

Town of Southern Pines
Appearance Commission, Tree Committee
Planting and Trimming Standards in Town-Right-of-Way

101.22 PLANTING, PRUNING, AND TRIMMING TREES.

(A) The Town Tree Committee shall promulgate standards for the manner and extent of planting, pruning, or trimming trees, shrubs, or plants now or hereafter growing in the public rights-of-way of the Town. The standards shall be designed to protect and at the same time to preserve existing trees, shrubs, and plants; to provide for the safety of persons and property within the Town; to assure unimpeded traffic flow on the Town streets; and to assure the reasonable needs, uses, and upkeep of water, sewer, and other utility lines. The Committee shall cause the standards to be published and copies thereof to be made available to all persons on request.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to prune or trim trees, shrubs, or plants growing in the public rights-of-way of the Town except in accordance with the published standards. The Town Horticulturist or designated Town agent, after consultation with the Town Manager or designee, may waive the standards to accommodate unusual circumstances after an examination of the situation and consultation with involved parties.

(1989 Code, § 101.12) (Ord. passed 4-8-1980) [Penalty, see § 10.99](#)

1. Per Section 101.22 of the Town of Southern Pines Code of Ordinances, printed in its entirety above, the Town recognizes that trees in town right of way (ROW) oftentimes grow in the immediate vicinity of power lines and/or other utility infrastructure. To insure public health, safety, and welfare, these trees must be trimmed to guard against utility line encroachment to minimize potential outages due to failing tree limbs and trunks onto utility lines during storms and other weather related events. In the performance of this work, the Town of Southern Pines expects utility line trimming operators to follow Approved American National Standard (ANSI) A300, “Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management- Standard Practices (Pruning.”) Its companion piece, “Best Management Practices- Utility Pruning Of Trees” is also to be followed in all cases. These two documents are made part of this policy by reference.

2. The Town of Southern Pines will work to keep all lines of communication open between the town’s tree personnel and the utilities during periods of power line trimming, and will monitor to see that those ANSI pruning standards are followed as closely as possible. Utility companies contracting such work are asked to provide copies of the subject materials to the company contracted, and include specific language in contracts requiring the contractor to follow the principles and methodologies contained therein.

3. Recognizing that many residents consider the trees located in a right-of-way adjacent to their property as valuable assets, utility companies (or their contractors) are requested to provide advance notice to the Town of any non-emergency operations within Town of Southern Pines jurisdiction, and to provide notice of trimming activities to adjacent property owners via door hanger at least 24 hours in advance of any trimming or removal. Town notice shall be provided to both the Building and Grounds Supervisor (horticulturalist) and Assistant Town Manager via e-mail.

4. The Town Tree Committee will work with Utility providers to determine instances where removal of a subject specimen makes greater sense than significant trimming that may cause long term health, aesthetic, or other difficulties. Whether or not a replacement tree, of appropriate species so as to not provide similar encroachment on utility lines in the future, is provided will be determined by a number of factors, not the least of which will be the availability of funds for such activities.

5. All planting of trees in the Town Right of Way shall be governed by the rules, regulations, and practices set forth in the Southern Pines Unified Development Ordinance and specifically Appendix F: Screening and Trees. These documents are available thru the Planning Office or via the web at http://www.southernpinesudo.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=47&Itemid=64

6. It is recognized that many of the public Right-of-Ways throughout the Town are in fact under the jurisdictional authority of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). All persons and entities planting or trimming within NCDOT right of ways throughout the Corporate and ETJ limits of the Town of Southern Pines are asked to follow these standards in addition to any State required permits and regulations.

** The Town references [ASNI A300](#) and “[Best Management Practices – Utility Pruning of Trees](#)” **