

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WEBSITE TREE INFORMATION

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APPROVED REPLACEMENT TREES

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Apply for a Tree Removal Permit

Overview

If you want to remove trees of a certain type and size on residential or nonresidential properties in unincorporated Hillsborough County, you will need a tree removal permit.

Fees

Application fee: \$81.65

For parcels over 5 acres: \$24.93 per acre additional fee

Checklist

- Tree information including:
 - Type
 - Trunk diameter
 - measured at diameter at breast height (DBH), which is 4.5 feet above ground
- Number of trees to remove
- Reason for removal
- Property access restrictions
- Number of existing trees 1" DBH and larger (residential only)
- Property size
- Year home built
- Property address
- Folio number
- Owner name, phone, fax and address
- Applicant name, phone, fax, address and email
- Person/Business removing trees information
- Site plan drawing to scale
- Photographs of trees in question (optional, but highly recommended)
- ISA Certified Arborist or ASCA Consulting Arborist Affidavit (optional)
- Tree condition evaluation (if applicable)
- Authorized agent consent (if applicable)

Things To Consider

- Certain trees are [exempt from needing a permit](#) for removal
- Dead trees do not require a permit
 - We encourage photo-documentation prior to removal
- Guidelines for non-exempt trees requiring a permit for removal:
 - Non-residential properties, developed or vacant
 - trees with tree trunks measuring 5" DBH or larger
 - Residential properties, vacant or under construction
 - trees with tree trunks measuring 5" DBH or larger
 - Residential properties on which the principal dwelling exists
 - trees with tree trunks measuring 12" DBH or larger
 - Typically, street trees and lot trees planted at the time the home was built will require a permit for removal regardless of size
 - Please contact Natural Resources staff if you are unsure how landscape codes apply to your property
- Within 15 business days after we receive the application, a staff member will come out to inspect the trees you wish to remove
- If you want to speed up the review process to 5 working days you can submit the application with an affidavit from one of the following:
 - an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist
 - a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA)
- If using the expedited affidavit method of apply for the tree removal permit:
 - We will not need to come physically inspect the trees
 - If you want to remove oak species measuring 34" DBH and larger, the person submitting the affidavit must complete the tree condition evaluation form found in the application packet
- You can't use the expedited method for Grand Oaks
- Tree removal permits are valid for a two year period from the date we issue them, unless otherwise specified on the permit
- If the property is within the boundaries of the cities of [Plant City](#), [Tampa](#) or [Temple Terrace](#) you will need to contact them about tree removal permits

How To

1. Download the application
 - [Tree removal application - printable](#)
 - [Tree removal application - fillable*](#)
2. Complete the appropriate parts
3. Submit via:
 - Mail
Development Services Department
Attn: Natural Resource Section
P.O. Box 1110
Tampa FL 33601-1110
 - In person
County Center
Natural Resources - 19th Floor
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602
 - Fax- (813) 274-6721

*Fillable forms may not work with many browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, etc.) - if you have issues with the form, do one of the following:

- Download the form to your computer, open it up with a PDF viewer, such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), then fill it out and print it
- Download the printable version of the form, print and fill out by hand
- Try using the Internet Explorer browser to open the PDF

What's Next

1. When we come to inspect the trees we will leave a written determination for the application at the property, unless specified otherwise
2. If you are using an affidavit from a certified arborist, we will email you the permit to the address provided on the application

Trees Exempt from Tree Removal Permits

Though many species of trees require a permit if you want to remove them, a permit is not required for all species. Certain trees have features which are not good for the local environment, so we have made it easier for you to remove them. The trees in the list below may exhibit one or more of the following traits, so are exempt from permit requirements:

- undesirable growth characteristics
- highly susceptible to freeze damage
- detrimental to the survival of native plants or animals

Click on the common name to view or download information sheets on the tree, which includes pictures and/or illustrations of the trees. A few of the trees do not yet have information sheets. We will update those as they become available.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	Earleaf Acacia
<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	Woman's Tongue
<i>Auracaria araucana</i>	Monkey Puzzle
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Orchid Tree
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper Mulberry
<i>Casuarina spp.</i>	Australian Pine

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<i>Citrus spp.</i>	Citrus Tree
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian Rosewood
<i>Enterolobium contortisiliquum</i>	Earpod Tree
<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>	Eucalyptus
<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	Surinam Cherry
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silk Oak
<i>Jacaranda acutifolia</i>	Jacaranda
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Lead Tree
<i>Melaleuca ouinquenervia</i>	Punk Tree
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Catclaw Mimosa
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian Pepper
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Queen Palm

Approved Shade Trees

If you want to plant new shade trees or replace trees you are removing, view the list of the approved species you can plant in Hillsborough County.

Characteristics legend

- N - Native
- F - Flowering
- E - Evergreen
- D - Deciduous (sheds leaves annually)
- 1 - Acceptable for planting in shade tree islands
- 2 - Not acceptable for planting in internal or terminal islands of parking areas

Click on the common name to view or download information sheets on the tree, which includes pictures and/or illustrations of the trees.

Common Name / Botanical Name	Characteristics
Green Ash / <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	N, D, 1
Bald Cypress / <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	N, D
American Elm / <i>Ulmus americana</i>	N, D, 1
Winged Elm / <i>Ulmus alata</i>	N, D
Pignut Hickory / <i>Carya glabra</i>	N, D, 1
Red Maple / <i>Acer rubrum</i>	N, D, 2
Southern Magnolia / <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	N, F, E
Laurel Oak / <i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	N, D, 1

Live Oak / <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	N, E, 1
Post Oak / <i>Quercus stellata</i>	N, E
Sand Live Oak / <i>Quercus geminata</i>	N, E
Shumard Oak / <i>Quercus shumardii</i>	N, D
Turkey Oak / <i>Quercus laevis</i>	N, D
Longleaf Pine / <i>Pinus palustris</i>	N, E
Sand Pine / <i>Pinus clausa</i>	N, E
Northern Slash Pine / <i>Pinus elliottii v. elliottii</i>	N, E
Slash Pine / <i>Pinus elliotti</i>	N, E
Sugarberry / <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	N, D
Sweetgum / <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	N, D, 1
Sycamore / <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	N, D, 1

Approved Ornamental Trees

If you want to plant new ornamental trees or replace ornamental trees you are removing, view the list of the approved species you can plant in Hillsborough County.

These trees generally obtain a mature height of 15 - 25 feet.

Characteristics legend

- F - Flowering
- E - Evergreen
- D - Deciduous sheds leaves annually
- N - Native
- 1 - Acceptable for planting under power lines
- 2 - May obtain a mature height of up to 50 feet under ideal growing conditions
- 3 - Palms must be planted in clusters of three to credit as one landscape tree

Click on the common name to view or download information sheets on the tree, which includes pictures and/or illustrations of the trees. A few of the trees do not yet have information sheets. We will update those as they become available.

Common Name / Botanical Name	Characteristics
Acacia / <i>Acacia Sp.</i>	F,E
Bottlebrush / <i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	F,E,1
Chickasaw Plum / <i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	N,F,D,1
Crepe Myrtle / <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	F,D,1
Drake Elm / <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	D
White Fringe / <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	N,F,D
American Holly / <i>Ilex opaca</i>	N,F,E,2
Chinese Holly / <i>Ilex cornuta</i>	E,1
Dahoon Holly / <i>Ilex cassine</i>	N, F, E, 1
East Palatka Holly / <i>Ilex attenuate</i>	N, F, E

Mary Nell Holly / <i>Ilex x "Mary Nell"</i>	E, 1
Yaupon Holly / <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	N, F, E, 1
Japanese Blueberry / <i>Elaeocarpus decipiens</i>	F, E
Jerusalem Thorn / <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	F, E, 1
Ligustrum Tree form / <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	F, E, 1
Loblolly Bay / <i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	N, F, E, 2
Loquat / <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	F, E, 1
Myrtle Oak / <i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	N, E, 2
Palm Species / <i>Phoenix spp.</i>	E
Sabal Palm / <i>Sabal palmetto</i>	N, E, 3
Washington Palm / <i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	E, 3
Podocarpus / <i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	E
Red Cedar <i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	N,E,2
River Birch / <i>Betula nigra</i>	N,D,2
Sparkleberry / <i>Vaccinium arboretum</i>	N,F,E,1
Summer Haw / <i>Crataegus flava</i>	N,D
Sweetbay Magnolia / <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	F,E
Tabebuia / <i>Tabebuia spp.</i>	F,E
Wax Myrtle / <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	N,E,1
Weeping Willow / <i>Salix babylonica</i>	D,2

Approved Street Trees

If you want to plant new street trees or replace trees you are removing, view the list of the approved species you can plant in Hillsborough County.

Characteristics legend

- 1 - Where palms are used for street trees, they shall be planted at twice the frequency as other accepted street trees

Click on the common name to view or download information sheets on the tree, which includes pictures and/or illustrations of the trees. A few of the trees do not yet have information sheets. We will update those as they become available.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Characteristics
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	
Pond Cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	
Winged Elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	
Florida Maple	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	
Sabal Palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	1
Washington Palm	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	1
Podocarpus	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	
Tupelo Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	