



**GWINNETT COUNTY**  
**Department of Planning & Development**  
One Justice Square  
446 West Crogan Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Suite 150  
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045  
Phone: 678.518.6000 Fax: 678.518.6240  
www.gwinnettcounty.com

## **Tree Removal Information for Homeowners in Gwinnett County**

### ***Common Questions Homeowners Ask About Tree Removal***

**Q1. Do I have to obtain a permit to cut down a tree on my property?**

A1. Probably not; individual homeowners are not required to obtain a tree removal permit unless that tree is located in a required Zoning Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, or designated Tree Save Area.

**Q2. How do I find out if I have a buffer, Open Space, Conservation or Open Space, or Tree Save areas on my property?**

A2. Obtain a copy of the Final Plat of your subdivision. The information you will need is listed or shown on the plat.

**Q3. Where do I go to obtain a copy of the final plat of my subdivision?**

A3. Go to the Deed Records Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia, (phone 770.822.8150). There is a charge of \$2.00 per oversized copy.

**Q4. What if the tree is dead or dying and it is located in a Buffer, Open Space, Conservation Space, or Tree Save area?**

A4. Contact your Property Owners Association for tree removal. Also, consult the protective covenants for your subdivision for guidelines. Gwinnett County cannot enforce Protective Covenants.

**Q5. How do I find out the zoning of my property?**

A5. With your address and/or the district, land lot & parcel number of your property, call the Current Planning Section at 678.518.6200 or visit their office at One Justice Square, 446 West Crogan Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 225, Lawrenceville.

**Q6. What if my neighbor's tree fell onto my property?**

A.6. Georgia case law says that whoever owns the property from which the tree trunk originated is the person or parties responsible for removal. Please talk to your neighbor.

**Q7. Do my trees located on my property have to be dead before I remove them?**

A7. No. A homeowner can remove trees from their property provided they are not located in a required Zoning Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, or Tree Save Area.

**Q8. What do I do if a tree located on my property has fallen?**

A.8. Call a tree removal service. One source is the Yellow Pages. Call an arborist. A listing can be found at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

**Q9. What do I do if a street tree has fallen which originated in the street right-of-way?**

A9. Find out whether it is a Gwinnett County road or a State of Georgia highway. For the Gwinnett Department of Transportation, call 770.822.7400. For the Georgia Department of Transportation, call 404.656.5267.

**Situations where individual homeowners can remove trees without a permit from Gwinnett County:** (Reference: Soil, Erosion Control, Ordinance Article III, Section 3.1, Paragraph 3)

1. Any tree located on residentially zoned property of an individual homeowner.
2. Any dead or dying tree in a stream buffer if that buffer is on your property.

**Situations where an individual homeowner cannot remove trees:** (reference: Zoning Resolution Section 606, Zoning Resolution Article III, and Zoning Resolution Section 1316.6B)

1. Any tree located in a required Zoning Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, or Tree Save Area.
2. Any tree that is not located on your own property or that is located in an Open Space, Conservation Space, or Tree Save area.

**Tree Removal where a permit is required:**

1. Any property located in a Commercial, Industrial, Office or Multifamily Zoning District when a tree falls and is dead, dying, or diseased.
2. Steps to obtaining a permit if a property is in that zone
  - a. Provide a letter from a Certified Arborist, Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Agent, or Certified Forester.
  - b. Submit a site plan, which shows a closed boundary survey of property with any required buffers indicated.
  - c. Show trees to be removed.
  - d. Show trees to remain with tree protective fencing surrounding the drip line of the tree.
  - e. Show tree protection fence on site plan.
  - f. Bring the completed site plan to: Development Review Section, One Justice Square, 446 West Crogan Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Suite 150, Lawrenceville. Call: 678.518.6010.
  - g. Bring the site plan along with the letter from a Certified Arborist, Forester, or County Extension Agent. Visit the Development Review Section of Planning & Development to obtain the permit.