



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Growth Services

2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-438-2600
Fax: 352-438-2601

STAND-ALONE TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION

A tree removal permit shall be obtained from the Growth Services Department prior to any site clearing, grading, or for any construction which requires a permit from the Marion County Building Department. This permit application is for tree removal not associated with construction requiring a permit, which is addressed in the Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Sec. 2.22.4, Tree Removal (paraphrased below). Please refer to the Marion County LDC if clarification is needed. The purpose of this section is to regulate the protection, removal, replacement, and maintenance of trees from or in public and private property. Tree protection and replacement shall work cooperatively with landscaping requirements to preserve and enhance the aesthetic quality of Marion County, complementing the natural and built environments, while providing shade and habitat through the preservation of existing trees and native plant communities, replacement of trees that are removed, maintenance of trees, and the prevention of tree abuse.

The preservation and replacement of native trees 10" DBH (diameter at breast height) and larger, and protected plant species shall apply to all development with the following EXCEPTIONS:

1. The removal of trees for purposes of conducting **bona fide agricultural uses** such as field crops, landscape nursery, citrus nursery, forest crops, animal husbandry, greenhouses, aquaculture, silviculture and the like, **on lands with an agricultural zoning classification.**
2. Property used **for bona fide agricultural use**, as listed in Section 2.22.4.B(1) above, zoned other than agriculture and possessing an agriculture classification from the County Property Appraiser per § 193.461 FS. **Lands with an urban land use designation may not use this exemption.**
3. **On lands where either of the two exemptions above has enabled tree removal without a permit, no applications for any land use changes shall be made within one year of the tree removal date** unless:
 - a. The applicant provides tree replacement at 100 inches DBH of native trees per acre, or lower based on the pre-clearing density of existing trees, or
 - b. The applicant/owner provides payment into a Tree Mitigation fund in the equivalent amount of planting 100 inches DBH of native trees per acre or lower, based on the pre-clearing density of existing trees.
4. **The removal of trees which have a DBH of less than 10 inches**, except those trees which have been designated replacement and conservation trees pursuant to Section 6.7.9.G.
5. The removal of trees on an **individual parcel of record used or to be used for single-family dwellings.**
6. The removal of trees associated with the County's construction, rehabilitation, or routine maintenance of roads and drainage systems within public rights-of-way or easements.
7. The removal of trees associated with the rehabilitation or routine maintenance of roads and drainage systems within private rights-of-way or easements.
8. Tree removal or trimming for the construction of firebreaks, firelines, and surveying.
9. The removal of trees which pose **an immediate and direct threat to persons or property**, and the removal of **trees that are dead or dying due to natural causes.**
10. **Transplanting** of any size tree.
11. Removal of trees required by **a development plan which has been fully approved by the County.**
12. Removal of **exotic tree or nuisance tree species** as listed by the UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-native Plants, "Prohibited" or "Invasive – Not Recommended" tables, as updated.

Stand-alone Tree Removal Permits shall expire one year from date of issuance. Trees authorized to be removed may not be removed after the permit expires unless a new permit is obtained.

Please call (352) 438-2600 to schedule inspections for this permit.

PLEASE INCLUDE BOTH SHEETS 2 AND 3 OF THE PERMIT APPLICATION WITH YOUR SUBMITTAL

MARION COUNTY STAND-ALONE TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION

(Please print or type)

DATE: _____ PERMIT # _____

PARCEL ACCOUNT # _____

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE/CELL: _____ Email: _____

APPLICANT'S NAME (if different than owner): _____

CONTRACTOR OR BUSINESS NAME (if applicable): _____

LICENSE #: _____

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE/CELL: _____ Email: _____

It shall be a violation of this Code to fail to obtain a tree removal permit when required, to fail to comply with any condition of any tree removal permit issued, or to violate any provision of this division. See Marion County LDC, Sec. 6.7.13 for information regarding violation and enforcement.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) **PERMIT FEE: \$50.00. ANY REINSPECTION MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FEES.** Please include both sheets 2 and 3 of this application and include with submittal.
- (2) The application shall include either **a site plan or recent aerial photograph** of the location where the trees are to be removed and the proposed locations of replacement trees. The **site plan** shall include:
 - (a) **Locations of all native trees with a DBH (diameter of trunk at breast height) of 10" and larger**, labeled with the respective DBH and species of each tree, graphically indicating which trees will be removed.
 - (b) **Replacement trees** may or may not be required, depending on the existing (pre-development) ratio of trees on the site. Refer to the Marion County LDC, Sec. 6.7.8, for tree replacement criteria, and Sec. 6.7.9 for replacement tree requirements.
 - (c) **Calculations** including 1) the total number of existing native trees within the site and the respective DBH and species of each tree; 2) The pre-development ratio of native tree inches per acre; 3) The total DBH inches of native trees to be removed, and 4) the total DBH inches of native trees to be preserved plus replacement trees.
 - (d) **A tree protection detail** which graphically indicates the requirements of tree protection as described in the Marion County LDC, Sec. 6.7.3, if existing trees to be preserved may be impacted.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- (1) The review time frame for each submittal for this application is five days. The application will be reviewed and either approved, approved with conditions, or further direction will be provided.
- (2) **Conditions that may result in denial of the permit** include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (e) The tree's location, age, size, rarity, uniqueness, historic value, status as a specimen tree, or other outstanding quality as further defined in this Code.
 - (f) The proposed method of removal and the effect on surrounding protected trees or existing vegetation.

Please call (352) 438-2600 to schedule inspections for this permit.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION WORKSHEET

PROJECT AREA: _____ acres (area of site in square feet ÷ 43,560 = area of site in acres)

EXISTING TREES: _____ DBH inches (Total DBH of all existing native trees with 10" DBH or greater; the diameter may be calculated by measuring the circumference in inches at breast height and dividing by π, or 3.14)

DBH inches ÷ Project Area in acres = EXISTING or PRE-DEVELOPMENT inches-per-acre:

_____ ÷ _____ = _____ inches-per-acre (If 100" or greater, replacement trees must be added to restore to 100" per acre; if less than 100", replacement trees must be added to restore to Pre-Development number of inches per acre)

TO BE REMOVED: _____ DBH inches (Total DBH of all trees with 10" DBH or greater to be removed)

EXISTING DBH inches minus DBH inches TO BE REMOVED = PRESERVED DBH inches _____ - _____ = _____

PRESERVED DBH inches ÷ Project Area in acres = PRESERVED inches-per-acre _____ ÷ _____ = _____

REPLACEMENT TREE CALCULATIONS (see requirements below)

PROPOSED Number of REPLACEMENT TREES: _____ x 3.5" CAL* = _____ REPLACEMENT inches

PROPOSED Number of REPLACEMENT TREES: _____ x 4" CAL** = _____ REPLACEMENT inches

TOTAL REPLACEMENT inches: _____ + _____ DBH inches PRESERVED = _____ POST-DEV. DBH inches

POST-DEVELOPMENT DBH inches: _____ ÷ _____ acres = _____ POST-DEVELOPMENT inches-per-acre

TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

All trees not permitted for removal must be protected and maintained. For those protected trees permitted for removal, trees shall be replaced in accordance with the minimum standards set forth below. Please see Marion County LDC Sec. 6.7.8 for details. Replacement trees shall meet the minimum tree requirements established in Section 6.7.8, and shall be Florida native species compatible to the site. All trees shall be nursery grown and Florida No. 1 quality or better, as established by *Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants*.

Replacement is not required where the property owner retains existing trees on the site which total an average of 100 inches DBH per acre. If replacement is necessary, a minimum of 100 inches DBH per acre on the average shall be achieved. If the pre-development number of inches is less than 100 DBH per acre on the average, the property owner shall replace trees to equal the pre-development number of DBH inches. Required replacement tree(s) shall be either 3.5" caliper or 4" caliper, depending on the size(s) of tree(s) removed:

*Replacement of trees less than 30" DBH and permitted for removal shall be as follows:

- Existing trees measuring 10 inches DBH to 19 inches DBH shall be replaced with a ratio of **one inch replacement per two inches removed** and the minimum replacement tree size is 3.5 inch caliper.
- Existing trees measuring 20 inches DBH to 29 inches DBH shall be replaced with a ratio of **1.5 inches replacement per two inches removed** and the minimum replacement tree size is 3.5 inch caliper.

**Replacement of trees 30 inches DBH or greater and permitted for removal shall be as described below:

All trees which receive a favorable assessment may be approved for removal by the County's Landscape Architect or his designee under the following circumstances:

- The tree materially interferes with the proposed location, service or function of the utility lines or services, or rights-of-way, and the tree cannot be preserved through re-design of the infrastructure.

All trees which receive a **favorable assessment** shall be replaced **inch-for-inch** and the minimum replacement tree size is 4.0 inch caliper. All trees which receive an **unfavorable assessment** shall be replaced with a ratio of **1.5 inches replacement per two inches** removed and the minimum replacement tree size is 3.5 inch caliper.

----- (OFFICE USE ONLY) -----

Issue Date: _____ Issued By: _____ Inspection Date: _____

Approve Deny

Pass Fail

Comments: _____