#2026-10

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE VII *TREES*: SEC. 86-256; SEC. 86-257; SEC. 86-259; SEC. 86-261; AND SEC. 86-3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled, that Sections 86-256, 86-257, 86-259, 86-261, and 86-3 are hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Amendment of Sec. 86-256.
Section 86-256(c) is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 86-256(c)(1): Amount of required replacement trees is based on a graduating scale as follows:

a. One replacement tree is required for each tree removed measuring 18 inches to 24 inches DBH
b. Two replacement trees are required for each tree removed measuring greater than 24 inches to 28 inches DBH
c. Three replacement trees are required for each tree removed measuring greater than 28 inches to 30 inches DBH
d. Additional replacement trees required for each tree removed in excess of 30 inches DBH shall be no less than four, or as determined by the building code administrator or Ocean Ridge Architectural Review Board, or as the case may be.

Sec. 86-256(c)(5): Replacement trees shall be planted within 90 days of a removal permit issuance for all developed lots. Replacement trees for undeveloped lots shall be planted before a certificate of occupancy may be issued.

Sec. 86-256(c)(7): Owners must certify that replacement trees survive two years. Trees that do not survive must be replaced per the requirements of the tree ordinance.

SECTION 2. Amendment of Section 86-257.
Sec. 86-257(b) is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 86-257(b): During construction, protective barriers at the tree drip line or one and one-half feet of distance for each inch of tree DBH shall be erected to prevent vehicular and foot traffic around the roots of protected trees or groups of protected trees. If this is not practical, the building code administrator or Ocean Ridge Architectural Review Board, as the case may be, is authorized to accept alternate material and methods to protect against soil compaction as acceptable for the particular application.

SECTION 3. Amendment of Section 86-259.
Sec. 86-259(d) is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 86-259 (d): Persons responsible for unauthorized removal of a protected tree or trees may be subjected to a civil penalty of $500.00 per inch of diameter at breast height. Restitution funds will be credited to an account for trees to be installed within the town as appropriate. Imposition of the civil penalty may be made by the town building code administrator after a

hearing at which the person or persons believed to be responsible are given notice, and an opportunity to be heard and to confront witnesses. The issue of the diameter at breast height shall be a question of fact to be determined by the building code administrator or his/her designee.

SECTION 4. Amendment of Section 86-261.
Sec. 86-261 is amended to read as follows:

Tree Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Oak	Live Oak	Quercus virginiana
	Nutall Oak	Quercus nuttallii
	Shumard Oak	Quercus shumardii
	Southern Red Oak	Quercus falcata
	Willow Oak	Quercus phellos
	White Oak	Quercus alba
Magnolia	Southern Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora
	Sweetbay Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana
Cedar Trees	Eastern Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana
	Southern Red Cedar	Juniperus silicicola
Other	Added from time to time by the town council, or its designee	

SECTION 5. Amendment of Section 86-3.
Section 86-3 is amended by revising the definitions of "historic trees" and "significant trees" to read as follows:

Historic trees means all trees with a DBH of 18 inches or greater are considered historic. Also called protected trees.

Significant trees means [that] all oak, cedar, and magnolia trees with a "DBH" of eight inches or greater but less than 18 inches are considered "significant."

This ordinance shall take effect upon final reading.

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W. Crawford Moore, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk

First Reading: October 8, 2026
Public Hearing: November 12, 2026
Second Reading: November 12, 2026

Approved as to form: _____