

Keeping the GREEN in GREENville



October 1, 2007

Draft Tree Ordinance Remains in Committee

Back in February, the Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that County Council adopt a comprehensive tree conservation ordinance for the county. Those recommendations were 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 then sent it back to the Tree Policy Advisory Committee.

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.

In July, **Upstate Forever** submitted extensive comments on the draft ordinance (see the complete document at http://www.upstateforever.org/prog_tree/0707TreeOrdinance.pdf) urging clarification and strengthening of several provisions. While many citizens of Greenville County have urged the creation of a strong ordinance, and many in the development community share this view, some builders, developers, and “taxpayers’ rights” advocates wish to derail the ordinance.

Currently, the Tree Policy Advisory Committee is reviewing the ordinance line by line and making certain changes. We are keeping a close watch on the proceedings, will carefully review the next draft, and will speak out against any weakening of the ordinance. We expect the ordinance to be on the agenda for the meeting of the PWPD Committee on October 15. Please come to this meeting and show your support for Keeping the Green in Greenville!

GREENVILLE COUNTY
COUNCIL
PWPD COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 15
5:00 P.M.

Conference Room D
Greenville County Square
301 University Ridge

“Tree conservation can save builders and developers money that would have been spent on clearing, grading, and landscaping; help a developer meet erosion control and stormwater management requirements in a more cost-effective way; and provide distinctive, marketable amenities that set new homes and neighborhoods apart from the competition.”

– from a book published by the National Association of Home Builders and American Forests