

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Ordinance Revision – Community Tree Management  
**Author:** Chelsie Fernald, Senior Planner  
**Department:** Development Services  
**Meeting Date:** July 2, 2024  
**Item Description:** Consideration to approve an **amendment** to the Code of Ordinances **Article II – Official Code, Chapter 30 – Environment, Article X – Community Tree Management.**

### Summary Recommendation

Staff has authored an ordinance to help Effingham County utilize trees for their value and positive effects on air quality, water quality, stormwater runoff, local climate, environmental health, property values, business revenues, scenic quality, urban design, human health and well-being, outdoor recreation, forest products, and wildlife.

### Executive Summary/Background

- This new ordinance will help cultivate and preserve the rural nature of Effingham County by protecting the tree canopy across the county.
- In multiple projects before the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners, residents have raised concerns pertaining to protecting landmark trees and the overall tree canopy within the county. This ordinance will help address those concerns.
- This ordinance sets forth the standards for tree preservation and tree removal when necessary and will be a benefit as our county continues to grow.

**Department Review:** Development Services

**FUNDING:** N/A

**Attachments:** 1. Draft of the Community Tree Management Ordinance