



Understanding the Community Tree Management Ordinance

Athens-Clarke County Community Tree Program

Future Forest Areas

Future forest areas are sites permanently set aside to reestablish a woodland. With time, future forest areas should result in well-diversified, forested land that generates healthy tree canopy for Clarke County. Because these areas rely solely on natural processes to build canopy, they are best suited for sites that retain a natural character such as old fields and harvested forests. Future forest areas can be a very economical way to generate ordinance-required canopy on sites that have not suffered significant disturbance. These areas may be used to satisfy planted canopy credits or as alternative methods for conserved canopy requirements in areas where environmental conditions, lot character, or other constraints prevent a developer from conserving canopy.

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.



Newly established future forest areas may appear dense and aesthetically displeasing.



Eventually the strongest trees survive and a pleasant forest is created.

How It Works



Fields are abandoned



Grasses establish



Weeds and shrubs return



Small trees invade



Species composition changes



A climax forest is created

For more information, contact the Athens-Clarke County Community Forestry Coordinator at (706)613-3561 voice, (706)613-3566 fax, or by e-mail at forester@co.clarke.ga.us.