Tree Preservation In Steep Slope Zones

CITY OF ASHEVILLE | DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The City of Asheville has special requirements for the removal of vegetation within areas designated as *Steep Slope Areas.* Below are some frequently asked questions regarding regulations found in Section 7-12-4 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO):

• Am I in a Steep Slope Area?
The UDO states that any property with an elevation of greater than 2,220 feet and an average natural slope of 15% or more falls within an area identified as Steep Slope and is subject to additional development restrictions. An easy way to find out if you are in a steep slope zone is to use the *Buncombe County Online Slope Calculation tool* (http://www.mapwnc.org/slopetoolpost/).

• What is the difference between Steep Slope Zones A & B?
Zone A applies to properties with an elevation between 2220-2350 feet, while Zone B includes properties with an elevation above 2350. While both zones are designated steep slope areas, land disturbing and tree removal activity in Zone B is more restrictive due to the potential for environmental hazards and the need to preserve slope stability.

• Can I cut down any trees or remove vegetation?
Areas defined as steep slope Zone "B" shall preserve existing vegetation even if there is no land disturbing activity associated with the tree removal. A few exceptions include:

- Areas approved by the City via permitting and designated on approved plans for development; and
- Trees within ten (10) feet of a building footprint; and
- Invasive/exotic (non-native) species or trees deemed as dead or dying *by a qualified individual*.

• What happens if I violate this ordinance?
The City of Asheville is authorized to issue citations and leverage significant fines for violations of this ordinance.

• How do I report a violation of this ordinance?
Individuals who are concerned that indiscriminate or non-permitted tree removal or land disturbing activities are taking place should call the Development Services Department at the number included on this flyer.

Development Services Department
http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Departments/DevelopmentServices.aspx
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