

Issue: TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Few opportunities for arboriculture education exist in the state.

Recommended Actions:

- Help establish and promote new or expanded technical arboriculture programs in high schools, technical colleges and universities.
- Increase awareness of the benefits of arboriculture, technical training, and educational programs. Prepare materials and audio-visual presentations for use before school boards and administrators, elected officials, and industry leaders.
- Stimulate interest in professional arboricultural careers by encouraging participation in high school career days and the establishment of summer internship programs in arboriculture.
- Encourage minority students to consider urban forestry and arboriculture as a professional career.



Issue: RIGHTS-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

There is a need to train utility employees and contractors in proper tree pruning techniques.

Recommended Actions:

- Educate the general public and rights-of-way customers on correct pruning practices.
- Enhance the communication among utilities, their customers, and urban forestry professionals.
- Distribute publications containing proper species selection guidelines for planting near power lines.
- Promote, adopt, and encourage accepted standards for proper pruning near utilities.
- Promote training for utility company employees and contractors on the application of pruning techniques established by accepted industry standards.
- Support utility company management in educating a quality tree work force of employees and contractors regarding proper pruning techniques.
- Distribute research findings that indicate proper pruning near utilities may be more economical than methods currently used by some companies.

Issue: CARE AND MAINTENANCE

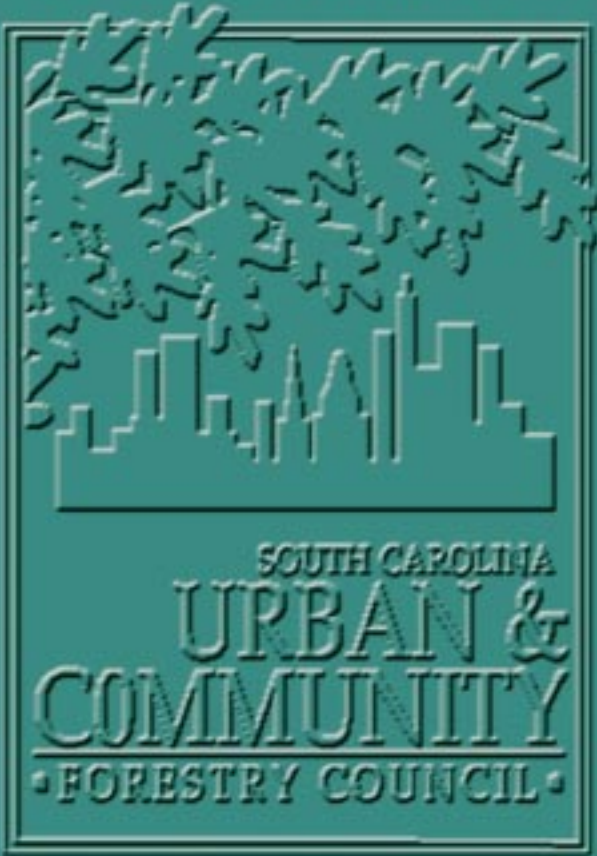
There is a need to educate landscape managers in proper tree care and maintenance.

Recommended Actions:

- Expand educational programs to improve basic understanding of arboriculture and the importance of proper tree care.
- Design an informational campaign for homeowners utilizing booklets, articles, and public awareness activities to establish a better understanding of tree purchasing practices, proper care and maintenance, and the role of healthy new trees in an urban forest.
- Correct the “bad information” regarding fertilization, backfill, staking, mulch, planting hole size, and removal of straps or wire.

The S.C. Urban and Community Forestry Council is a non-profit charitable organization formed in 1992. The mission of the Council is to promote and support activities that are designed to provide a state-wide forum for the stewardship of urban and community forests. Membership in the Council is open to any organization, society, association, business, public agency, group, professional or layperson having an interest in community trees.

For A Healthier South Carolina



the Plan

South Carolina
Urban &
Community
Forestry Council

Issue: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation to promote effective urban forestry programs and recognize those communities that are doing a good job. Tree City USA is one example of how public involvement can be encouraged.

Recommended Actions:

- The Tree City USA program should be frequently promoted through professional associations, publications, audiovisual programs, and other advertising methods. Interested communities should be encouraged to apply for Tree City USA status.
- Encourage and assist state, county, and municipal agencies in the development of tree inventories, ordinances, budgets, and master plans that establish long-term removal and replacement policies and programs.
- Promote the formation of tree boards, Arbor Day observances, and public tree ordinances.



Issue: GROWTH

Development destroys rather than enhances the quality of the urban forest.

Urbanization reflects the growth and development of communities. Community growth impacts the urban forests of South Carolina in many ways. In the process of development, trees are unnecessarily and carelessly removed, damaged, and/or weakened. Poor planning and lack of technical expertise costs tens of thousands of dollars each year in attempts to save injured trees or remove dying trees. Additional costs are incurred if tree replacement becomes necessary.

Recommended Actions:

- Draft enforceable regional landscape and tree protection ordinances with the involvement of those who will be affected by such an ordinance, as well as those with appropriate technical expertise in the process. These ordinances should require sound engineering, arboricultural, landscaping, conservation, and planning practices to enhance South Carolina's communities and its urban forest while encouraging economic growth.
- Review existing state and local government agency policies, ordinances, and guidelines that impact the health and growth of our community forests. Encourage revisions of these policies to recognize the economic value and aesthetic benefits provided by South Carolina's community trees.
- Seek out and publicize projects or techniques that have combined economic growth with protection and improvement of the urban forest.



Issue: PUBLIC AREAS

There is a need for public areas, parks, and streetscapes that enhance the quality of family life.

Recommended Actions:

- Encourage local governments to target public lands and rights-of-way for tree plantings.
- Establish local budgets for purchasing land and funding planting projects.
- Reclaim developed but unused areas for tree plantings and greenways.
- Identify and better recognize quality greenbelt and greenspace programs within this, and other states, and publicize these special efforts.
- Encourage public/private partnerships to establish demonstration planting projects that enhance the quality of life.

Issue: PUBLIC SAFETY

There is a need to balance urban vegetation density with the public's sense of safety.

Recommended Actions:

- Work with local officials in reducing opportunities for personal assaults through the use of proper species selection, placement, and pruning practices.
- Encourage public policies that identify hazardous vegetative conditions in forested areas and inform potential users about their personal safety.
- Utilize defensive design strategies, species selection, and tree maintenance practices in public use areas.
- Educate policy makers in the necessity to maintain trees in terms of public safety.

Issue: REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT

There is a need to use appropriate tree removal practices and implement plans for tree replacement.

Recommended Actions:

- Ensure that appropriate tree removal and replacement guidelines are available to state, county, and municipal agencies, public utilities, businesses, and the general public.
- Develop programs, seminars and conferences for the general public, and encourage the establishment of university and technical school curricula to provide training and education in tree removal and replacement practices.

Issue: TREE PROTECTION

There is a need for planning for tree protection as forested areas become urbanized.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide training on protecting trees during construction, landscape planning, and formulating landscape and tree ordinances.
- Provide training opportunities for the practicing tree managers within local communities.
- Encourage incentives to preserve and protect trees during development and avoid needed tree removal later.
- Develop model tree and landscape ordinances and voluntary treescape design guidelines.
- Work with the Department of Transportation and Parks, Recreation, and Tourism to develop a program for planting of trees and shrubs on major thoroughfares and highways to create attractive community treeways.

Issue: SELECTION OF SITE & SPECIES

Inappropriate species and site selection cause unnecessary future maintenance and adversely affect tree longevity.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop guidelines for tree selection and placement. Address topics such as purchasing quality trees, tree planting near power lines and structures, and planting areas of various sizes and configurations according to differing site conditions.
- Develop written and audio-visual materials on tree selection and placement for particular situations.
- Conduct training for municipal employees, landscape contractors, volunteer groups, landscape architects, and citizens involved in community tree selection and planting.
- Promote planting of less commonly used tree species through exchange of information between growers and buyers, landscape architects, designers and landscapers. Encourage species diversity and the use of native plant varieties.
- Provide education and training to encourage certification of arborists, nurserymen, and those responsible for species and site selection.
- Encourage demonstration plantings at universities, research stations, botanical gardens, and other public sites that implement appropriate tree selection and planting practices.
- Support research at colleges and universities to discover better species of trees for South Carolina communities.

Recommended Actions:

- Promote the creation of land development ordinances, guidelines, and incentives. Using examples of successful programs, produce promotional material on proven quality landscape ordinances that address land planning and development issues.
- Educate officials about the value of strong tree ordinance enforcement. Encourage enforcement where good ordinances already exist.
- Develop and/or distribute information about model ordinances which recognize legitimate development constraints that are based on ecologically sound principles.
- Develop materials showing the benefits of comprehensive community tree ordinances.



Issue: GREENSPACE, GREENWAYS, & PUBLIC CONTROL

Preserving greenspace and forested landscapes during land development is not a common practice in South Carolina.

The high cost of land and the strong sentiment for private property rights may preclude setting aside private land for public benefit. However, in some communities throughout the southeast, land has been included in protected areas either because of the uniqueness or beauty of the landscape or because of its significance for storm water management and recreation.