trunk or broken branches that expose the heartwood;
- It has fallen or been uprooted within a public-use area; and/or
- It is leaning at an angle greater than 30 degrees

5.15.5 In order for a hazardous limb to be removed and eligible for reimbursement, it must be:

- Located on improved public property;
- Greater than two inches in diameter at the point of breakage; and
- Still hanging in a tree and threatening a public-use area, e.g. trails and sidewalks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine Neal Glasby
Public Information Officer
912-652-7897