



**MEETING AGENDA**  
The Town of Ridgeland  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Monday, August 11, 2025, 5:30 P.M.

**Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1 Town Hall, Ridgeland, SC 29936**

**STATEMENT OF MEDIA NOTIFICATION:** "In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting."

---

- I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Chairman Frankie Denmark**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Minutes: July 21, 2025**
- IV. Old Business:**
  - 1. Proposed text amendment to the Town of Ridgeland Zoning Ordinance concerning revisions to Ordinance 03-2021, Section 5.11.1.C, "Landscape Standards" addressing tree protection and mitigation.  
  
**Planning Commissions role:** Advisory to Council  
**Action needed:** Recommendation to Council
- V. New Business:**
- VI. Staff Comments:**
  - 1. Update on RV code updates
- VII. Commissioner's Comments**
- VIII. Adjournment**



**MEETING MINUTES**  
The Town of Ridgeland  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Monday, July 21, 2025, 5:30 P.M.

**Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1 Town Square, Ridgeland, SC 29936**

**STATEMENT OF MEDIA NOTIFICATION:** "In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting."

---

**Planning Commissioners in attendance:**

Commissioner Rodina, Commissioner Mohr, and Commissioner Tenerowicz (Chairman Denmark and Commissioner May absent)

**Town of Ridgeland Staff:**

Aaron Rucker (Director of Planning and Community Development), Danielle Smoak (Permit Technician), Kelly Payne (Town Arborist)

**I. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Frankie Denmark**

Commissioner Ralph Rodina called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

**II. Roll Call**

A roll call was taken, and Chairman Denmark and Commissioner May were absent.

**III. Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2025**

Motion to approve June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting was made by Commissioner Tenerowicz and seconded by Commissioner Mohr. Motion approved unanimously.

**IV. Old Business:**

1. Proposed text amendment to the Town of Ridgeland Zoning Ordinance concerning revisions to Ordinance 03-2021, Section 5.11.1.C, "Landscape Standards" addressing tree protection and mitigation.

Planning Director, Aaron Rucker, explained that the latest revisions were underlined. He also explained what some of those changes are and why they were made.

There are still some more changes that the planning commission would like to see, such as:

- Removing lesser Oaks (Laurel and Willow Oaks) from the suggested mitigation list and tree replacement list because they are a falling hazard.
- Increase protected trees for 8" to 12" DBH.
- 5.11.1.C.8 Tree removal mitigation needs to be changed from 1 tree, 8-16" DBH to 12-18" DBH, 16-24" DBH to 18-24" DBH, and 24-36" DBH to 24"+ DBH.
- Add White Oak to 5.11.1.C.5 Landmark trees.
- Remove Laurel and Willow Oak from 5.11.1.C.5
- Add Willow and Laurel Oak trees to the exclusion list for protected trees.

**Motion:** Commissioner Tenerowicz made a motion to postpone until the discussion to the regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2025. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mohr.

**V. New Business:**

No new business.

**VI. Staff Comments:**

There is a joint workshop with the Town Council the last week of July to discuss the Tickton Hall proposal. There is a separate joint workshop with the Jasper County and Hardeeville planning commissions on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**VII. Commissioner's Comments**

Ask future consultants about adding trees to the impact fees as part of the impact fee study. Talk to Dennis about enforcement for tree ordinance.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mohr and seconded by Commissioner Tenerowicz.

### **5.11.1.C TREE PROTECTION**

#### **5.11.1.C.1. Intent.**

Pursuant to authority conferred by the South Carolina Code of Laws, to promote the public health, safety and general welfare; to reduce noise, heat and glare; to reduce air pollution; to prevent soil erosion; to improve surface drainage and minimize flooding; to prevent excessive and unsightly clearing of wooded tracts of land and to promote tree conservation and preservation; to ensure that noise, glare and other distractions of movement on one (1) area not adversely affect activity within other adjacent areas; to beautify and enhance improved and undeveloped land; to provide a protective physical and psychological barrier between pedestrians and traffic; to create special places that are inviting; to create a civic identity; to counteract the heat island effect; to encourage energy and water conservation; to protect the wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems; to enhance real estate and economic values; to ensure that excessive tree cutting does not reduce property values; to minimize the cost of construction and maintenance of drainage systems necessitated by the increased flow and diversion of surface waters; to encourage the proliferation and replacement of trees on public and private property; and to allow trees to attain their natural shape and size while growing to maturity, the town council does hereby ordain and enact into law this tree protection chapter. The provisions herein shall not be interpreted to prohibit or unduly inhibit development of private property.

#### **5.11.1.C.1(a). Definitions.**

**Protected Trees:** Trees planted or retained to meet the requirements of the Ridgeland Zoning and Land Development Ordinances and any species of trees that are eight (8) inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH) excluding Water Oaks (*Quercus nigra*) and those listed in the Clemson Extension's "Invasive Plant Pest Species of South Carolina."

**Landmark Trees:** All trees declared to be "landmark" trees per Section 5.11.1.C.5.

**Silviculture:** Involves the on-going cultivation and harvesting of pine or hardwood trees from a property which is conducted by a bona fide commercial silviculture operation and is consistent with [South Carolina's silviculture Best Management Practices \(BMPs\). These guidelines are designed to protect water quality, air quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic integrity of forests during forestry operations. The South Carolina Forestry Commission \(SCFC\) provides oversight and guidance for these practices.](#)

#### **5.11.1.C.2. Clear Cutting Prohibited.**

The clear cutting of trees by any person for the sole purpose of clearing land or offering land for sale shall be prohibited. Bona fide silviculture operations are exempt from this provision [provided buffers along roadways shall maintain a minimum twenty-five \(25\) feet of no disturbance and illustrated on a clearing plan provided for staff approval prior to clearing. Additionally, any land disturbance activities leading to trees being cut shall not be burned by fire on-site. Trees must be disposed of by other means such as chipping or hauling off-site -](#) There shall be a 1-year pause on all development permits for violation of the Town's clear-cutting ordinance.

#### **5.11.1.C.3. Business licensing.**

It shall be unlawful for any person who is being paid a fee for the business of planting, cutting, trimming, pruning, removing, or otherwise modifying trees within the Town of Ridgeland to conduct such business without first signing an affidavit stating that he/she has received and read the Tree Protection Ordinance and 1995 ANSI A300 Standards. Such affidavit shall be completed and submitted when making an application for or renewing a Town of Ridgeland business license.

#### 5.11.1.C.4. Protected Trees.

- (A) The following trees shall be considered "protected" by the Town of Ridgeland for the purposes of this ordinance:
- (1) Trees planted or retained to meet the requirements of the Ridgeland Zoning and Land Development Ordinances.
  - (2) All species of trees that are ~~eight (8)~~ twelve (12) inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH) excluding those listed in 5.11.1.C.1(a). Definitions.
  - (3) All trees declared to be "landmark" trees per Section 5.11.1.C.5 below.
- (B) On the lot of a single-family detached, single-family attached, or individually sited manufactured home, the following trees shall be exempt from the tree protection requirements of this ordinance:
- (1) All trees in the proposed buildable area or driveway, excluding "landmark" trees.
  - (2) Up to twenty-five (25) percent of "protected" trees, excluding landmark trees, outside of the proposed buildable area or driveway.
  - (3) Pines (pinus), except Longleaf Pines (palustris), sweet gums (liquidamber styraciflua), Water Oaks, (Quercus nigra), Laurel Oaks (Quercus laurifolia), Willow Oaks (Quercus phellos), wax myrtles (myrica cerifera), crepe myrtles (lagerstromia indica), and those listed in the Clemson Extension's "Invasive Plant Pest Species of South Carolina."
  - (4) Dead trees or trees badly damaged by accident, storm, fire, or infestation.
  - (5) Landmark trees per Section 5.11.1.C.5 within ten (10) feet of an existing or planned home roof overhang.
- (C) On the lot of multi-family residential and nonresidential uses, the following trees shall be exempt from tree protection requirements of this ordinance; provided that in no instance shall there be fewer than twenty (20) trees per acre or less than twenty (20) trees per acre with a combined DBH greater than or equal to one hundred sixty (160) inches per acre retained.
- (1) All trees in the proposed buildable area, driveway, or other required site improvements, excluding "landmark" trees and those protected trees located within required setback or buffer areas whichever is greater, not to exceed sixty-five (65) percent of the entire site.
  - (2) Pines (pinus) except Longleaf Pines (palustris), sweet gums (liquidamber styraciflua), wax myrtles (myrica cerifera), crepe myrtles (lagerstromia indica), and those listed in the Clemson Extension's "Invasive Plant Pest Species of South Carolina."
  - (3) Dead trees or trees badly damaged by accident, storm, fire, or infestation.

#### 5.11.1.C.5 Landmark trees.

- (A) The town hereby declares the following trees greater than or equal to the stated diameter at breast height to be "landmark trees" with the preservation standards provided above those for "protected trees."

| SPECIES           | COMMON NAME               | DBH                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eastern Red Cedar | Juniperus virginiana      | 24"                       |
| Southern Magnolia | Magnolia grandiflora      | 24"                       |
| Live Oak          | Quercus virginiana        | <del>24</del> <u>12</u> " |
| <u>White Oak</u>  | <u>Quercus alba</u>       | <u>24"</u>                |
| <u>Laurel Oak</u> | <u>Quercus laurifolia</u> | <u>24"</u>                |
| <u>Willow Oak</u> | <u>Quercus phellos</u>    | <u>24"</u>                |
| Red Maple         | Acer rubrum               | 24"                       |

|                        |                    |     |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Bald Cypress           | Taxodium distichum | 24" |
| American Holly         | Ilex opaca         | 10" |
| Flowering Dogwood      | Cornus florida     | 8"  |
| Hickory (except Pecan) | Carya              | 24" |
| Cabbage Palm           | Sabal palmetto     | 12" |
| Longleaf Pine          | Pinus palustris    | 10" |
| Savannah Holly         | Ilex x attenuata   | 10" |

- (B) All trees not listed above, but greater than thirty-six (36) inches in diameter at breast height and protected under this section, shall be considered "landmark" trees for the purposes of this ordinance.

#### **5.11.1.C.6. Preservation of protected and landmark trees.**

- (A) It shall be unlawful to cut or otherwise destroy a protected tree or landmark tree without first obtaining a tree removal permit or, for larger property development, a site work permit. Within individual properties or the area of the entire development site, no tree designated as a landmark tree shall be removed, cut or otherwise disturbed unless the Town Arborist determines that the tree is hazardous, in decline, diseased, infectious; the removal of the tree is necessary to maintain the appearance, health or vigor of the remaining trees or no other practical alternatives for reasonable use of the property exist. If a determination is made that certain healthy, protected or landmark trees may be removed, they shall be replaced in accordance with the requirements of section 5.11.1.C.8.
- (B) Unless specifically authorized by the Planning staff and Town Arborist, no person shall intentionally damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any protected or landmark tree; attach any signs with rope, wire, nails, or other contrivance to any protected or landmark tree; allow any substance which is harmful to such trees to come in contact with them or be placed within their drip line over pervious areas; or intentionally set fire or allow any fire to burn when such fire or the heat thereof will injure any portion of any protected tree or landmark tree.
- (C) The landowner/ developer shall ensure, to the extent practical, that site and land developments are planned, designed, and constructed to maximize retention of existing trees. Protected trees and especially landmark trees shall be located in common areas and in required buffers and yards to the extent practical.

#### **5.11.1.C.7. Tree survey required for development.**

##### **7.1. General provisions.**

- (A) The landowner/ developer shall document protected and landmark trees on the property proposed for development. Two (2) survey methods are provided herein. The landowner/ developer of property ten (10) acres or more in area shall have the option to utilize "standard" or "sampling" survey method for protected trees. Landmark trees shall always be surveyed using the standard method.
- (B) A required tree survey shall appear on all preliminary land development plans, site development plans, and any engineering and building site plans showing the installation and construction of improvements and structures.
- (C) Tree surveying shall not be required on tracts reserved for later phases or future development, on residual tracts of land, or in wetlands proposed to remain undisturbed.

##### **7.2. Standard tree survey.**

- (A) All protected and landmark trees shall be surveyed and graphically indicated on the appropriate development plan. The graphic indications shall be labeled by species and diameter at breast height.

- (B) Critical root zones and drip lines of protected and landmark trees should be surveyed and illustrated as well. In the absence of specific root zones and drip lines, the plan shall illustrate a graphical representation of the drip line, which shall be a circle centered at the trunk of the tree equal in feet to the diameter at breast height in inches. (e.g., a twenty-four-foot-diameter drip line shall encircle a tree labeled "twenty-four-inch live oak".)
- (C) The survey shall indicate those portions of critical root zones and drip lines of trees on abutting properties that overlap the subject property, to the extent that such drip lines and critical root zones can be determined from the vantage point of the property to be developed. This provision shall not authorize the trespass on other private property abutting the subject site.
- (D) The development plan shall graphically indicate which trees are proposed to be removed, retained, and retained with pruning.

### **7.3. Tree sampling survey.**

- (A) The intent of the tree sampling survey of protected trees is to relieve the landowner/ developer of the burden of a complete tree survey for all protected trees, which may be numerous, but to encourage the preservation of clusters of protected trees of greater value in a specific portion or section of a tract or in a natural state. Typically, those trees with greater value on a given site are mature, bottomland, and hardwood, while immature upland pines, other than protected Longleaf Pines, are of little value to the Town of Ridgeland. The ~~planning-commission-town~~ will consider an immature upland pine forest absent from Longleaf Pines a suitable site for development.
- (B) The tree sampling survey of protected trees shall supplement the standard survey of landmark trees. The sampling survey shall indicate the type of groundcover present on each acre of property required to be surveyed. Sampling shall therefore occur once per acre, evenly distributed throughout the property. Groundcover types to be documented on the appropriate development plan include, but are not limited to "cleared," "sandy area," "scrub/shrub," "bottomland hardwood forest," "upland hardwood forest," "bottomland mixed forest," "upland mixed forest," "bottomland pine forest," "upland pine forest," "Longleaf Pine Forest/ savannah," and "marshland."
- (C) Forests shall be surveyed for predominant species types, approximate average age, approximate average tree diameter at breast height, and frequency or density of trees. The sample shall consider all trees, from immature trees to landmark trees. These findings shall be documented by sample and indicated on the development plan.
- (D) Forested areas shall be indicated on the plan via hatching or other graphic methods as whether they are proposed to be cleared or retained. The landowner/ developer shall tabulate the approximate number of trees in proposed cleared forests, which shall be the basis for the tree removal mitigation strategy set forth below.

### **5.11.1.C.8. Tree removal mitigation.**

- (A) A landowner/ developer shall propose a tree planting schedule to replace all protected and landmark trees cleared for property development as defined previously. Trees planted shall be proposed in landscaped buffers, common areas, road rights-of-way, and/or other portions of the developed site. To the extent practical, replacement trees shall be the same species and diversity as those removed and shall be suitable for Botanical Zone 8B (as suggested in Appendix I). The number and size of mitigation trees shall be in accordance with the table below.

| Each Exiting Tree Removed...                                                 | Will Be Replaced By... | Replacement Tree Size... | Replacement Value Calculation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 tree, <del>812</del> — <del>4186</del> " DBH<br>(excluding landmark trees) | 3 trees                | 3" in Caliper            | \$250                         |
| 1 tree, over <del>186</del> —24" DBH<br>(excluding landmark trees)           | 5 trees                | 4" in Caliper            | \$500                         |
| 1 tree, over 24"— <del>36</del> " DBH<br>(excluding landmark trees)          | 5 trees                | 5" in Caliper            | \$750                         |
| *All landmark trees                                                          | 6 trees                | 6" in Caliper            | \$3000                        |

**All protected or landmark trees removed without an approved permit shall be mitigated at twice the requirement listed above.**

- (B) Existing trees, mitigation trees and/or planted buffer trees shall be applied towards the required minimum of twenty (20) trees per acre or less than twenty (20) trees with a combined DBH greater than or equal to one hundred sixty (160) inches per acre requirement.

(C) **MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES:**

In the case of residential lots that are part of a larger development of three or more units/ lots or on commercial properties where Town Staff has determined that all the required trees cannot be planted on site due to availability or spacing constraints, the remaining balance of trees may either be planted on public properties using the Tree Bank or Tree Replacement Fund alternative. **For residential development of less than three lots that are not part of a larger development where Town Staff has determined that site constraints result in the inability to provide for all the required trees, as many trees as practicable must be planted on the site and no further mitigation is required.**

A. Tree Bank

1. The tree bank site location shall be in the same planning area of the Town as the project site. (Town Staff has final authority to determine site location).
2. Each tree bank tree must be 3-inch caliper size at a minimum.
3. All tree bank trees must be long-lived, hardy, native or naturalized, and compatible with local conditions, with good aesthetic value, healthy, and disease and pest free and approved by Town Staff.
4. To prevent a monoculture among plantings, the town shall require a diversity in the trees planted. Depending on the number of trees planted, there shall be a diversity of the plantings as follows:
  - 5 to 10 trees: minimum 2 types of trees to be planted;
  - 10 to 20 trees: minimum 4 types of trees to be planted;
  - 20 to 100 trees: minimum 7 types of trees to be planted;
  - Greater than 100 trees: minimum 10 types of trees to be planted.
5. All tree bank trees are to be guaranteed for 1 full year after planting. Any trees that die within this time period must be replaced by the landowner/ developer and/or permittee.

**B.** Tree Replacement Fund



If the tree banking alternative is not desirable, then the tree replacement fund is the alternative to meet tree density requirements. If constraints result in the inability to use the Tree Bank alternative, then the installed cost of the remaining balance of required trees must be contributed to the Tree Replacement Fund. The following criteria must be observed:

- ~~6.1.~~ In cases where any or all replacement trees cannot be adequately accommodated on a site, the landowner/ developer/owner shall, in lieu of planting the trees, pay a fee to the town.
- ~~7.2.~~ The required replacement fee shall be the total cost to plant the balance of trees that were unable to be planted to satisfy the site density requirement or recompense tree requirements. This fee will be based on the ~~Replacement Value Calculation in the above table in Section 5.11.1.C.8 installed to the American Association of Nurserymen standards.~~
- ~~3.~~ Revenue collected in this fund shall be placed in a separate account and be used solely to support tree planting for the beautification of public lands in the Town limits.

#### ~~Tree Mitigation Cost Calculation~~

~~Healthy trees; any protected or landmark tree as herein defined—take the cumulative sum of the diameter inches of all the trees, divide by 10, and multiply by the replacement value calculation in the table above money to be paid into the Tree Replacement Fund.~~

- (D) All newly planted vegetative material shall be guaranteed to meet American Standards for Nursery Stock at time of planting and for one year thereafter. Maintenance and replacement of damaged, destroyed, or dead plant materials shall be the responsibility of the property owner, or in the case of mitigation trees planted off-site, the responsibility of the landowner/ developer.

#### **5.11.1.C.9. Tree protection measures during development.**

The landowner/ developer shall take the following measures to protect retained trees during land disturbance, installation of improvements, construction, and other development activities.

- (A) Clear-cutting shall be prohibited. Clearing of a site for sale or development prior to application for preliminary land development plan approval or a zoning permit shall be prohibited (see also Section 5.11.1.C.2)
- (B) Protected trees scheduled to remain shall be protected against:
  - (1) Unnecessary cutting, breaking, or skinning of roots;
  - (2) Skinning and bruising of bark;
  - (3) Smothering of trees by stockpiling construction or excavation materials within drip line and critical root zone;
  - (4) Burning of trash or debris within the drip line or critical root zone;
  - (5) Excessive foot or vehicular traffic;
  - (6) Parked vehicles within the drip line and critical root zone; and
  - (7) Grading, filling, ditching, or trenching, except as specifically provided herein.
- (C) If trees are wounded or stressed during construction, any wounds to the bark should be cleaned to sound wood by removing loose bark and wood, leaving a smooth edge around the wound.
- (D) Topsoil disturbance in the critical root zone and drip line of each tree will be limited to six (6) inches removed or six (6) inches added. Any soil added shall be a loamy soil mix to ensure compaction is minimized.

- (E) The landowner/ developer shall provide water and fertilizer to trees as required to maintain their health during construction work.
- (F) The landowner/ developer shall designate one (1) corridor for construction access on the development plan, preferably where the driveway or parking area will be located, and shall limit construction equipment access, material storage, fuel tanks, chemical or cement rinsing, vehicle parking and construction office locations to non-forested areas to the greatest extent practical.
- (G) No more than thirty (30) percent of the area within the drip line and critical root zone of the tree shall be disturbed for access to the construction site, installation of improvements or other construction, except as specifically approved by the planning commission or the design control committee on a development plan under its purview.
  - (1) The landowner/ developer shall submit documentation from a professional arborist that any disturbance beyond thirty (30) percent can be mitigated and that the tree will survive and remain healthy despite the intrusion.
  - (2) All segments of roots removed during development shall be severed clean and a two-inch layer of mulch shall be applied over the surface of remaining exposed roots during development.
- (H) The landowner/ developer shall erect temporary barricades at the drip lines of all trees or groups of trees, except where approved development plans propose installation of improvements or other construction per subsection (G), above.
  - (1) The barricade is to be at least three (3) feet high and shall be of adequate structure to prevent removal or failure by natural causes.



- (2) The barricade shall be posted as "tree protection zone" or similarly visibly designated. Orange fencing common to construction sites in the Lowcountry is recommended [\(see photo example above\)](#).
  - (3) Nothing shall be stored within the barricades, including but not limited to construction material, machinery, chemical, or temporary soil deposits.
- (I) Any actions that cause the death or removal of trees during development for which approval was not received shall result in a violation of this ordinance AND shall necessitate mitigation for the loss of the tree.

### **5.11.1.C.10. Issuance of tree removal permits.**

#### **10.1. General provisions.**

A person who seeks to remove a tree outside the context of property development shall apply for a tree removal permit, which shall be required to authorize the removal of the tree. The permit shall be authorized only for the following trees or conditions.

- (A) Trees that may threaten health or property.
- (B) Diseased or infectious trees and trees in decline.
- (C) Trees or their root systems causing visible damage to structures or areas used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- (D) Trees or their root systems causing damage to areas used for pedestrians, vehicular movement, or underground utility lines.
- (E) Trees within road and utility rights-of-way and easements that cannot be properly pruned by the local utility company.
- (F) Trees on land actively managed for forestry and/or harvesting.
- (G) Managing trees to protect and encourage landmark trees growth and survivability.

#### **10.2. Forest management.**

- (A) Proper and routine forest management, including thinning and prescribed burns, is encouraged in Ridgeland for those properties owned for the prospect of harvesting timber and/or for conservation. The forest manager shall comply with this ordinance and shall seek a tree removal permit.
- (B) The applicant in receipt of a tree removal permit for forest management shall not be eligible to apply for preliminary land development plan approval or a zoning permit within two (2) years of the authorization date of the tree removal permit.

#### **10.3. Permit review.**

- (A) The person seeking to remove a protected tree shall submit a completed application form available from the Planning Department, together with the fee for review, to the Planning Department.
  - (1) The completed application shall include the name of the applicant, the name of the property owner of the tree, if different from the applicant, the addresses of each, and the reason(s) for proposed removal of the tree. A professional certification may be used to substantiate the reason for removal and may be submitted as part of the completed application.
  - (2) One (1) permit covers all trees proposed for removal in the application.
- (B) The Planning Department shall review the application and either approve or deny it within ten (10) business days.
  - (1) The Planning Department and Town Arborist shall be authorized by receipt of the application to visit the site as necessary to inspect for compliance with this section of the Zoning Ordinance.
  - (2) The Planning Department shall state in writing the reason(s) for denial. A denied application shall be eligible for appeal to the Ridgeland Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (C) The authorized permit shall be posted on the site at the road right-of-way during tree removal. The permit shall be valid for six (6) months after the date of issuance.

#### **5.11.1.C.11. Tree pruning.**

- (A) Maintenance pruning allows for the healthy uniform growth of a tree. Tree pruning promotes the health and natural growth of the tree. A tree's habit of growth must be considered ahead of time, and pruning must not interfere with any design intent or landscaping upon the tree's installation. Pruning shall be done in accordance with the guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture as published in the Arborist Certification Guide.
- (B) The use of unnatural pruning techniques will be considered an unauthorized removal of a tree unless the tree is designated on approved landscape plan to be shaped or formed in an unnatural pattern or to be maintained at a certain height. Examples of unnatural pruning are topping, stubbing, dehorning, or lopping.
- (C) In the situation where a protected tree or its limbs present a potential hazard to real property, minimal pruning shall be allowed to prevent negative impacts on public and private property and to provide for public safety. In the case of a hazardous tree, removal may be allowed, per code.
- (D) No permit is necessary for pruning; however, improper pruning and pruning out of conformance with these provisions shall be a violation of this ordinance and shall necessitate mitigation of the tree's loss.
- (E) No more than twenty (20%) percent of the tree's leaf surface shall be removed.
- (F) Climbing spikes shall not be used on trees that are not being removed.
- (G) Property owners/utility companies have the burden of proving that they have met the above requirements.

## Appendix I. Suggested Mitigation Trees

| Scientific Name           | Common Name                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Acer rubrum               | Red Maple                  |
| Carya illinoensis         | Pecan                      |
| Carya species             | Hickory                    |
| Celtis laevigata          | Sugarberry                 |
| Cercis Canadensis         | American Redbud            |
| Comus florida             | Flowering Dogwood          |
| Cupressus x chamaecyparis | Leyland Cypress            |
| Fagus grandifolia         | American Beech             |
| Fraxinus species          | White, Carolina, Green Ash |
| Ilex opaca                | American Holly             |
| Ilex x attenuata          | Fosters, Savannah Holly    |
| Juniperus virginiana      | Eastern Red Cedar          |
| Liriodendron tulipifera   | Tulip Poplar               |
| Magnolia grandiflora      | Southern Magnolia          |
| Nyssa sylvatica           | Blackgum, Tupelo           |
| Oxydendron arboretum      | Sourwood                   |
| Quercus acutissima        | Sawtooth Oak               |
| Quercus alba              | White Oak                  |
| Quercus falcata           | Southern Red Oak           |
| Quercus laurifolia        | Laurel Oak                 |
| Quercus lyrata            | Overcup Oak                |
| Quercus phellos           | Willow Oak                 |
| Quercus prinus            | Chestnut Oak               |
| Quercus shumardii         | Shumard Oak                |
| Quercus stellate          | Post Oak                   |
| Quercus virginiana        | Live Oak                   |
| Sassafras albidum         | Sassafras                  |
| Taxodium distichum        | Bald Cypress               |