

## Common Questions Homeowners Ask About Tree Removal.

Note: These answers only apply when a residential lot has been developed and there is an existing house with a Certificate of Occupancy.

### Q1. Do I have to obtain a permit to cut down a tree on my property?

A1. A permit/permission may be required in some cases. Individual homeowners are not required to obtain a permit/permission unless that tree is located in a required Zoning Buffer, Stream Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, the Chattahoochee River Corridor, a designated Tree Save Area, or is a Street Tree.

### Q2. How do I find out if I have a Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, Tree Save Area, or Street Tree on my property?

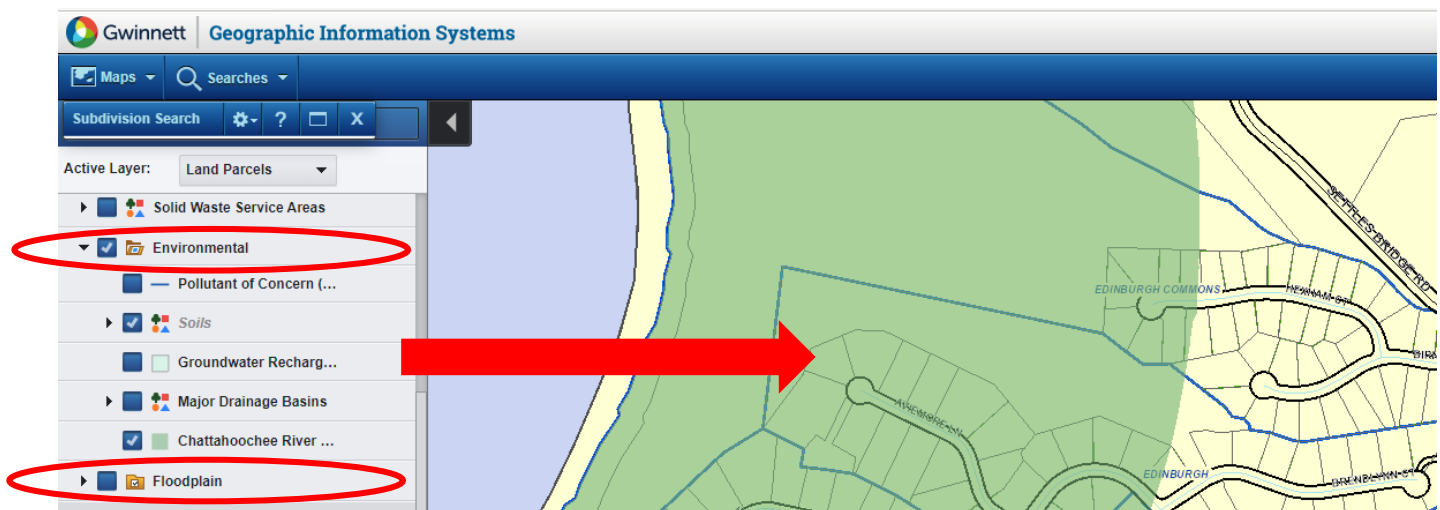
A2. Obtain a copy of the Final Plat of your subdivision. The information you will need is listed or shown on the plat.

### Q3. Where do I go to obtain a copy of the final plat of my subdivision?

A3. You can access the final plats online at [gsccca.org](http://gsccca.org) or go to the Deed Records Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia, 30046 (phone 770.822.8100). There is a fee to access the website and a \$0.50 charge for each copy printed. There is no charge to search and view documents in the office. Copy charge is \$0.50 per page printed and \$2.00 for each large plat printed.

### Q4. How do I find out if I live in the Chattahoochee River Corridor?

A4. If your lot (or any portion of the lot) is within 2,000 lineal feet from the Chattahoochee River it is considered in the Chattahoochee River corridor. To determine if your lot is in the Chattahoochee River Corridor you can access the GIS Data Browser at [gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com) and select the layer "Environmental" and select "Chattahoochee River Corridor". The corridor shows as a green layer over the map.



**Q5. What if the tree is dead or dying, and is located in a Buffer, Open Space, Conservation Space, the Chattahoochee River Corridor, Tree Save Area, or Street Tree?**

A5. Contact your Home Owners Association (HOA) for tree removal. Also, consult the Protective Covenants for your subdivision for guidelines. Gwinnett County cannot enforce Protective Covenants.

If the tree is located in the Chattahoochee River Corridor and it is dead, it may be removed manually (no motorized vehicles). The stump must remain intact.

**Q6. How do I find the zoning of my property?**

A6. To determine the zoning of your lot you can access the GIS Data Browser at [gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com) and select the layer "Zoning".

**Q7. Do trees located on my property have to be dead before I remove them?**

A7. No. A homeowner can remove live trees from their occupied property provided they are not location in a required Zoning Buffer, Stream Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, Chattahoochee River Corridor, Tree Save Area, or are a Street Tree. If you do remove live trees from your property, it is a requirement that you keep at least two live trees on your lot.

**Q8. What do I do if a tree located on my property has fallen?**

A8. Call a tree removal service or a certified arborist. A listing for a certified arborist can be found at [Isa-Arbor.com](http://Isa-Arbor.com).

**Q9. What do I do if a street tree has fallen which originated in the street right-of-way?**

A9. Find out whether the road is a Gwinnett County road or a State of Georgia highway. For the Gwinnett Department of Transportation, call 770.822.7400. For the Georgia Department of Transportation, call 404.656.5267.

**Situations where individual homeowners can remove live trees without a permit from Gwinnett County:**

1. Any tree located on occupied residentially zoned property of an individual homeowner as long as that tree is not located in a required Zoning Buffer, Stream Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, Chattahoochee River Corridor, Tree Save Area, or is a Street Tree, or;
2. Any dead or dying tree in a stream buffer if that buffer is on your property, or;
3. Must maintain at least two live trees on your lot.

**Situations where an individual homeowner cannot remove live trees:**

1. Any tree located in a required Zoning Buffer, Stream Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, Chattahoochee River Corridor, Tree Save Area, or is a Street Tree, or;
2. Any tree that is not located on your property.

Note: Properties located in the Chattahoochee River Corridor are subject to the Metropolitan River Protection Act and require review by the Department of Planning and Development.

Note: Properties zoned commercial, office-institutional, industrial, or multi-family must obtain a Land Disturbance Permit (LDP) in order to remove trees. Contact the Department of Planning and Development at 678.518.6000.