Department of Sustainable Development 700 NW 19th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

DO ALL TREES REQUIRE PERMITS FOR REMOVAL?

No permit nor replacements shall be required for removal of Schinus spp. (Pepper Trees, Florida Holly), Metopium toxiferum (Poison Wood), Casuarinas spp. (Australian Pine, Beefwood), Melaleuca spp. quinquinervia and M. leucadendron (Paper Bark Trees), Euphorbia tirucalli (Pencil Tree), Bischofia javanica (Bischofia, Bishopwood), Acacia auriculaeformis (Earleaf Acacia), Araucaria excelsia (Norfolk Island Pine), Cupaniopsis anacardioides (Carrotwood), or Brassia actinophylla (Schefflera).

WHEN IS A TREE PERMIT REQUIRED?

For a developed single family residential lot where no redevelopment is anticipated, a tree having a 8" or greater trunk diameter or a Coconut, Royal or Phoenix Palm with 8' of clear trunk is required to have a tree permit.

All other properties where a tree having 3" or greater trunk diameter or a palm having 8' or greater of clear trunk is required to have a tree permit.

WHEN IS A LANDSCAPE PERMIT REQUIRED?

A landscape permit is required for the installation, removal, or replacement of any required landscaping in accordance with the landscape code.

HOW MUCH DOES THE TREE PERMIT APPLICATION COST?

The tree permit application is a minimum \$170.00 (excluding single-family), and \$25.00 per tree. For work done without a permit, the fees are four times the minimum amounts when it can be determined that the current owner is responsible and two times the minimum amounts when it cannot be determined that that the current owner is responsible.

HOW MUCH DOES THE LANDSCAPE PERMIT APPLICATION COST?

The landscape permit application is a minimum \$90.00. For work done without a permit, the fees are four times the minimum amounts when it can be determined that the current owner is responsible and two times the minimum amounts when it cannot be determined that that the current owner is responsible.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT THE EQUIVALENT REPLACEMENT OF TREES WILL BE?

Equivalent replacement is a tree or trees due to its classification, condition and size is determined by the department to be equivalent to the tree or trees which it replaces.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT THE EQUIVALENT VALUE FOR TREE REPLACEMENT WILL BE?

Equivalent value is an amount of money determined by the cross sectional diameter (in²) of the tree by the classified value of the species

Note that the site shall meet minimum landscaping requirements. After met and verified at time of inspection, equivalent value may be determined as a payment into the Tree Canopy Trust Fund.

WHERE DO I SUBMIT THE PERMIT APPLICATIONS?

The complete submittal may be turned into the Sustainable Development Center, Building Services Division, located at 700 NW 19th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

Or, previously allowable fax permits will now be sent via email to epermit@fortlauderdale.gov Fax permits are no longer acceptable. Please note that scanned permits are a copy of the original which allows the review process to start. The original permit application must be submitted to complete the review and permit issuance. A permit will not be issued without the original application on file.

WHAT IS A SPECIMEN TREE?

A specimen tree is any tree which has a trunk diameter of 18" or greater and has a 70% condition rating and better. A separate tree permit application for tree removal must be submitted. Removal of a specimen tree can only be mitigated by providing equivalent value payment into the tree canopy trust fund at the time the tree removal permit is issued.

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF TREE REPLACEMENT?

The categories of trees are based on species and their growth characteristics in South Florida hardiness zones.

HOW LONG IS THE TREE AND/OR LANDSCAPE PERMIT ACTIVE?

The permit is active for six months. However, the replacement trees for the Tree Permit shall be installed within 2 months from the date of tree removal.

WHAT IF MY PERMIT IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE OR HAS EXPIRED?

A permit can be renewed at any time by submitting either a Landscape or Tree Permit application for renewal. If the permit is about to expire, the permit fee is 50% of the original. If the permit has expired, the permit fee is 100% of the original. Replacement requirements still apply.

For more information, visit Fort Lauderdale's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov.