

**TO:** Mayor and City Council of the City of Dacula  
**FROM:** Brittni Nix, Director of Planning and Economic Development  
**DATE:** May 23, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Amendment – The Buffer, Landscape, and Tree Ordinance

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Staff recommends updating The Buffer, Landscape, and Tree Ordinance to clarify previously established practices and create an administrative process for fees in lieu of replacement trees.

Three amendments are proposed:

- Amend Section 2.1 - Definitions  
Defining “specimen tree” will formalize the qualifying characteristics.
- Amend Section 5.5 – Tree bank  
The City’s tree bank allows relocating trees off site and planting said trees on City property. Amendments would restrict credits for relocated trees to no more than 50% of the total required tree density units.
- Add Section 5.6 - Fee in lieu  
Instituting a fee in lieu process allows sites that cannot bear the Ordinance’s requirements a means to satisfy the tree density unit requirements while honoring the intent of the Ordinance. A maximum of 50% of the required tree density units may be met through a fee in lieu contribution. The process would authorize the City Administrator or his/her designee to approve fees in lieu of replacement trees.

Staff recommends approving the provided amendments to The Buffer, Landscape, and Tree Ordinance effective immediately.

Best Regards,

Brittni Nix, Director of Planning & Economic Development