MONCKS CORNER
The Lowcountry's Hometown

TREE REMOVAL GUIDE

Types of Trees

Non-Protected: Any non-flowering tree less than 10" DBH (Diameter at Breast Height). Flowering trees less than 2" DBH are also non-protected. Non-Protected trees can always be removed from your property without a permit or any official permission.

Protected: Non-Flowering trees 10" DBH or more, or flowering trees 2" DBH or more. These trees can be removed, but may require mitigation (see below).

Grand Trees: Grand Trees are 24" DBH or more. These trees require permission from the Town Planning Commission to remove, and may require mitigation (see below).

Flowering Trees: Include such popular varieties as the dogwood, redbud, and southern magnolia. Please contact the Community Development Office for complete listing.

Mitigation

The removal of any protected tree must be mitigated by planting new trees from the S.C. Urban Species Guide, unless mitigation isn't required (see below).

For every four inches of protected tree removed, one inch must be replanted. Likewise, for every two inches of grand tree removed, one inch must be replanted.

Each Existing Tree	Mitigation Ratio	Mitigation Tree Size (minimum)
Protected Flowering Tree	25%	One (1) Inch DBH
Other Protected Tree	25%	Two-and-a-half (2 ½) Inch DBH
Grand Tree	50%	Three (3) Inch DBH

A Town-Issued Permit is required to remove a grand or protected tree.
Grand and protected trees removed without permission will be mitigated at 100%.

All mitigation must be carried out on the site from which the tree was removed. If this is either not feasible or undesirable, the owner may contribute $75 per inch of tree removed to a Town Tree Fund, which will be used to plant trees on public property.

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TREE REMOVAL GUIDE - Continued

Mitigation is not required under the following circumstances:

1. Tree is dead
2. Tree poses an imminent safety hazard
3. Tree is located in the footprint of proposed building which cannot be reasonably relocated
4. Tree is being cut as part of a commercial timbering operation. In a case such as this, a fifty foot undisturbed perimeter buffer is requested.
5. Trees required to be removed to carry out a permitted wetland alteration and/or mitigation plan approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or S.C. Office of Coastal Resource Management are exempt from the provisions of this article.
6. Removal because of density or interference with the development of other trees
7. Removal of Pine Trees, unless permit is for multiple trees so as to constitute clear cutting
8. Trees identified by the S.C. Exotic Plant Council Non-Native Plant Species List

Application Process

For individual single family homes and single structure duplex construction projects, a reasonably accurate survey showing the location, size and species (common name) of any protected trees proposed to be removed must be shown. This survey need not be prepared by a licensed professional.

For all other construction, tree permit applications shall be accompanied by a tree survey prepared by a South Carolina licensed landscape architect, surveyor or civil engineer. The survey must show the following:

1. The location, diameter at breast height (DBH) and species (common name) of all protected trees at the time of the survey.
2. A clear designation of all protected trees proposed for removal.
3. A mitigation plan showing the location, size and species (common name) to be planted, if required

Grand trees may only be removed by action of the Staff or the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month and applications must be received two weeks prior. Application forms are available at Town Hall or online at the address below.

AN APPLICATION IS NOT A PERMIT. A PERMIT MUST BE ISSUED BEFORE ANY GRAND OR PROTECTED TREES MAY BE REMOVED. BOTH THE PROPERTY OWNER AND TREE CUTTING SERVICE WILL BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY GRAND OR PROTECTED TREES CUT WITHOUT A PERMIT.