

Dunnellon is a Tree City

The City of Dunnellon is proud of its extraordinary natural beauty including rivers, parks, wildlife and an abundance of Heritage and Champion trees. Trees provide shade from the heat on hot summer days, stabilize the soil, absorb storm water during heavy rains, produce oxygen for better air quality, provide homes and food for birds and other wildlife and they raise our spirits when we see a beautiful tree at our home, in the city or on a park trail. Trees have been planted in Ernie Mills Park and Datesman Park during improvements in the last few years. The city also has located trees in the center islands of US 41. The tree cover in a community moderates temperature by making it cooler in the summer and buffering temperature from overnight freezes in the coldest months.

Dunnellon is a Tree City with a Tree Ordinance that encourages maintenance of trees on existing residential and commercial property and sets standards for tree placement on new development. The ordinance was created to prevent clear cutting large wooded tracts for new development but to also give support for the preservation of the largest examples of tree species known as Heritage Trees (larger than 20 inches in diameter) and Champion Trees (larger than 36 inches in diameter). The 2007 ordinance has been placed in Section 74-61 through 74-70 of the Dunnellon City Code. Trees larger than 4.5 inches in diameter at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground are regulated. The standard for new development requires that there be a minimum of 16 trees per acre. City property owners that wish to remove existing trees are required to submit a Tree Removal Permit request to the Community Development Department. Permit Forms are available from Community Development. Each of the recent new commercial construction projects in Dunnellon has had a tree and vegetation design component that softens the sharp edges of concrete and glass and makes traveling through the city a visually more enjoyable experience.

Dunnellon celebrates Arbor Day each year in April with a public tree planting ceremony. This April, large Live Oak trees were planted with interpretive programs at the Dunnellon Elementary School and the Dunnellon Boys and Girls Club. Also this year interpretive signs were installed along the trails of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park noting many of the Champion and Heritage tree species in the park. Walk the trails, sit on a bench, look at the pond and enjoy the wonderful variety of trees in the park and along the trail to the Withlacoochee River Bridge.

Paul Marraffino
Dunnellon Tree Board Chairman



Champion Oak tree along highway



Pileated Woodpecker



Trail with tree canopy