



## Code Amendment DRAFT

### Tree Protection

August 23, 2024 Revised September 5, 2024

#### **Background:**

Lowndes County staff provided background on the issue via email:

There have been a rash of Variances to the ULDC about the meeting Landscaping requirements and the Tree and Vegetation Protection standards, as they're similar but still separate.

One consideration is to add a tree bank to greatly reduce the requests for Variances, and provide the County with a means to help beautify it in other areas.

There are recent examples of applications requesting Land Disturbance permits now that have 600+ inches of Oak trees, which we have generally only considered as the specimen trees that require the 1" for 1" replacement value in Section 4.07.07(E)(9). These sites can be prepped for development, but at some cost to the developer that helps to maintain some of trees and vegetation that the UDLC tries to protect.

Review specific ULDC sections below:

4.07.04(A)(6)

4.07.07(E)(7)

4.07.07(E)(9) – "The combined DBH of replacement trees shall equal or exceed the combined DBH of trees authorized for removal."

Appendix A – Land Disturbance

#### **May 16, 2024 Meeting Notes:**

1. Define a Specimen Tree as and Oak Tree measured as 8" or greater
2. Not strong political support for aggressive tree protection
  - a. City of Valdosta has an arborist and tree protection
3. Land clearing – speculative. According to Mike Fletcher, there is a provision – in code or other regulations – that is clear cut, there shall be no development for 3 years
  - a. Didn't find in code, but check sources
4. There have been several requests for variances for tree replacement
  - a. Developers would rather write a check for a tree bank
  - b. Recommend about \$100 per inch – seem like a standard average in other communities
  - c. Identify how the money will be spent for landscaping in community