



COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

Beaufort County Zoning & Development

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PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF PRIVATE USE FISH PONDS,

Section 4.2.200 – Private fish Ponds states, “A Private Fish Pond shall comply with the following standards.”

1. Ponds are permitted to be excavated on lots a minimum of three acres in size.
2. Ponds shall be no larger than one acre in size.
3. All excavation activities shall meet all setbacks applicable to the principal structure, except that these activities shall be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the OCRM critical line, if applicable.
4. Ponds shall be excavated no deeper than 12 feet from existing grade.
5. Safe edges shall be provided for any excavation on the site to prevent accidents. Safe edges shall require a long shelf with a slope a minimum of 1:5 to a depth of three feet.
6. Engineer’s Report Required for Disturbance Greater than 10,000 Square Feet. Any private pond excavation resulting in a land disturbance of 10,000 sq. ft. or greater shall provide a certified engineer’s report ensuring that drainage and runoff do not adversely impact the property or surrounding properties.
7. Excavation activities are limited to 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
8. Maximum noise at the property line shall not exceed 65 decibels.
9. The site shall have a six-foot high access proof fence to prevent entry to the pond. The fence shall contain clearly legible “No Trespassing” signs every 25 feet along the length of the fence.
10. The hauling of fill dirt through existing residential areas should be avoided, or the shortest route should be utilized. The property owner shall responsible for damage to roads caused by truck traffic related to the excavation of the pond.
11. If fill dirt leaves the site or is sold, the property owner shall submit a valid mining permit issued by the appropriate state agency at the time of application for a private fish pond.

Applicant shall submit 3 copies of site plan, showing the following:

- a. Tree survey must be completed for all trees 8” and above; and for all dogwoods, magnolias and redbuds 4” and above. (Farm irrigation ponds are exempt)
- b. Site plan must show the location of the pond, and the requested tree removal.
- c. If there is an OCRM critical line, the critical line must be certified on the site plan, by the OCRM office.
- d. If there is a critical line, a 100’ setback must be shown on the site plan, for the placement of the pond.

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