

CAN I REMOVE TREES FROM MY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY?

It is unlawful and a violation of the Lake County Land Development Regulations to clear, kill or remove a protected tree or palm by any method without first obtaining a tree removal permit. Residential tree removal applications are available online at www.lakecountyfl.gov or at the Zoning Division, located on the fifth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 315 W. Main St., Tavares.

NOTE:

A tree removal permit, when issued, shall specifically identify which trees can be removed. Each tree permitted for removal shall be physically marked with an "X" using brightly colored paint or surveyor's tape. Or, if a group of trees are permitted for removal, the outside perimeter trees of the group may be designated with a brightly colored rope or tape in lieu of each tree. The permit will automatically expire 12 months after issuance. Trees not removed during the life of the permit may not be removed without the issuance of a new permit based upon new application.

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES MAY BE HELPFUL:

Florida-Friendly landscaping
floridayards.org

University of Florida IFAS Extension
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Assessing Damage and Restoring
Trees After a Hurricane
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes>

Lake County Extension Office
Horticultural Learning Center
1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: (352) 343-4101
Web site: <http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu>
E-mail: cfedunak@ifas.ufl.edu



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
GROWTH MANAGEMENT

315 W. Main St., Tavares, fifth floor
Phone: (352) 343-9641
Fax: (352) 343-9767
www.lakecountyfl.gov
keyword: zoning forms
CS35 - Tree Removal Permit Application

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LAKE COUNTY ZONING DIVISION

To provide the best customer service possible to the citizens of Lake County by affording a total range of services; continually improving the customer's experience with Lake County Government.

RESIDENTIAL TREE PROTECTION IN LAKE COUNTY



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
GROWTH MANAGEMENT
Zoning Division

For more information about zoning, contact the Lake County Zoning Division at (352) 343-9641.

WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM CANOPY TREE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE-FAMILY OR DUPLEX LOT?

- Two canopy trees for lots 6,000 square feet or less.
- Three canopy trees for lots between 6,001 to 10,000 square feet.
- Four canopy trees for lots between 10,001 to 15,000 square feet.
- Five canopy trees for lots between 15,001 to 43,560 square feet (1 acre).
- Eight canopy trees for lots between one acre and less than two acres.
- Eleven canopy trees for lots between two acres and less than three acres.
- Fifteen canopy trees for lots between three acres and less than five acres.
- Twenty-five trees for lots five acres or greater.

WHICH TREES ARE PROTECTED AND WHAT SIZE DOES THE TREE NEED TO BE?

- All trees and palms native to Florida, or Florida Friendly, three inches or larger in diameter at breast height (dbh=54 inches from the ground). Refer to www.floridayards.org, Florida-friendly plant database for trees and palms native to Florida or Florida Friendly.
- Sand Pine and Xeric Oak Scrub community trees two inches or larger in diameter at breast height (dbh=54 inches from the ground).
- Wetland trees of any size.
- Historic, Specimen and Heritage trees.
- Exemptions to Protected Trees. Prohibited trees, invasive trees, citrus or non-native fruit trees of any species shall not be considered a protected tree.

EXEMPTIONS TO TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The following protected trees and palms may be removed without a tree removal permit and required mitigation:

1. One to three trees, not to exceed a combined cumulative caliper of 30 inches, within any one three-year period; and are not required for any landscape requirement.
2. Trees located within new or existing recorded or prescriptive public road or drainage rights-of-way and easements that are to be removed as part of a Board of County Commissioners approved project. However, all protected trees removed under this exemption shall be avoided or relocated whenever feasible.
3. Any tree determined to be in a hazardous or dangerous condition so as to endanger the public health, safety or welfare and requires immediate removal. Authorization may be given by the County Manager or designee pursuant to the following procedures:
 - Photo documentation of the hazardous tree(s) by property owner is required prior to removal and shall be submitted to the County Manager or designee.
 - If the tree, due to immediate danger, is removed prior to obtaining written authorization, a letter and photo documentation demonstrating the immediate danger shall be submitted to the County Manager or designee within 15 days of the removal.
4. Agriculture and silviculture so long as the operation qualifies as a bona fide farm operation on land classified as agricultural pursuant to section 193.461, Florida Statutes, if such activity is regulated through implemented best management practices, interim measures, or regulations developed through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or a water management district adopted under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes under a regional program; or if such activity is expressly regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
5. Trees that have died through natural causes or diseased trees shall not require replacement or relocation. Trees killed or toppled by natural causes, such as lightning, hurricanes and tornadoes, shall not be required to be replaced or mitigated unless the tree(s) are required as part of a development order issued by Lake County.

