

County landscaping ordinance would target developers

GVL News 4-13-02

Council to address proposal that could help Greenville stay green

By Bob Montgomery
ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER
bmontgom@greenvillenews.com

An ordinance that would require developers to landscape parking lots and leave more trees and shrubs when

developing subdivisions will be considered by Greenville County's Public Service, Planning and Development Committee on Monday.

The meeting will be at 5 p.m. at County Square.

A subcommittee composed of planners, developers, landscapers and environmentalists has spent more than a year developing the proposal.

The plan has widespread support, according to home builder Eston Rogers, who said it is targeted more at large commercial developments.

Diane Eldridge of Upstate

INTERESTED?

■ For more details, call Diane Eldridge at 241-4004 or Greenville County planner Eric Vinson at 467-7270.

Forever, a group that supports careful planning and zoning, said a lack of zoning has led to acres of land being clear-cut, cookie-cutter

subdivisions, strip malls, big-box stores and massive parking lots.

"Aren't you sick and tired of seeing huge numbers of trees bulldozed in our beautiful region every day?" she asked. "Too few existing trees are being saved, and too few new ones planted."

Eldridge said she frequently gets calls from residents complaining about the

lack of trees.

She cited the clearing of trees along Interstate 385 and the enormous treeless parking lot at Cherrydale Point, as well as the balding of Paris Mountain.

"It's very flexible, Eldridge said of the ordinance. "It's going to miss the mom and pop development. Most already do landscaping. This will catch the few that don't.

The ordinance would require fewer parking spaces to be built, for example, at sites containing 200,000-square-foot structures, she said.

Also, any development with 10 or more spaces must have some landscaping, she said.

■ Bob Montgomery can be reached at 298-4295.