



# Proposed Improvements to Tree Protection

- Applies to Article 5 “Landscape Standards”
  - models Hanahan, SC code
  - support to increase protections within town
  - PC unanimously approved earlier this month
  - Town Arborist remains very much involved
- Redefines *Protected* and *Landmark* trees
  - tightening of current requirements...
    - tree surveys
    - tree mitigation
    - tree protection during development
    - issuance of tree removal permits
    - tree pruning
  - provides suggested mitigation trees

- Defines *silviculture* as...
  - bona fide commercial operations consistent with state BMPs with oversight and guidance by the SC Forestry Commission
- Prohibits clear cutting...
  - bona fide silviculture operations exempt provided
    - 25' min buffers maintained along roadways
    - tree clearing plan provided to staff for approval prior to cutting
  - abolishes on-site burning
  - establishes 2-year pause on development permits if violated
    - violation period runs solely with property and not ownership

- Protected trees as follows:
  - any species 12" or more
- exclusions apply to all scenarios...
  - Water Oaks, Laurel Oaks, Willow Oaks, wax myrtle, crepe myrtle, sweet gum
  - those listed in the Clemson Extensions "Invasive Plant Pest Species of SC" and/or USDA SC Invasive Plant Species List

- Pertaining to SFD, SFA, or manufactured home:
  - additional exclusions...
    - any protected tree in buildable area or driveway (excluding landmark)
    - 25% of trees (excluding landmark) outside the buildable area or driveway
    - Pines, except Longleaf and those listed previously
    - dead or badly damaged
    - Landmark trees within 10' of existing or planned roof overhang (considered proper industry practice)

- Pertaining to Multifamily or Nonresidential:
  - exclusions allowed, but no fewer than 20 trees per acre or 160" per acre retained
  - additional exclusions...
    - any protected tree in buildable area, driveway or other required site improvements (excluding landmark) not otherwise protected in required setbacks or buffer areas,
    - not to exceed 65% of site
    - Pines, except Longleaf and those listed previously
    - dead or badly damaged
    - landmark trees within 10' of existing or planned roof overhang (considered proper industry practice)

- Landmark trees as follows:

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	DBH
Eastern Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana	18"
Southern Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	18"
Live Oak	Quercus virginiana	18"
White Oak	Quercus alba	12"
Red Maple	Acer rubrum	18"
Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum	18"
American Holly	Ilex opaca	12"
Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida	8"
Hickory (except Pecan)	Carya	18"
Cabbage Palm	Sabal palmetto	12"
Longleaf Pine	Pinus palustris	10"
Savannah Holly	Ilex x attenuata	10"

- Note: Live Oak Landmark status was lessened to 18" from 12" in the current standard; however, the remaining majority of trees on the list exhibit greater protection at 18" than previously set at 24".

- Two types of surveying:
  - tree survey...required on 10 acres or less
  - tree sampling...over 10 acres, sampling is allowed. Landmark trees must always be individually surveyed
    - occurring every acre with terms like “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”



- Tree removal mitigation for all protected and landmark trees as follows:

Each Existing Tree Removed...	Will Be Replaced By...	Replacement Tree Size...	Replacement Value Calculation
1 tree, 12—18" DBH (excluding landmark trees)	3 trees	3" in Caliper	\$700
1 tree, over 18—24" DBH (excluding landmark trees)	5 trees	4" in Caliper	\$1200
1 tree, over 24" DBH (excluding landmark trees)	5 trees	5" in Caliper	\$1700
*All landmark trees	6 trees	6" in Caliper	\$4000

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

**\*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.

- Goal is to replant on-site and not to receive money!
- Residential 3 lots or less with site constraints get a break

- Tree bank for mitigation
  - within project site
  - diversity of species required
- Tree replacement fund
  - separate fund with money distributed to the town in lieu of planting
  - used solely to support tree planting for the beautification of public lands within town