



Understanding the Community Tree Management Ordinance

Athens-Clarke County Community Tree Program

Forest Regeneration Areas

Forest regeneration areas are spaces permanently set aside to reestablish a woodland. Generally, these sites are so heavily disturbed that without human intervention, a healthy forest would not regenerate in a reasonable amount of time. Planted with a variety of species, these areas provide a primary cover for future forest and are used to satisfy planted canopy credits or as alternative methods for meeting conserved canopy requirements. Overall, forest regeneration areas are preferred over future forest areas as a substitute for conserved canopy on a site with an approved conservation waiver.

Regulations

- Each area must be at least 2,500 square feet.
- Turf and mowing are not permitted.
- The area shall remain in an undisturbed condition; only invasive species and hazardous trees may be removed.
- Active recreation and timber harvesting are not allowed in future forest areas without a variance issued by the Athens-Clarke County Forester or Arborist.

Planting Requirements

- Soils must have a pH between 5.8 and 7.0, be at least 5% organic matter, and be aerated to a depth of 8-inches.
- At least 245 trees per acre must be planted.
- 15% of trees must be large canopy trees that are at least 1.5 inch caliper.
- 30% of trees must be medium canopy trees that are at least 0.5 inch caliper.
- 55% of trees must be seedlings that are at least 1.5 feet tall.
- No more than 15% of one species may be planted.
- Trees must be native to the pediment area of Georgia.



Seeded trees in this Forest Regeneration Area have greatly increased the rate of succession.



Native grasses and trees have returned to this forest regeneration area six years after construction; this forest regeneration area has retained soils and restored canopy on a heavily disturbed site.

For more information, contact the Athens-Clarke County Community Forestry Coordinator at (762) 400-7519 voice, (706)613-3566 fax, or by e-mail at Mateo.Fennell@accgov.com.