

More Questions? Contact the Tree Protection Officer at (828) 625-9983, or read the Subdivision Regulations at www.TownOfLakeLure.com

TREE PROTECTION during SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT



This pamphlet is designed to provide general information only.

Any decisions and processes will be based upon the regulations of the Town of Lake Lure.

**Town of Lake Lure, NC
September 30, 2008**

Issued by the Lake Lure Community
Development Department

What a subdivision developer needs to know about Tree Protection

- **How is “development” defined?**

Construction, reconstruction, conversion, alteration, relocation, or enlargement of a structure; mining, excavation, or landfill, or any use or extension of the use of land.

- **How do I know if my development is a subdivision?**

Please see the brochure entitled “Subdividing Land in Lake Lure.”

- **What are the basic rules?**

All land clearing and grading is prohibited except the minimum needed to install roads, community utilities, or facilities to be used in common by property owners. Tree topping is also prohibited. There are more rules for development on steep slopes and some ridgelines. Please see the subdivision and zoning regulations.

- **How is “land clearing” defined?**

Tree removal, underbrushing, grubbing, or any activity that removes live woody plants such as trees and shrubs.

- **Are all trees and shrubs protected?**

No. Only significant trees, and stands of native shrubs 100 square feet or greater in area, are protected.

- **How is a “significant tree” defined?**

Any stable, healthy tree at least as large as the diameter listed as significant for that species in subdivision regulations or the “Tree Protection Handbook” (TMH) available at Town Hall.

- **What is a native shrub?**

Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron, or any shrub species listed in the TMH.

- **Why is tree-topping prohibited?**

Cutting back the tree top or limbs larger than 3 in. removes the normal canopy, disfigures, and can kill a tree. See the TMH for approved pruning methods.

- **Do I have to protect all significant trees?**

No, but the fewer trees there are on the property you are subdividing, the more of them you must protect. Please see the subdivision regulations for details on preparing a tree protection plan.

- **What is a tree protection plan?**

Notations of protected trees and forest areas on the plat, estimates of pre- and post-development forest coverage, and other information on trees that must be provided in the subdivision approval process. Please see the subdivision regulations for full details.

- **Do I have to be careful with protected trees?**

Yes. A visible boundary such as an orange barrier fence must be set up around protected trees and forest areas before development begins, and kept in good repair until development is finished, to show workers which trees and shrubs they must protect from accidental damage. The subdivision regulations describe the types of damage to be avoided.

- **What if I cut or damage too many trees?**

New native trees, in sizes appropriate for successful planting and in numbers sufficient to equal the total diameters of the improperly cut or damaged trees, must be planted on the property and remain in good health for three years. Significant fines may also apply.