



T R E E

P R O T E C T I O N



What is the tree protection ordinance?

It is Article 9.2, "Tree Protection and Preservation" of the *Town of Meggett Zoning and Land Development Ordinance (ZLDR)*.

What is a Grand Tree?

A Live Oak measuring 24" or greater diameter breast height (DBH). All Grand Trees are prohibited from removal unless a Grand Tree Removal Permit is issued.

What is diameter breast height (DBH)?

The total diameter, in inches, of a tree trunk or trunks measured 4 ½' above existing grade at the base of the tree.

Do I need a permit to clear my land for development?

Yes, before clearing any piece of land, you must notify the Town of Meggett Zoning/Planning Department and obtain a Zoning Permit.

What do I need to obtain a Zoning Permit?

A tree survey drawn to an engineer's scale on a site plan or a preliminary plat including the location and size of all Grand Trees.

Can I do my own survey?

A licensed Engineer, Land Surveyor, Registered Landscape Architect, or Certified Arborist must do the survey.

I have a Grand Tree that appears to be in bad health, do I need permission to remove it?

Yes, generally if a Grand Tree is in poor health or poses an imminent threat to public safety, a Grand Tree Removal Permit may be approved by Staff.

Town of Meggett Zoning & Planning Department

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I have a Grand Tree, which is healthy, but I want to remove it, can it be removed?

To remove a healthy Grand Tree, a variance request must be submitted to the Town of Meggett Board of Zoning Appeals, where it must be proved that the tree presents a hardship. The requested Grand Tree(s) may be removed only where approved by the Board. The Board may require replacement trees.

If I cut down a healthy Grand Tree what will happen?

Removing a Grand Tree without Permit approval would constitute a Zoning Violation. Where Grand Trees have been removed, trees shall be replaced in accordance with a replacement schedule approved by the Planning Director. The combined caliper of replacement trees may be equal to or 3 times the DBH of the Grand Tree. Additionally, a court summons may be issued to the property owner.

What about Forestry Operations, do I need a Zoning Permit to harvest the timber on my property?

Section 48-23-205 of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina* was approved on June 2, 2009. This amendment provides regulations, definitions, conditions, and exemptions for forestry activities. All forestry activities must meet the requirements of Section 48-23-205 in order to qualify for an exemption from local regulations and/or permitting stipulated by this amendment. In order to administer the provisions of Section 48-23-205, and give forestry activities the benefit of the exemption from local regulations, the Town of Meggett is requesting that any company or individual planning timber harvesting contact the Zoning/Planning Department prior to commencing the harvest. A 5 year deferral of all permits may be applied to the property under this exemption.

PROTECTING TREES YIELDS SATISFYING RESULTS!

- WILDLIFE HABITAT
- GLARE CONTROL
- SOUND BARRIER

- SUMMER COOLING
- WINTER WARMING
- POLLUTANT FILTRATION

- SCREENING
- WINDBREAK
- AESTHETICS