

## 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

Furman Company

### Jimmy Forbes

Director of Greenville County Planning Commission, non-voting facilitator

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20 8:00 a.m.

Greenville County Square Conference Room B

# Keeping the GREEN in GREENville

[Click here](#) to complete the public survey and let the Committee know what you think about a tree ordinance

July 16 2006

## Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Begins Deliberations

During the first twelve regular meetings and five public hearings, the Committee has heard and learned from comments by numerous experts and concerned citizens and has now begun deliberating the best ways to preserve trees and protect Greenville County's tree canopy. They will submit recommendations for new countywide policies to Greenville County Council no later than November, and hopefully the Council will adopt the recommendations in the form of a new ordinance.

At its June 22 and July 6 meetings, Committee members reviewed and discussed the concerns of citizens and the recommendations of experts regarding the loss of tree cover in the County, and the importance of trees to stormwater management, air and water quality, wildlife habitat, shade, property values and aesthetics. In addition, they reviewed comments regarding best development practices and the importance of policies that are both effective and equitable.

The first fifteen minutes of each meeting are dedicated to hearing comments from the public. At the July 6 meeting, three speakers shared their recommendations and concerns.

Polly Green, a resident of Taylors, addressed the Committee regarding owner responsibility for trees that are damaged and that create hazards on neighboring



properties. She was particularly concerned about damage caused during last winter's severe ice storm.

Jeff Randolph, a developer and principal of The Randolph Group, urged the committee to recommend standards that will apply across the board to commercial, residential, and industrial developments. He

suggested that standards in the Upstate should be based on the region's topography and soil types and not simply replicate ordinances from counties where these conditions are vastly different. He also noted that requirements for road widths in subdivisions are sometimes excessive and that narrower roads could safely accommodate traffic while saving countless trees.

Judy Cromwell of the Greenville Tree Foundation cited the success of that organization in planting trees throughout the City of Greenville and recommended that the County undertake a similar cooperative arrangement with an organization to plant trees in the County.

Discussions will continue at the next regular Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. on July 20. The public is invited to attend and to share comments and concerns during the first fifteen minutes of the meeting.

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . .that one mature tree absorbs from 120 to 240 pounds of air pollutants (particulate matter and gases) every year? A study in Sacramento, California found that this equated to an annual value of \$28.7 million. (*Urban Forest Values: Economic Benefits of Trees in Cities*, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources.)

. . .that cooler air temperatures created by tree canopies reduce smog formation by up to 6 percent? (Roloff, Glenn. *Twenty-Nine Reasons for Planting Trees*. USDA Forest Service – Northern Region. Treelink: The Community Forestry Resource)

. . .that in 1994, trees in Atlanta removed an estimated 1,196 metric tons of air pollution at an estimated value to society of \$6.5 million? (Nowak, David J. *The Effects of Urban Trees on Air Quality*. Syracuse, NY: USDA Forest Service.)