

Subject: Case Number: TR 26-001 - Jordan Bursch on behalf of Meritage (formerly owned by Elliott Homes) – an application to remove (27) protected trees (Live oaks and Southern Magnolias), to authorize the construction of Single-Family subdivision (Hawk Creek Phase 2 resubmit, for a parcel of land identified as lot 23 of Hawk Creek Subdivision located on W Oaklawn Rd. (Tax Parcel No. 1108-011-003.023).

Commission Members:

On Wednesday March 4, 2026, the Biloxi Tree Committee voted 5, with one member not in attendance) to approve the request from Meritage Homes for Hawk Creek Phase 2 resubmit for the removal of 27 protected trees.

1. The builder has agreed to save the “Anchor Tree”.
2. They have agreed to plant 54 **protected trees** to meet the Mitigation requirements for the City of Biloxi.
3. The developer has agreed to provide a sound barrier (buffer) on the lots adjacent to the I-10 right of way with appropriate trees or acceptable protected trees that meet our mitigation requirements. Biloxi’s consulting arborist will participate in this plan.
4. The Director of Community Development has the Administrative Authority to Adjust the Building setback requirements of the Land Development Ordinances by up to 20% in order to save existing protected trees. This authority will be exercised in an effort to protect additional trees where possible.
5. Tree mitigation will be provided as required by the Biloxi Tree Ordinances (replacement at a ratio of 2 to 1, payment into the City of Biloxi Tree Bank, or a combination of both.)

We are glad the developer agreed to our original recommendations from October 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Peterson, City of Biloxi Tree Chairperson