

HARDWOOD HARVESTING POLICY

PURPOSE: TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICAL (MEP) BY PRESERVING TREES , MAINTAINING STABILIZATION, AND MINIMIZING POLLUTANTS DRAINING INTO STREAMS, WETLANDS, AND SENSITIVE IMPAIRED WATER BODIES IN GREENVILLE COUNTY. TO PROTECT ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS FROM INCREASED RUNOFF AND SEDIMENT.

THE POLICY IS ONLY APPLICABLE TO PROPERTIES REMOVING TREES WITHOUT A VALID AGRICULTURE, SILVICULTURE, OR FORESTRY PLAN FILED WITH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND / OR THE FORESTRY COMMISSION.

The intent of this policy is to allow tree clearing without land disturbance when developers and/or property owners want to begin clearing trees, while in the process of preparing development plans and applying for appropriate grading permits.

The following requirements must be in place and met:

- Information for the larger common plan of development (LCP) or grading permit is on file with Land Development.
- An approved tree protection plan is on file. The approved plan shall be followed at all times.
- A construction entrance is installed.
- Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) for entrance and loading areas must be in place. Areas where property adjoins another property shall also be protected.
- Appropriate supervision is on site to ensure the tree clearing is in compliance with the approved tree protection plan, and the proper protection is installed at all of the protected areas.
- The Land Development Division must receive documentation from the owner and/or engineer acknowledging the aforementioned requirements are in place before any overall site clearing is to take place.
- The Land Development Division will require the pre-development condition for any future development be calculated based on the site's condition prior to the clearing of the trees. (The County's aerial photography will be used to determine the pre-development conditions).
- This information will become part of the LCP and grading permit information.
- A natural buffer must be maintained on all streams and creeks which meets the provisions of federal, state and county requirements.
- Should a property owner(s) clear trees with no land disturbance with the intent to sell or develop the property within one to three years, a tree protection plan is required.
- No grading, grubbing or stumping shall commence in any case until a land disturbance permit is issued.
- Failure to install and maintain proper BMPs, provide the necessary documentation or follow the above mentioned requirements will result in a violation notice for corrective actions.

For tree removal and / or land grading activities to be considered farming, proof of farming practices (< 5 acres) must consist of two or more of the following:

Definition of a Farm (<5 acres)

Proof of farming practices (<5 acres) consists of **two** or more of the following:

- An area in production that is capable of bringing in \$1000.00 or more in sales.
- A Schedule F form submitted to the IRS for taxes for the previous year.
- If livestock is the means of production, adequate fencing must be present. At least one animal must be on the property.
- If crops are the means of production, evidence of production must be visible.
- The farm is registered with the Farm Service Agency.

For properties > **5 acres** with land disturbance activities on site not registered with the Farm Service Agency will be treated as grading without a land disturbance permit.

If you have questions or want to know how to obtain a tree protection plan and / or grading permit, contact Greenville County Land Development Division at 864-467-4610.