

Keeping the GREEN in GREENville

August 2, 2007

Draft Tree Ordinance Has First Reading Before County Council; *Upstate Forever* Submits Comments

Last February, the Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Committee submitted its final report to County Council, unanimously recommending the adoption of a comprehensive tree conservation ordinance for the county. Those recommendations have been turned into a [draft ordinance](#), which received first reading by County Council on July 17. Council referred the ordinance to the Public Works, Planning and Development (PWPD) Committee, which is next scheduled to meet on August 6. A public hearing will probably take place by the end of August.

The proposed ordinance would require trees in every new development—residential, commercial, and industrial—in Greenville County. Developers would have to achieve a set number of “density units,” which are based on the diameter of the trunks of existing and planted trees. Buffers would be required along streams and wetlands, and “root protection zones” around existing trees slated for preservation would remain undisturbed. A position of County Arborist would be created to administer and enforce the ordinance.

Upstate Forever has submitted extensive comments (see the complete document at http://www.upstateforever.org/prog_tree/0707TreeOrdinance.pdf) on the draft ordinance urging County Council to clarify and strengthen several provisions, including:

- Clarify the tree protection plan provision.
- Specify the requirements pertaining to new trees planted on a site.
- Do not exempt manmade water resources from buffer requirements.
- Require a survey to clearly identify all wetlands, water resources and buffer areas to be protected.
- Allow the removal of invasive species.
- Make clear that the use of a tree bank is truly a last resort, not a way to avoid tree requirements.
- Clarify that trees required under the buffer requirements and parking lot landscaping ordinance do not count toward meeting the density requirements of the tree ordinance.
- Authorize the County to issue “stop work” orders if violations of the ordinance are found.

Greenville County residents, please [contact your representative on County Council](#) and let him or her know that you want a comprehensive tree ordinance enacted and that you support the changes recommended by Upstate Forever. We are hearing reliable reports that some builders and developers are working behind the scenes to derail the ordinance. So, we need a strong show of public support for the ordinance—an essential measure for keeping the green in Greenville.

GREENVILLE COUNTY
COUNCIL
PWPD COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6
5:00 P.M.
Conference Room D
Greenville County
Square
301 University Ridge

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW THE DRAFT ORDINANCE

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ UPSTATE FOREVER'S COMMENTS

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

“We can learn a lot from trees: they’re always grounded
but never stop reaching heavenward.” -- Everett Mamor