



Angel Oak

Purpose and Intent

Trees are an essential natural resource, an invaluable economic resource, and a priceless aesthetic resource. Trees play a critical role in purifying air and water, providing wildlife habitat, and enhancing natural drainage of stormwater and sediment control. They also help conserve energy by providing shade and buffering different land uses and beautifying the landscape. The Tree Protection and Preservation regulations of the *Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance* are intended to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of Charleston County citizens.

Charleston County Zoning and Planning

About Us

The Zoning & Planning Department administers the County's *Comprehensive Plan* and the *Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR)* and prepares various studies and plans related to the current and future use of land in Charleston County.

Contact Us

Phone: 843-202-7200

Email: trees@charlestoncounty.org

Web:

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/index.php>



**CHARLESTON COUNTY ZONING
AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT**
4045 Bridge View Drive
North Charleston, SC 29405

TREE ORDINANCE

*Charleston County
Zoning and Planning*





Grand Live Oak Trees

What is a Grand Tree?

Any tree 24" or greater diameter, except pine and sweetgum...

The measurement is taken at 4.5' height. All Grand Trees are prohibited from removal unless a Grand Tree Removal Permit is issued. A Permit may be approved based on whether the tree is dead, diseased, dying, or a hazard. If not, the tree may be approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals in the case of a hardship.

What about pruning a Grand Tree?

Removal of 3 or more limbs with an individual diameter of 6" or greater and excessive pruning or thinning that exceeds more than 25% of the leaf surface requires a Zoning Permit.

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

Yes, before clearing any property, contact the Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department to obtain a Zoning Permit.

Protecting Trees Yields

Satisfying Results...

Habitat, Shade, Sound Barrier,

Buffering, Filtration,

Infiltration, Screening,

Windbreak, Aesthetics...

For non-single-family residential uses...

All trees 8" or greater in diameter are protected.

Where can I find more information concerning Tree Protection and Preservation?

Article 9.2 of the *Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR)*.



Tree Protection Fencing

Certified Arborists are educated to provide proper tree care through pruning, fertilizing, disease and insect problem diagnosis and treatment, lightning protection, cabling and bracing for support, and removal.

How do I avoid tree damage during construction?

Trees are usually damaged during construction through physical injury to the trunk and crown, root damage, digging, soil compaction, adding soil over the root system, and exposure to environmental stresses. Impacted trees may not die immediately but may decline over several years.

Tree protection fencing should be installed to protect the critical root zone prior to construction and in compliance with the *ZLDR*.