

MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE

To provide a forum for discussion of ideas, concepts, and methods to preserve trees and protect the tree canopy,

To make recommendations to County Council to encourage the preservation and replacement of trees which may be lost in the process of residential and commercial real estate development and to propose minimum standards for Council to consider, and

To provide educational and other useful information about historic and significant specimen trees and tree categories and to encourage people to preserve and nurture trees so classified.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diane Eldridge

Conservation Planning Consultant

Sandra Hamann

Greenville Council of Garden Clubs

C. Doug Harper

Commercial Developer

David Holmes, Chair

Attorney

Kim Kauffman

Landscape Architect

Tom Keith

Landscape Architect

Dan Rawls

Greenville County Planning Commission

Gordon Seay

Greenville Association of Realtors

Coleman Shouse

Home Builders Association of Greenville

Steven Smith

Forester

Todd Ward

Greenville County Planning Commission staff

Jimmy Forbes

Director of Greenville County Planning Commission, non-voting facilitator

Keeping the GREEN in GREENville

April 10 2006

Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Committee Hard at Work

The Committee held its fifth regular biweekly meeting March 30 with the majority of time devoted to hearing from three invited speakers who shared their expertise and perspectives about a possible county tree ordinance.

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, stated that Greenville County's population is increasing by an average of 15-16 people every day while approximately 9 acres of land are developed. Mr. Wyche emphasized the need for basic protection of the county's tree canopy and recommended that the Committee consider the Fulton County GA tree ordinance as a model. He added that while every component of the Fulton County ordinance might not be perfect for Greenville County, its main components would be a good fit. He recommended that the Committee invite a speaker from Fulton County to share more details about their ordinance and its effectiveness.

Ann Friedel and Shannon Dobson represented the Greater Greenville Master Gardeners and emphasized the role that trees play in creating a sense of place in



our communities. They stressed the importance of maintaining the county's extensive tree cover for its beauty and its contribution to environmental health and wildlife habitat, and recommended the use of native species whenever possible.

Dan Trout, Executive Director of Friends of the Reedy River, recognized the Reedy as an important natural resource and the need to protect it by preserving riparian buffers along its banks. He noted that trees are part of the answer to every problem the river faces, and that

they help prevent erosion, keep pollutants out of the water, and mitigate stormwater management problems.

Public Comment Period

The first fifteen minutes of each meeting are open for public comment. We encourage you to attend a meeting and share your concerns and ideas with the Committee. At the March 30 meeting, Scott Carlson of Schneider Tree Care spoke and stressed the importance of protecting trees intended for preservation on construction sites. He added that the cost of protecting an existing tree is about the same as the cost to plant a new one, but that the benefits of the existing tree are much greater, provided it is healthy and properly cared for during construction.

NEXT REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

April 13 8:00 a.m.
Greenville County Square
Conference Room B

ATTEND A PUBLIC HEARING AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The first of five public hearings was held March 30 at Travelers Rest City Hall, with most attendees representing the northern part of the county where large-scale development is just beginning to occur. The general

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE
April 27, 6:30 pm, Greenville Tech Greer Campus
May 11 & 25, 6:30 pm, Location TBA
June 8, 6:30 p.m., Greenville County Square, Council Chambers

consensus of those in attendance was that minimum standards are needed in commercial and residential developments, including public projects such as schools, to protect the county's tree canopy. Many cautioned against regulations that would interfere with an individual property owner's right to remove trees from his own property and were assured the Committee has been directed by Council to consider standards for commercial and residential development only.