

# Tree Preservation and Removal



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# AGENDA

1. Areas for Refinement and Recommendations
2. Brief Overview of the City's Tree Permit Process
3. Comparison of City and Pinellas County Code Provisions
4. Current Permitting Activity and City Policies

# AREAS FOR CODE REFINEMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reorganize tree protection provisions for clarity and usability
- Incorporate graphics and formatting tools to improve understanding
- Evaluate the tree rating system, including comparison to Pinellas County's simplified scale
- Review residential minimum tree requirements, including lot size distinctions
- Codify current administrative practices and exemptions
- Clarify treatment of hazardous trees and emergency removal situations
- Review permit and tree bank fees as part of the department fee study

# CITY OF CLEARWATER TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

1. Permit Reviewed for Required Information
  - ✓ Multi-Family/Non-Residential Requires Site Plan and Tree Inventory for Protected Trees; Tree Preservation Plan; Justification for Removal
  - ✓ Single Family/Two-Family Requires Survey with Locations of Protected Trees/Palms; Reason for Removal
2. Land Development Arborist Visits Site, Reviews Application, Assesses Trees (Comparison) and Site Conditions; May Request Additional Information
3. Approves or Denies Request(s); May Partially Approve

# PROTECTED TREES

	CITY OF CLEARWATER	PINELLAS COUNTY
Palm Tree	10 Feet in Height	6 Feet in Height
Shade Tree	4 Inch DBH	4 Inch DBH
Accent Tree	2 Inch DBH	Does Not Differentiate Between Shade/ Accent Trees
Homestead Property	N/A	Trees Greater Than 24 Inches DBH

# PINELLAS COUNTY TREE RATING SYSTEM

GRADE	DESCRIPTION	REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT
0 "Poor"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dead/Dying</li> <li>• Nuisance/Invasive Species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Be Removed with Permit</li> <li>• No Replant</li> <li>• Min. Landscape Does Not Apply</li> </ul>
1 "Fair"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate Die</li> <li>• Damage from Insects</li> <li>• Single/Multiple Defects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Be Removed with Permit</li> <li>• Replant Trees</li> <li>• Min. Landscape Applies</li> </ul>
2 "Good"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Significant Damage</li> <li>• Minor Dieback/Minor Defects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Be Removed: Interferes With Utilities/Improvements</li> <li>• Replant Trees/Min. Landscape</li> </ul>
3 "Excellent"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Tree, Excellent Condition</li> <li>• Historic/Specimen Trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same As Above</li> </ul>

# PINELLAS COUNTY REPLACEMENT TREES

DBH OF TREE REMOVED	NUMBER OF REPLANTS REQUIRED BY GRADE			NUISANCE/INVASIVE REMOVAL CREDIT*
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	
4" to 14"	1	2	3	1
14.1" to 24"	2	4	6	2
24.1" to 34"	3	6	9	3
>34"	4	8	12	4

\* Invasive Trees Removed Must Be Maintained To Prevent Regrowth/ Reestablishment

# MINIMUM TREE COUNT – RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

CITY OF CLEARWATER		PINELLAS COUNTY	
Lot Size (SF)	Min. Trees Per Lot	Lot Size	Min. Trees Per Lot
< 5,000	2	≤ 2,500	1
5,000-10,000	4	2,501-5,000	2
10,001-15,000	6	5,001-7,500	3
Over 15,001	8	7,501-10,000	4
<i>LMDR District Min. Lot Size 5,000 SF</i>		> 10,001	4 + 1 tree per 3,000 SF

# PINELLAS COUNTY CODE EXEMPTIONS

- Trees Located Within Proposed Building Footprint Exempt From Replant Requirements
- Trees Graded 0 / “Poor”

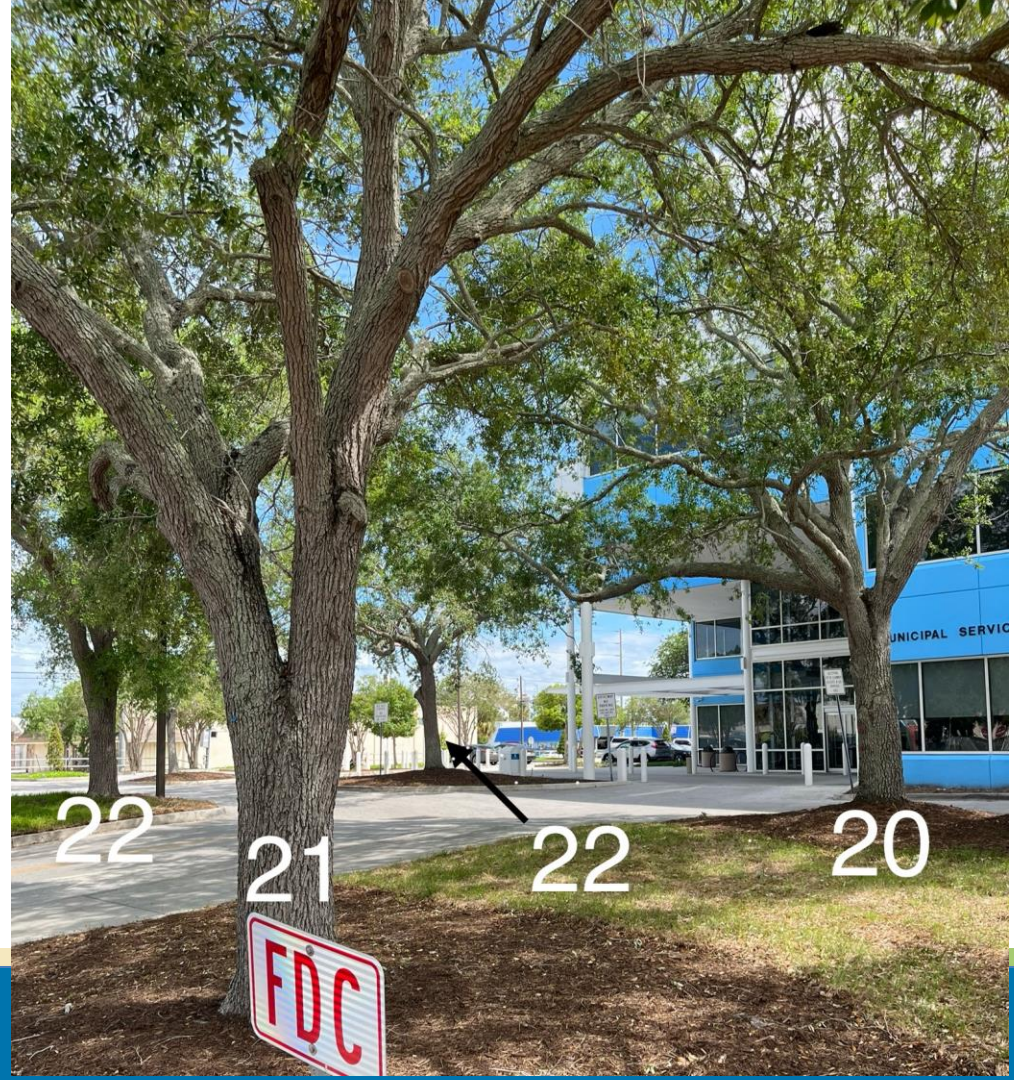


# APPLICATION FEE, MITIGATION (TREE BANK) & ENFORCEMENT

	CITY OF CLEARWATER	PINELLAS COUNTY
Permit Fee	Removal of 1-5 trees: \$15 Per tree over 5: \$3	Nuisance/Invasive: No Charge Single-family, Duplex, Triplex: \$50 Multi-family and Commercial: \$265
Mitigation (Tree Bank)	\$48 Per Inch DBH	Single-family, Duplex, Triplex: \$300/tree Multi-family and Commercial: \$500/tree
Fines (Enforcement)	\$48 per inch DBH (max \$5,000 for protected tree or palm and \$15,000 for specimen tree)	\$150 per inch DBH

# SAMPLE TREES: MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING

Diameter at Breast  
Height (DBH) Between  
20 & 22 Inches



# PERMIT REQUESTS

YEAR	TOTAL PERMITS <sup>1</sup>	# PERMITS APPROVED	# PERMITS DENIED	% OF TOTAL DENIED
2023	297	264	33	11%
2024	260	232	28	11%
2025	236	205	31	13%
2026 <sup>2</sup>	44	39	5	11%

Notes:

1. Stand-Alone Tree Permits (Not Associated With Other Construction)
2. Through March 31, 2026

# CITY TREE PROTECTION POLICIES

- Clearwater 2045 Quality Places Chapter:
  - Objective QP 5.6 Ensure quality landscaping and tree protection throughout the city.
  - Policy QP 5.6.1 Continue to protect trees during site development or redevelopment through standards in the CDC.
  - Objective QP 5.7 Prioritize the creation of a sustainable and long-lived tree canopy on public and private properties during development or redevelopment.
  - Policy QP 5.7.2 Preserve a shade tree canopy on private property by continuing to limit shade tree removal and ensuring shade trees are replaced/replanted in appropriate locations.
  - Policy QP 5.7.4 Ensure development or redevelopment provides appropriate amounts of Florida-friendly shade trees to improve stormwater runoff and provide heat reduction, noise abatement, buffering, and aesthetic beauty.

# Questions & Discussion



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