

## BEAUFORT COUNTY RESOURCE PROTECTION STANDARDS

### F. Tree Removal on Developed Properties

#### 1. Single-Family Residential Lots.

a. Permit Required to Remove a Grand Tree. On any individual single-family residential lot with an existing dwelling unit, a tree removal permit is required to remove a grand tree. See Section 7.2.50 (Tree Removal Permit). A grand tree is an exceptionally large tree for its species that is healthy and worthy of protection. It represents an individual tree that contributes aesthetically to the region's visual "sense of place" and serves as a seed stock for future generations. An individual tree is considered a grand tree by the following size criteria:

1. 1) Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), or Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) that are equal to or greater than a diameter of 24 inches DBH.
2. 2) Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), Slash Pine (*Pinus ellitoides*), and Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) that are equal to or greater than a diameter of 36 inches DBH.
3. 3) All other species of trees, not defined above, that are equal to or greater than a diameter of 30 inches DBH except those identified as invasive species in Table 5.11.100.C.

b. Tree Removal Permit Standards. A tree removal permit will be issued to remove a grand tree from a residential lot if the tree is dead, diseased, hollow, or has another condition that poses a hazard to people or structures on the lot or adjoining lot as determined by a certified arborist.

c. Removal of All Other Trees on Residential Lots. All other trees on a single-family residential lot with an existing dwelling, except those within required buffers, including river buffers, may be removed without a permit. Removal of trees within a buffer requires a tree removal permit; see Section 7.2.50 (Tree Removal Permit).

2. Tree Removal on All Other Developed Lots. For all other developed lots (excluding single family residential lots with existing homes), a property owner may remove dead or severely diseased trees upon receipt of a tree removal permit; see Section 7.2.50 (Tree Removal Permit). The application must be accompanied by a certified arborist's report stating that the tree is dead, diseased, hollow, or has another condition that poses a hazard to people or structures on the lot or adjoining lot. Upon removal, the tree shall be replaced with one 2.5 inch minimum caliper tree of the same species.