

Tree Codes – City of Clearwater and Pinellas County

	City of Clearwater	Pinellas County (as amended 01.20.26)
Tree Permit Threshold (“Protected” Trees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palm: 10 feet in height • Shade tree: 4-inch DBH • Accent tree: 2-inch DBH <p><i>A.3/D.12/Sec. 3-1205.A.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palm: 6 feet in height • Tree: 4-inch DBH (except homesteaded property with single-family residence) • Tree on homesteaded property with single-family residence: Greater than 24-inch DBH <p><i>Sec. 58-813(a)</i></p>
Tree Ratings	<p>0-6 Scale</p> <p>0 = Dead; removal required 1 = Poor ; removal required 2 = Below average; removal required 3 = Average; worthy of preservation 4 = Above Average; worthy of preservation 5 = Outstanding; shall be preserved 6 = Specimen; shall be preserved</p> <p><i>A.3./D.12/Sec. 3-1202.H.1</i></p>	<p>0-3 Scale</p> <p>0 = Poor; may be removed with permit, no replant trees required 1 = Fair; may be removed with permit, replant trees required 2 = Good; may be removed when interfering with improvements, utilities, or poses threat, replant required 3 = Excellent; may be removed with permit when prevents development of or access to lot, interferes with utilities, poses threat, replant required</p> <p><i>Sec. 58-813(b)</i> <i>Table 58-813(a)</i></p>
Replacement Trees and Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-family/Non-residential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inch-for-inch replacement - May pay into tree bank if deficit • Single-family/Two-family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inch-for-inch replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of replacement trees based on removed tree DBH and rating (Grade 1-3), from 1-12 trees • Minimum tree requirement of 1-8 trees (based on lot size); standard located in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum tree count of 2-8 trees (based on lot size) - May pay into tree bank if deficit • Community Development Coordinator may determine that certain protected trees do not need to be replaced • Credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addition of required landscaping on existing properties may be credited - 25% of tree DBH on <u>undeveloped</u> property zoned MHDR, HDR or other commercial property <p><i>A.3./D.12./Sec. 3-1205.D.</i></p>	<p>Land Development Code, landscaping provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credits for removing nuisance species and planting trees with native plants based on removed tree DBH from 1-4 trees <p><i>Sec. 58-813(b)(4) & (5)</i> <i>Table 138-3658(a)</i></p>
<p>Replacement Exemptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees rated 0-2 may be exempt if lot otherwise meets min. shade tree requirement (current staff policy/prior Community Development Coordinator determination, not in CDC) - Permits not denied for tree removal that would preclude reasonable economic use of property (also via policy, not CDC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees within proposed building footprint - Trees rated 0 <p><i>Sec. 58-813(b)(4)</i></p>
<p>Tree Permit Application Fee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of 1-5 trees: \$15 • Per tree over 5: \$3 <p><i>Appendix A. V(2)(j)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance/Invasive: No Charge • Single-family, Duplex, Triplex: \$50 • Multi-family and Commercial: \$265 <p><i>Res. 26-2</i></p>
<p>Tree Bank Fee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree bank: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$48 per inch DBH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$300/tree (single-family, duplex, triplex)

	A.3./D.12/Sec. 3-1205.D.2 & D.3	- \$500/tree (multi-family and commercial)
		Res. 26-2
Enforcement Fines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$48 per inch DBH (max \$5,000 for protected tree or palm and \$15,000 for specimen tree) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150 per inch DBH <p>Sec. 58-810(c)</p>
	A.7/Sec. 7-103.D.2.	
Removal Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-family/Non-residential/Subdivisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site plan showing location by size, canopy and species of all protected trees - Tree inventory by arborist for all protected trees - Tree preservation plan - Topographical survey (in certain situations) - Justification for Tree Removal • Single Family/Two-Family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey showing location and size of all protected trees and palms, those proposed to be removed, and reason for removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree survey - Tree risk assessment - Proof of ownership or authorization to perform work - Any other information as may be requested <p>Sec. 58-813(b)(1)</p>
	A.4./D.12/Sec. 4-1202.A. & B.	
Select Definitions	<p><i>Diameter breast height (DBH)</i> means a measurement of mature trees and is measured at a height four and one-half feet above the ground or soil level.</p> <p><i>Protected tree</i> means any shade tree four inches DBH or greater, and any accent tree</p>	<p><i>Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)</i> means the diameter, in inches, of a tree measured at four and a half feet above the substrate.</p> <p><i>Building footprint</i> means the area on the ground delineated by the outer edge of the</p>

two inches DBH or greater, and any tree or palm as part of an approved landscape plan, but excluding all hazardous and prohibited trees.

Specimen tree means any tree which is determined to be of high value to the community because of its type, size, age, exceptional quality, or other professional criteria, and so designated by the community development coordinator.

Hazardous tree means a tree that constitutes a hazard to life or has a significant potential to cause injury to persons or damage to property as the tree is in imminent danger of falling, or is otherwise considered to be or likely to create a hazard. A hazardous tree shall include but not be limited to dead, diseased, broken, split, cracked, leaning and uprooted trees. A hazardous tree shall also include a tree harboring communicable diseases or insects of a type that could infest and cause the decline of adjacent trees.

Prohibited tree means Punk (cajeput) tree - *Melaleuca quinquenervia* also known as *Melaleuca leucodendron*; Brazilian pepper - *Schinus terebinthifolius*; Australian Pine - *Casuarina equisetifolia*; and Chinese Tallow - *Sapium sebiferum*.

foundation of a primary structure that has been or will be approved. This definition includes additions to existing primary structures.

Code Citations	Community Development Code (CDC)	Code of Ordinances
	Article 3. Development Standards	Chapter 58. Environment
	Division 12. Landscaping/Tree	Article XIX. Tree Protection
	Protection/Artificial Turf	Section 58.810. Enforcement, Liability, and
	Section 3-1202. General Landscaping	Penalties.
	Standards	(c) Penalties
	H. Tree Inventory; 1. Tree evaluation	Section 58-813. Tree protection and
	grades	permitting
	Section 3-1205. Tree Protection	(a) Protected trees
	A. Removal permit - Required	(b) Permit required, (1) Procedure, (4)
	D. Tree and palm requirements and	Replants required and (5) Credit for
	replacements	nuisance/invasive species removal.
	Article 4. Development Review and Other	Table 58-813(a). Tree Rating System
	Procedures	Table 58-813(b). Replant Tree Requirements
	Division 12. Tree Removal Permit	Part III Land Development Code
	Section 4-1202 Removal permit –	Chapter 138. Zoning
	Application	Article X. Community Design Standards
	Article 7. Enforcement Proceedings and	Division 3. Landscaping, Habitat Protection,
	Penalties	and Wetland Buffers
	Section 7-103. Remedies; penalties	Section 138.3658. Landscaping for single-
	D. Restoration of landscaping/trees	family detached, attached, two-family, and
		three-family residential properties.
		Table 138-3658.a – Minimum Trees Per Lot