

Landscape Tree Removal Permit Information

Cultivated Landscapes

Cultivated landscapes are those lands that have been altered by man through the removal of vegetation, addition of vegetation and/or both removal and additions which change the land from its natural condition to one requiring routine maintenance.

Often trees in the cultivated landscape do not have adequate room to grow and cause conflicts with our built environment. Some developments are over planted. In these developments too many trees and shrubs were initially installed to establish an immediate appearance of a lush landscape. Space for future plant growth was not a priority in the planning. At these sites, after struggling with an overgrown landscape there may be no alternatives left but to remove trees and shrubs. Once this is identified as the remedy a Tree Removal Permit (TRP) may be required.

Who needs a permit?

ALL trees on commercial developments and trees planted on common properties within residential developments require Tree Removal Permits. A permit is not required for a single family residence on a single family zoned parcel. However, if a residence is established as part of a Homeowners Association (HOA) or as part of a Master Association, consult with the association's representative before any tree removal, relocation or replanting occurs. Any clearing over 1 acre on a developed Single Family Lot requires a Vegetation Removal Permit (VRP).

Reasons for Removal

Collier County considers the following when evaluating tree removal applications:

- Are the trees causing damage to structures, such as roots lifting foundations?
- Are the trees creating a safety hazard, such as blocking the view of traffic?
- Are the trees damaging utilities, such as roots invading the sewer lines?

Determine the Number of Trees Required for your Property

Lot Size (square foot)	# of Trees Required	Minimum # of Native Trees	Maximum # of Palms
5,999 or less	1	1	0
6,000 – 8,999	2	2	0
9,000 – 11,999	3	2	1
12,000 – 14,999	4	3	1
15,000 – 17,999	5	4	1
18,000 – 20,999	6	5	1
21,000 – 23,999	7	5	2
24,000 – 26,999	8	6	2
27,000 – 29,999	9	7	2
30,000 – 32,999	10	7	3
33,000 – 35,999	11	8	3
36,000 – 38,999	12	9	3
39,000 – 41,999	13	10	3
42,000 – 44,999	14	10	4
45,000 or more	15	11	4

A minimum of one canopy tree per 3,000 square feet of pervious lot area is required for a single-family, duplex and mobile home lot.

75% of the trees fulfilling the landscape requirement must be native to Florida. Once a minimum of 2 canopy trees have been planted, single Royal Palms and Cabbage Palms in groupings of 3 can be used for up to 30% of the required canopies.

Tree Specifications

All canopy trees required shall be a minimum of 10 feet tall in height, have a trunk caliper of 1 3/4 inches and a 4-foot canopy spread and be in minimum 25 gallon containers.

Existing native trees preserved on the property can be credited for the landscape requirements. Preserved trees shall be protected during construction with barriers installed prior to commencement and remain until construction is completed.

Newly planted trees shall be staked for 6 to 12 months until the tree has established itself. Leaving the braces on longer than this can damage the tree.

Large canopy trees must be planted a minimum of 15' away from any structures and 10 feet away from drives/sidewalks/hardscapes to prevent future problems with roots and branches damaging the foundation or roof of the home.





Choosing The Right Tree

Tree or Shrub?

A woody plant with a distinct main stem or trunk is defined as a tree. At maturity, trees are usually the tallest of plants, and their height and single main stem differentiate them from shrubs, which are shorter and have many stems. Trees are perennials, plants that live for at least three years. Perhaps the most important ecological function of trees is protecting the land against the wearing away of topsoil by wind and water. The trunks and branches of trees provide protection from the wind and tree roots help solidify soil in times of heavy rain. In addition, trees and forests store water reserves that act as buffers for the ecosystem during periods of drought.

Why are Trees Important?

Trees are an important part of the aesthetic appearance and environment of Collier County. Trees screen and buffer the harsher aspects of urban development. They provide physical and psychological benefits to persons by reducing noise and glare. Trees also reduce heat gain in buildings and in parking lots through the creation of shade. Trees also promote water conservation and prevent soil erosion. In addition, trees provide habitat, protection and food for many plant and animal species.

Choosing the Right Tree

Your selection of a tree should be based on the location of the property in relation to property near the coast or in the coastal zone. Areas east and north of US 41 are slightly cooler than the coastal zone. Areas east of Airport Road experience even cooler temperatures. Therefore, it is recommended that temperature hardy species of trees be planted according to their location in Collier County.

Right Tree in The Right Place

COASTAL TOLERANT (West of US 41): Buttonwood, Sea Grape, Royal Palm and Gumbo Limbo. (Between US-41 and I-75)

MARGINALLY COASTAL: Live Oak, Mahogany, Royal Palm and Bald Cypress. **COLD TOLERANT** (East of I-75): Bald Cypress, Live Oak, Red Maple, Slash Pine, Cabbage Palm and Magnolia.

For a complete list of native trees and shrubs of Collier County by zone, visit the County's website: www.colliergov.net or contact the Department of Zoning and Land Development Review.



Staff Contact: Susan O'Farrell

Phone: 239-252-5754 Fax: 239-252-3942

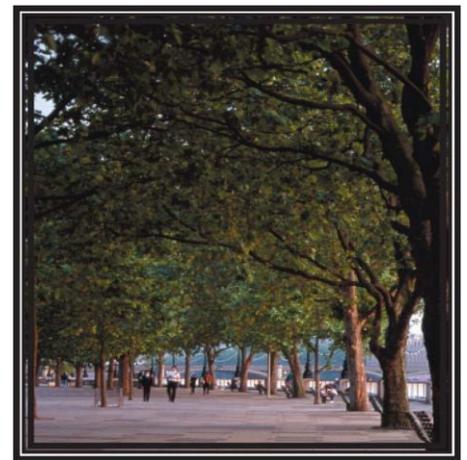
E-mail: SusanOFarell@colliergov.net

Community Development & Environmental Services Division

2800 North Horseshoe Drive, Naples, FL 34104

Tree Removal Permits (TRP) forms are available online at:

www.colliergov.net/Moduels/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=3089



Make the Grade:

Tree Quality

It is important to make sure trees planted around the home are of good quality. The tree quality grades acceptable to the county for planting are: Florida #1 or better. Florida Fancy has a single dominant trunk and evenly spaced alternating branches. A tree matching this description is of top quality or grade and is called a Florida Fancy. Sometimes a tree will have a co-dominant leader. If the V-notch is in the top 1/2 of the tree it is labeled a Florida #1 and downgraded to a Florida #2 if the V-notch is in the lower 1/2 of the tree.

A stable healthy tree is one with a single trunk. Trees with more than one leader are more likely to have large limbs give away during high winds or storms and cause property damage. For safety, Collier County requires landscaped trees to be Florida #1 or better.

Brochure created by the
Collier County
Community Development and
Environmental Services Division,
Revised: September 21, 2009