



City of Dunnellon - Community Development

20750 River Dr. | Dunnellon, Florida 34431

Phone: (352) 465-8500 x1010 | Email: planning@dunnellon.org

Website: www.dunnellon.org

TREE REMOVAL GUIDANCE

Florida Statute 164.045 defines the conditions in which a homeowner can hire a tree care company to remove a tree on their property without prior notice or permission from their local government. If you do not meet the conditions of this section, then City Codes [Sec. 74-62](#), and [74-64 through 74-68](#) applies.

THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

The 2023 Florida Statutes (including Special Session C)

| Title XI | Chapter 163 | View Entire Chapter |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS | INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS | |
| 163.045 | Tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property.– | |
| (1) | For purposes of this section, the term: | |
| (a) | “Documentation” means an onsite assessment performed in accordance with the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017) by an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or a Florida licensed landscape architect and signed by the certified arborist or licensed landscape architect. | |
| (b) | “Residential property” means a single-family, detached building located on a lot that is actively used for single-family residential purposes and that is either a conforming use or a legally recognized nonconforming use in accordance with the local jurisdiction’s applicable land development regulations. | |
| (2) | A local government may not require a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on a residential property if the property owner possesses documentation from an arborist certified by the ISA or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property. A tree poses an unacceptable risk if removal is the only means of practically mitigating its risk below moderate, as determined by the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017). | |
| (3) | A local government may not require a property owner to replant a tree that was pruned, trimmed, or removed in accordance with this section. | |
| (4) | This section does not apply to the exercise of specifically delegated authority for mangrove protection pursuant to ss. 403.9321-403.9333 . | |
| | History.—s. 1, ch. 2019-155; s. 1, ch. 2022-121. | |

- Is the tree within 10’ of the principle residence? If yes, the permit application will have zero fees.
- Detrimental damage to the tree (apparent to the untrained eye) beyond the point of revitalization will result in zero fees. An example would include a tree breaking in half mid-trunk.

All other requests require an assessment from an ISA-certified arborist or a Florida licensed landscape architect in accordance with F.S. 164.045 (2) to be exempt from permitting. Homeowners should maintain the assessment to serve as proof of meeting regulatory requirements.

Note: A certified arborist or certified landscape architect will provide their credentials. A copy of these credentials should be included on the written assessment.



City of Dunnellon - Community Development

20750 River Dr. | Dunnellon, Florida 34431

Phone: (352) 465-8500 x1010 | Email: planning@dunnellon.org

Website: www.dunnellon.org

Permit #: _____

Date Received: _____

If you have a written assessment from a certified arborist or landscape architect as noted on page 1, provide the letter with this application to be exempt from permitting. The application will be used for recordkeeping purposes only.

PERMIT APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL

1. Do you have a letter from a certified arborist or landscape architect? Yes No

2. Property Owner Information:

NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

3. Address Where Proposed Activity Exists or Will Occur: _____

IF APPLICANT IS THE OWNER, SKIP SECTION 4

4. Applicant's Authorized Agent for Permit Application Coordination (ex: contractor, tenant...):

NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

5. Parcel number ([lookup here](#)): _____ - _____ - _____

6. Parcel size: _____

7. Is this a waterfront property? Yes No

8. Present Use of Subject Property: commercial residential

9. Anticipated Start Date of Work: _____ Contractor Name: _____

10. Proposed Work: The following attachments MUST accompany each application.

a) Attachment A – Tree Identification (attached)

b) Attachment B – Site Plan (attached)

c) Attachment C – Photos of trees (applicant to supply photos as a jpg or pdf file to planning@dunnellon.org)

d) Attachment D - For parcels of two or more acres, an aerial map shall be provided.

e) Attachment E – ONLY required if owner seeks exemption from permitting per [Florida Statute 163.045](#) - documentation from an arborist certified by the ISA or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property.

FEES:

- Tree Removal Permit Fee (per application): Residential-\$50.00 Commercial-\$100.00.
- Fee is waived for removal of a diseased or dead tree, or if tree is within 10' of permanent structure (exemption letter required from city) per City Code Sec. 74-62(c)(7) and (10).

11. Affidavit of Ownership or control of the property from which the proposed tree removal is to be undertaken:

A. I certify that: (please check the appropriate space)

I am the fee simple title owner of the subject property.

I am a lessee, optionee, contract purchaser, or agent of the owner of the subject property (attach certified owner authorization for the proposed work and lease, option to purchase or land sales contract).

I am the record easement owner of the subject property and the proposed tree removal is consistent with the use granted by the easement. Attach certified owner authorization for the proposed work and copy of the document granting the easement and showing the location of the easement.

TYPE/PRINT NAME OF APPLICANT/AGENT

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT/AGENT

DATE

NOTE: AN AGENT MAY SIGN ABOVE IF THE PROPERTY OWNER COMPLETES THE FOLLOWING:

12. Application is made for a permit to authorize the activities described herein.

- A. I authorize the agent listed in Item #2 above to negotiate modifications or revisions, when necessary, and accept or assent to any stipulations on my behalf.
- B. I understand I may have to provide additional information/data that may be necessary to show that the proposed project will comply with Chapter 74 titled Vegetation, of the City of Dunnellon Code of Ordinances.
- C. In addition, I agree to provide entry to the project site for inspectors with proper identification for the purpose of reviewing the site as covered by the scope of Sec. 74-64 titled Stand-alone permit requirements not associated with site plan or plat approval; procedures.
- D. Further, I hereby acknowledge the obligation and responsibility for obtaining all of the required state, federal, and local permits before commencement of construction activities.

I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities.

 Type/Print Name of Applicant/Agent Signature of Application/Agent Date

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MARION

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of ___ physical presence or ___ online notarization, this ___ day of _____, 20²⁴, by _____.
(Name of person making statement)

Personally known to me ___ or has produced identification ___, type of identification produced _____.

(NOTARY SEAL HERE)

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

PRINT, TYPE/STAMP NAME OF NOTARY

Permissible Trees

Attachment A - Tree Identification. For help identifying a tree, visit: <https://www.arboday.org/trees/whattree/>

| Permissible Trees to Florida (permit or exemption letter required to remove) | Number the tree - make sure tree photo has the same number you assign on this page | Is tree within 10' of existing principal structure ? | Is tree diseased or dead? | Estimated Height (in feet) | Diameter of tree, using a measuring tape, at breast height | Reason for Removal |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| American Elm | | | | | | |
| American Holly | | | | | | |
| American Hornbeam | | | | | | |
| Bald Cypress | | | | | | |
| Bluejack Oak | | | | | | |
| Cabbage Palm | | | | | | |
| Carolina Basswood | | | | | | |
| Chinese/Drake Elm | | | | | | |
| Date Palm | | | | | | |
| Florida Basswood | | | | | | |
| Hophornbeam | | | | | | |
| Red Oak | | | | | | |
| Live Oak | | | | | | |
| Loblolly Bay | | | | | | |
| Longleaf Pine | | | | | | |
| Persimmon | | | | | | |
| Pignut Hickory | | | | | | |
| Pindo Palm | | | | | | |
| Pond Cypress | | | | | | |
| Red Bay | | | | | | |
| Red Maple | | | | | | |
| River Birch | | | | | | |
| Sabal Palm | | | | | | |
| Slash Pine | | | | | | |
| Southern Magnolia | | | | | | |
| Sugarberry | | | | | | |
| Sugar Maple | | | | | | |
| Sweet Bay Magnolia | | | | | | |
| Sweet Gum | | | | | | |
| Turkey Oak | | | | | | |
| Water Tupelo | | | | | | |

The removal of a prohibited tree species (listed below) shall not require a tree removal permit, but shall require an exemption letter.

| | Number the tree - make sure photo has the same number you assign on this page | | Number the tree - make sure photo has the same number you assign on this page |
|------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Australian Pine | | Chinese Privet | |
| Black Locust | | Chinese Tallow | |
| Brazilian Pepper | | Honey Locust | |
| Camphor Tree | | Melaleuca/Punk Tree | |
| Carrotwood | | Paper Mulberry | |
| Chinaberry | | Silk Oak | |

Site Plan Sketch

**Indicate North

Show road name, driveway, structures, water bodies, and number each tree to be removed to match Attachment A. Show distance of trees from home and water (if applicable).

FOR CITY USE ONLY

Approval Yes No _____
Provide Specific Code Section(s) and Reason for Determination

City Staff Signature: _____ Effective Date*: _____

*Approved permit shall be valid for a period of up to six (6) months from the effective date. The permit may be renewed one time for a period not to exceed six (6) months. A stand-alone tree removal permit shall be valid only so long as any conditions of approval continue to be met. Failure to meet permit conditions will require that the Code Enforcement Officer issue a Stop Work Order and rescind the permit.