

### **7.14 Tree Removal Performance Standards**

Property owners often approach the Commission for approval to remove trees in the wetland or upland resource area of their lot for safety reasons. These safety reasons may be perceived hazards or documented hazards. Heavy rains and more severe storms in the past several years have resulted in a significant increase in tree removal requests. A property owner may submit a report from a state licensed arborist to show that the tree(s) are documented health or safety hazards (diseased, struck by lightning, causing serious mold or mildew within the dwelling, etc.). Based on the functions of the trees, the Commission, at its discretion and based on wetland function, may or may not require replanting of other native plant species to preserve wetland values and functions.

Property owners wishing to remove trees that are not imminent threats and show no signs of being compromised will be required to submit a restoration planting plan to preserve and enhance the wetland and adjacent upland values and functions.

Property owners may trim tree branches directly overhanging dwellings without a permit.