

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**LANDSCAPING, BUFFERING, AND TREE PRESERVATION**

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**CHAPTER FIVE**  
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**5100. GENERAL REQUIREMENT**

A landscaping area is required along the perimeter of the proposed development whenever the development abuts a different type of use. The existing use or, where vacant, the permitted use of the abutting property will determine the type of landscape area required for the proposed development. Landscape areas may not be located on any portion of an existing or dedicated street right-of-way or roadway easement.



**5101. APPLICABILITY**

**5210. NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

All new development must meet the buffering requirements of this section.

**5220. EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS**

Existing landscapes that do not comply with the provisions of this section must be brought into conformity when:

1. The vehicular use area is altered or expanded in any manner other than re-striping or re-marking;
2. The building square footage is increased by more than 50 percent; and/or
3. There has been a discontinuance of use for a period of 365 days or more.

## **5300. USE CATEGORIES**

In interpreting and applying the provisions of this section, development is classified into the following categories, each of which includes various land use districts as defined in this Code. The use categories for landscape purposes are:

- A. Agriculture
  - 1. AGR, Agriculture
  - 2. CON, Conservation
  - 3. RUR, Rural Residential
  
- B. Residential
  - 1. CL, Low Intensity Coastal and Lakes
  - 2. CLR, Coastal Lakes Residential
  - 3. CRR, Central Ridge Residential
  - 4. LDR, Low Density Residential
  - 5. MDR, Medium Density Residential
  - 6. HDR, High Density Residential
  - 7. PDR, Planned Development Residential
  - 8. MHP, Mobile Home Park
  - 9. RVP, Recreational Vehicle Park
  
- C. Commercial
  - 1. PSO, Professional Service Office
  - 2. CLC, Coastal Lakes Commercial
  - 3. NEC, Neighborhood Commercial
  - 4. GNC, General Commercial
  - 5. PSI, Public, Semi-Public, Institution
  - 6. REC, Recreation
  - 7. RAC, Rural Activity Center
  
- D. Industrial
  - 1. LIND, Light Industrial
  - 2. IND, Heavy Industrial
  - 3. EXT, Extractive
  - 4. TCU, Transportation, Communication, Utilities
  - 5. PORT

## **5400. LANDSCAPE BUFFER TYPES**

There are several landscape buffer types, as described below. Each type includes a minimum width and a minimum number of trees and shrubs per 100-linear-foot segment of boundary.

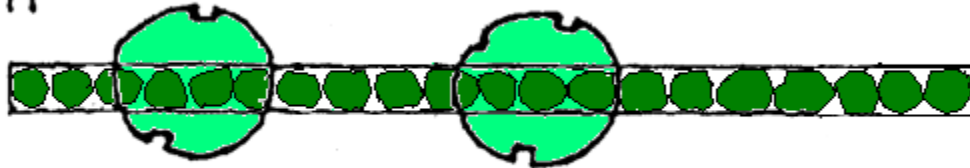
The various types are:

A. Buffer A:

1. Minimum width: five feet minimum; 10 feet preferred (if available)
2. Minimum number of trees: two
3. Minimum number of shrubs: 20

WIDTH

5' min  
(10'  
(preferred)



*Type A Buffer*

B. Buffer B:

1. Minimum width: 10 feet minimum; 15 feet preferred (if available)
2. Minimum number of trees: four
3. Minimum number of shrubs: 20

WIDTH

10' minimum  
(15'  
preferred)



*Type B Buffer*

C. Buffer C:

1. Minimum width: 15 feet minimum; 20 feet preferred (if available)
2. Minimum number of trees: six
3. Minimum number of shrubs: 24

WIDTH

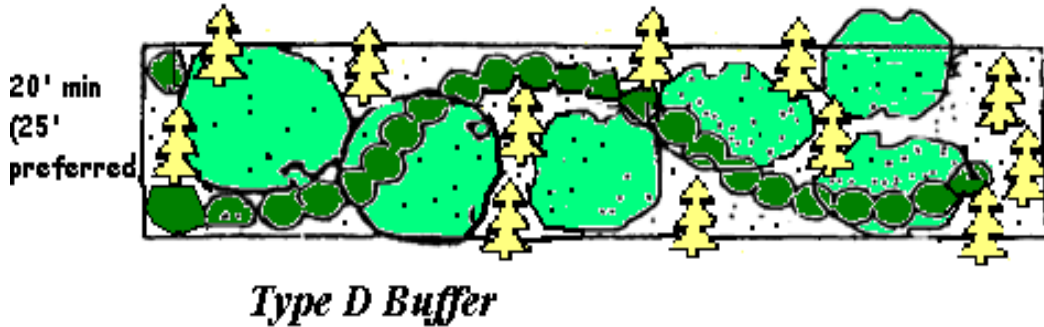
15' min  
(20'  
preferred)



*Type C Buffer*

D. Buffer D:

1. Minimum width: 20 feet minimum; 25 feet preferred (if available)
2. Minimum number of trees: six with a wall
3. Minimum number of shrubs: 24
4. Minimum number of conifers: 12



- E. For projects that propose to retain 150-foot undisturbed area between the extent of the development and the property line, the TRT may grant an exemption from buffering requirements of this section. This exemption does not apply to industrial, extractive, or outdoor recreation uses. Additionally, the site plan must show the undisturbed area has an existing mixture of grass, trees, and shrubs, and other vegetation that would serve in the same capacity as the required buffer.

## **5500. DEFINITIONS OF LANDSCAPE BUFFER TYPES**

### **5510. WALL**

A solid wall, berm, or wall and berm combination, not less than six feet in height designed to ensure that historic surface water and ground water flows are accommodated.

- A. The design and function of any wall must be compatible with existing and proposed site architecture as well as with the existing use of any abutting property.
- B. Walls must be constructed of:
1. Brick;

2. Stone (rough cut, flagstones or ledge); or
3. Concrete blocks faced with tile, bricks, blocks, precast units, or ashlar



## **5520. SHRUBS**

Shrubs, if planted, must be in staggered rows and be maintained.

- A. For type A and B buffers, so as to form a visual screen at least 24 inches in height within one year after the time of planting.
- B. For type C buffers, so as to form a continuous visual screen 36 inches in height within one year after the time of planting.
- C. For type D buffers, so as to form a continuous visual screen 48 inches in height within one year after the time of planting, and maintained thereafter to reach at least 60 inches in height.

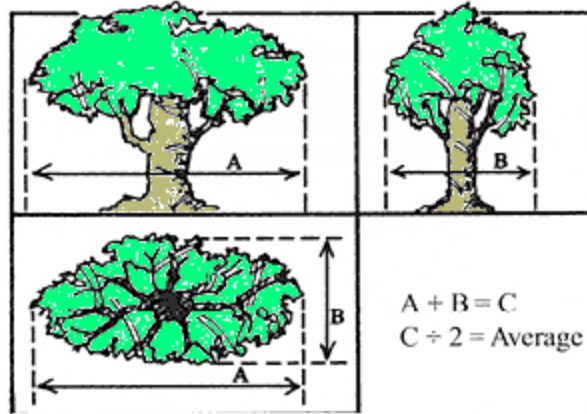


### **5530. TREES**

Trees may be planted in a single row or grouped and must be maintained. All trees, except palms, must be a minimum of six feet in height with a minimum caliper width of at least two inches when measured at six inches above grade immediately after planting.



In the case of palms, the required height shall be six feet measured from ground level to base of fronds. At maturity, trees shall have a crown spread, measured at the diameter of the crown, averaging fifteen feet. Trees having a mature crown spread of less than fifteen feet may be grouped to create the equivalent of a crown spread of fifteen feet, but such groupings shall only count for one required tree under the provisions of this ordinance.



**Measuring crown of tree**

**5540. LOCATION OF VEGETATION**

The buffer is measured from the property line and the required trees and shrubs must be within the proposed buffer; when the buffer includes a wall as well as vegetation, the required trees and shrubs must be located between the wall and the property line of the property to be protected from the proposed use. Alternative plans for the location of required tree plantings may be considered where buffers are located directly adjacent to overhead utility lines.

**5550. REQUIRED BUFFER TYPE**

The table below describes the required buffer type when abutting a different use with the following exceptions:

The Land Development Director may reduce any buffer required in this section upon receipt of evidence that the abutting property owner will be unaffected if a lesser buffer type is installed; however, the Land Development Director may reduce the required buffer by no more than two types, e.g., from D to B, or C to A, and the Director may not entirely eliminate a required buffer.

**Buffer Requirements**

Proposed use	Permitted or Existing Uses			
	Ag	Res	Com	Ind
Agriculture	None	A	None	None
Residential Subdivision	A	None*	B	B
Commercial	C	C	None*	B
Industrial	C	D	D	None*

\* Sodded strip required between like uses

- A. Additional standards for buffering may apply for individual uses found in Chapter Three of this LDC. In all other cases, any off-street parking area that abuts a public right-of-way shall include a landscape strip on the perimeter of the parking area adjacent to the right-of-way. This landscaped strip shall be a minimum Type A Buffer.

#### **5560. USE OF LANDSCAPE BUFFER AREAS**

Required landscape buffer areas may be used for passive recreation such as pedestrian, bike, or equestrian trails, provided that:

- A. No required trees, shrubs, hedges, or walls are eliminated;
- B. Not more than 20 percent of the width of the buffer is impervious surface;
- C. The total width of the buffer area is maintained; and
- D. All other requirements of this section are met.

#### **5570. MAINTENANCE**

The land owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of all buffer areas which shall be maintained so as to present a healthy, neat and orderly appearance at all times and shall be kept free of refuse and debris. All planted areas shall be provided with an adequate water supply to ensure healthy growth and development. Maintenance includes the prompt replacement of all dead plant materials.

#### **5600. VEGETATION REQUIREMENTS**

Where practical, native species or species recognized as *Florida Friendly Landscaping*™ should be planted to meet the requirements of this article. All buffer plantings should be chosen to minimize the need for artificial irrigation. However, artificial irrigation must be provided where buffer vegetation will not survive without such irrigation.

## **5610. RECOMMENDED TREES**

American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)  
Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Bluejack Oak (*Quercus incana*)  
Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angus tifolia*)  
Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Laurel Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*)  
Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)  
Lobloby Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*)



***Lobloby Bay tree***

Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*)  
Longleaf Pine (*Pinus Palustris*)  
Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)  
Pindo Palm (*Butia capitata*)  
Pond Cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*)  
River Birch (*Betula nigra*)



**River Birch tree**

Sabal or Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)  
Sand Pine (*Pinus clausa*)  
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)  
Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)  
Southern Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
Spruce Pine (*Pinus glabra*)  
Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*)  
Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



***Tulip Poplar tree (flower)***

Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*)  
Water oak (*Quercus nigra*)  
White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)  
Wild Olive (*Osmanthus americanus*)  
Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)

## **5620. RECOMMENDED SHRUBS AND HEDGES**

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia lindleyana*)  
Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta* and cvs.)  
Christmas berry (*Lycium carolinianum*)  
Coontie (*Zamia floridana*)  
Coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*)  
Crinum lily (*Crinum asiaticum*)  
Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)  
Fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*)  
Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)



**Firebush shrub**

- Florida privet (*Forestiera segregate*)
- Glossy Abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora*)
- Hawthorne (*Crataegus spp.*)
- Holly, Stokes dwarf (*Ilex vomitoria*)
- Holly, Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*)
- Indian Hawthorne (*Raphiolepis spp. and cvs.*)
- Japanese Plum Yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*)
- Ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum and cvs.*)
- Mary Nell Holly (*Ilex 'Mary Nell'*)
- Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)



**Oakleaf Hydrangea bush**

- Red Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccinea*)
- Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)
- Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)
- Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

## **5630. PROHIBITED PLANT SPECIES**

All plants listed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as “invasive species” are prohibited for use in buffer zones. In addition, the following trees and shrubs are specifically prohibited for use in buffer zones:

Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)  
Australian Pine (*Casuarina* spp.)  
Banyan Tree (*Ficus benghalensis*)  
Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terbinthifolius*)



**Brazilian Pepper**

Catclaw Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*)  
Carrotwood (*Cupania anacoardioides*)  
Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sevierum*)  
Climbing Fern (*Lygodium* spp.)  
Cuban Laurel (*Ficus nitida*)  
Earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*)



**Earleaf acacia**

Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.)  
Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*)  
Java Plum (*Syzygium jambolana*)  
Lead tree (*Leucaena leucocephala*)

Lather leaf (*Colubrina asiatica*)  
Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)



**Melaleuca**

Rubber tree (*Ficus decora*)  
Silk Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)  
Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*)  
Women's Tongue (*Albizia lebbek*)

The following shrubs are specifically prohibited for use in buffer zones:

Beach Naupaka (*Scaevola sericea*)  
Downy Rose Myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus Tomentosa*)  
Surinam Cherry (*Eugenia michelii*)



**Surinam Cherry**

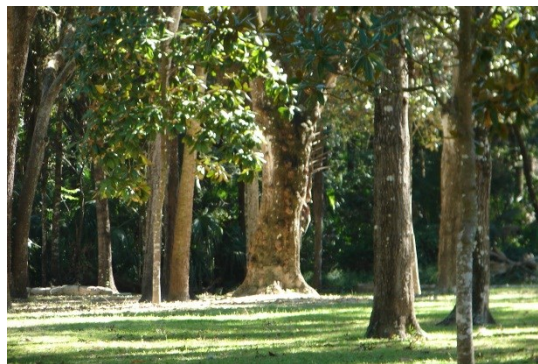
## **5700. TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION STANDARDS**

### **5705. Authority and Scope**

- A. A protected tree (herein called a 'tree') shall be any perennial, woody plant measuring four inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh), as may be identified by site visit, aerial photos/pictometry, or similar methods. Breast height is defined as four and one-half feet above grade.



- B. Trees of over 24 inches dbh shall be designated 'Specimen Trees' and given special standards for protection.
- C. Protected trees, unless exempt from the requirements of this chapter, shall not be removed without first obtaining a development permit for a principal residential or non-residential use on the site. Applications for permits shall be filed and reviewed under the procedure outlined in this LDC.



- D. Loss of trees and tree canopy in an approved development site, unless otherwise exempt from the requirements of this chapter, shall be offset through the mitigation standards contained herein.

- E. The definition of 'tree removal' shall include the felling and/or topping of trees, pruning of more than 30 percent of the crown of any tree, and causing damage to the branches, trunk, or root system of any tree to shorten its life. Determination of such damage can be provided by a Forestry Consultant, Certified Arborist, or other professionally qualified individual.
- F. Residential development shall be defined as the construction of single family or duplex dwellings on individual lots of record. All other development shall be defined as nonresidential development.

#### **5710. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- A. Except for residential development, tree removal outside of an approved construction footprint, the Firewise Program footprint, and/or where there are other site requirements shall be prohibited. The Land Development Division Director or his/her designee may approve additional tree removal under the following circumstances: ensuring the structural integrity of buildings, necessary grading work on sloping properties, and the provision of essential services.
- B. Trees may be removed from within a wetland, surface water body, or construction buffer area required by this LDC, if the area in question is covered by an approved State Environmental Resource Permit or its successor.
- C. Trees within and adjacent to certain scenic tree-lined and canopied road rights-of-way, as listed in the following table, are hereby provided special protection standards as contained herein.

#### **5715. EXEMPTIONS**

The following types of tree removal may be undertaken without a permit:

- A. Tree removal on residential lots of record developed with one or more habitable dwelling units.

- B. Tree removal on publicly owned land that has the approval of the governing land-managing agency.
- C. Agriculture operations (new or existing) that are allowable in the land use district in which the activity takes place.
- D. The installation and maintenance of utilities within existing road rights-of-way or within utility easements. Non-emergency operations affecting scenic tree-lined and canopied road sections shall require a permit.
- E. Department of Public Works (or their designee) rights-of-way maintenance operations and emergency work.
- F. Removal of trees that are fallen, irreversibly diseased (to include terminal insect infestations), dead, or listed as 'invasive' this LDC or by the FLEPPC - Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. Proof of these conditions should be supplied to the Land Development Director or his/her designee.
- G. In developments containing commonly owned lands, e.g., a greenbelt, the authorized managing agency may selectively remove individual trees in common areas under conditions that meet the criteria of 'special circumstances' described in this LDC.
- H. Approved Planned Unit Developments, as of the adoption date of this ordinance, shall be exempt from these provisions but shall comply on an individual lot basis when lots are developed, unless Planned Unit Development standards provide specific standards for tree preservation.

**5720. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

- A. Trees shall be preserved or planted as follows:

<b>Residential Lot Size</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Required Trees</b>
Lots 10,890 square feet or less	Two trees
Lots greater than 10,890 square feet, but less than 21,780 square feet	Four trees
Lots greater than 21,780 square feet, but less than 32,760 square feet	Five trees
Lots greater than 32,760 square feet, but less than 43,560 square feet	Six trees
Lots greater than 43,560 square feet	Eight trees minimum with one tree for every additional 3,000 square feet over 43,560 square feet or fraction thereof

The following are exceptions to the minimum number of required trees:

1. There are insufficient trees existing on the property before development to meet the minimum tree preservation requirements, and non-permitted tree removal has not taken place on the property.
  2. The property is part of an approved planned unit development, less than 10,000 square feet in area, and subject to building setbacks smaller than the standard LDC requirements.
- B. If there are insufficient trees existing on the property before development to meet the minimum standard or if no tree removal will take place during development, an affidavit to that effect will be provided to the County as part of the building permit.



- C. Requests for tree removal shall include provisions for tree preservation on a sketch plan of the subject property drawn to scale showing all proposed improvements, the proposed areas of trees to be preserved and the proposed areas to be cleared. Any proposed tree plantings needed to meet minimum preservation requirements shall also be shown. This will be made part of the building permit application.

## **5725. NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

- A. Developers or property owners must show the County that reasonable measures have been taken to design and locate all proposed development so that tree removal is minimized.
- B. A minimum of 10 trees for every acre will be maintained on all nonresidential property with one tree for every additional 4,356 square feet or fraction thereof. Trees within required buffers and landscaping may count towards this base minimum standard.
- C. 'Specimen' trees shall be preserved and protected from development. In the event this is not possible, mitigation requirements will be met as contained in this LDC.

- D. An approved plan for tree protection will be required by the County as part of a site development plan, site improvement plan, or subdivision plat. The plan shall include the following elements:
1. Statement of justification for tree removal outside of the approved construction footprint, the Firewise Program footprint, and where there are other site requirements, with a schedule for any proposed reforestation and a description of methods for tree protection during development.
  2. Location of all regulated trees to be preserved, removed, and replaced. For areas of closed tree canopy an aerial photograph (most recent available and of appropriate scale), can be submitted to define areas of tree preservation. All 'specimen' trees will be located individually by species and dbh. A notation establishing the minimum tree preservation requirements for the property shall be included.
  3. *On-site verification*. Standards to assist staff during site inspection shall be noted on the plan. Trees to be preserved/removed shall be individually tagged or corralled off. Red tags/tape shall mark trees proposed for removal and blue for preservation, or as otherwise noted.

### **5730. SUBDIVISION STANDARDS**

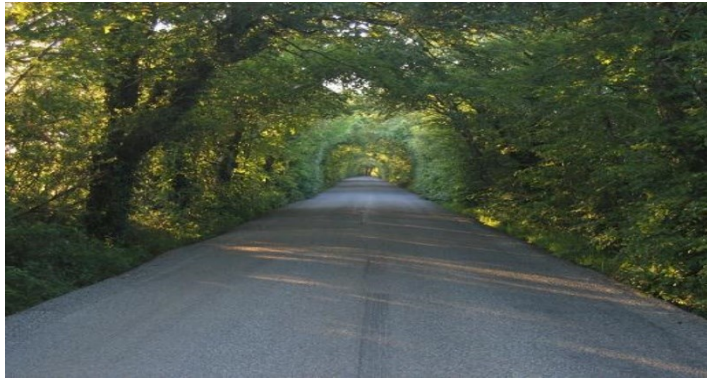
- A. A plan shall be required before any Preliminary Plat is approved by the County. If no tree removal will take place as a result of proposed improvements, an affidavit to that effect shall be provided to the County as part of the preliminary plat application.
- B. The subdivision should be designed so that tree removal is minimized.
- C. 'Specimen' trees shall be preserved and protected. If this provision cannot be met, mitigation requirements shall be met consisting of reforestation with an equal number of tree diameter inches, or a payment of one tree credit per four inches of dbh removed.
- D. The plan shall include the following:
1. An aerial photograph (most recent available), with overlay of the proposed plat.
  2. The location and dbh of all specimen trees within all areas impacted by improvements and construction activities.



**5735. CANOPY AND TREE-LINED SCENIC ROAD PROTECTION**

Trees that line certain sections of roads within the county are afforded special protection. The applicable road sections are individually listed in this chapter.

- A. Removal of any regulated tree within an area extending 50 feet on either side of the centerline of the pavement shall require a tree removal permit and include a written justification to the Land Development Division Director or his/her designee.
- B. Any tree approved for removal shall be replaced by the same number of trunk diameter inches as those removed. Replacement trees shall be of the same species as those removed. An exception is made to allow one access point of minimum required width to a previously undeveloped property.
- C. Non-permitted tree removal within protected road sections will be addressed through the mitigation requirements contained herein.



### CANOPY AND TREE-LINED SCENIC ROADS

Location	Road or Road Segment
<b>Chassahowitzka</b>	W. Miss Maggie Drive from S. Woodward Point west to the boat ramp
<b>Crystal River Area</b>	N. Basswood Avenue between W. Belvedere Street and W. Riverwood Drive
	W. Fort Island Trail from N. Palm Springs Terrace to Fort Island Beach
	W. Lancelot Court
	N. Old Tallahassee Road between W. State Park Street and W. Lancelot Court
	W. Riverwood Drive between N. Basswood Avenue and N. Northcut Avenue
<b>Floral City Area</b>	S. Annie Terrace
	S. Aroostook Way
	S. Baker Avenue
	S. Bedford Road from E. Jane Lane south to the Hills of Rest Cemetery
	S. Carmen Terrace
	S. Choron Terrace
	S. Church Terrace
	S. College Terrace
	S. Duval Terrace
	S. Fanny Terrace
	E. Gobbler Drive from S. Old Floral City Road to the end of the Good Council Camp
	S. Great Oaks Drive between E. Orange Avenue and E. Daniels Road
	S. Heather Point
	E. Jefferson Street
E. Magnolia Street	

## CANOPY AND TREE-LINED SCENIC ROADS

Location	Road or Road Segment
	E. Marvin Street
	S. Mick Point
	S. Old Floral City Road between E. Orange Avenue and E. Gobbler Drive
	E. Orange Avenue
	E. Walnut Lane
	E. Washington Lane
<b>Homosassa Area</b>	W. Aqueduct Street between S. Pittsburgh Avenue and S. East Park Way
	W. Bavarian Street west of S. East Park Way
	S. Centennial Avenue north of W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	S. East Park Way between W. Homosassa Trail and W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	W. Fishbowl Drive between W. Hall's River Road and W. Yulee Drive
	W. Hall's River Road, between 0.2 and 1.2 miles west of US-19
	S. Illinois Terrace between W. Homosassa Trail and W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	S. Indiana Terrace between W. Homosassa Trail and W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	S. Mason Creek Road from W. Creek Lane south to the boat ramp
	S. Michigan Boulevard from W. Homosassa Trail to S. Stonebrook Drive
	S. Minnesota Terrace
	S. Ohio Avenue between W. Homosassa Trail and W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	W. Ox-Eye Place between W. Homosassa Trail and S. East Park Way
	S. Pittsburgh Avenue between W. Homosassa Trail and W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard
	W. Spring Cove Road
	S. Stonebrook Drive from S. Michigan Boulevard to W. Promenade Drive
	W. Yulee Drive between W. Fishbowl Drive and W. Central Street

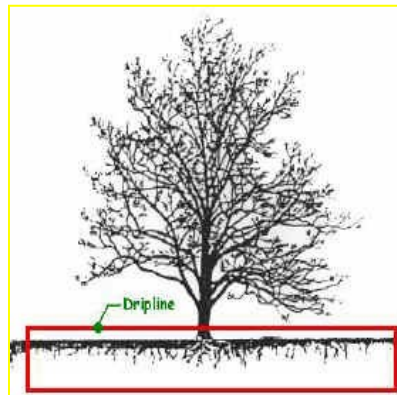
## CANOPY AND TREE-LINED SCENIC ROADS

Location	Road or Road Segment
<b>Inverness Area</b>	E. Eden Drive/E. Moccasin Slough Road from Carnegie Drive east about 0.4 miles to Bellamy Grove
<b>Ozello</b>	S. John Brown Drive S. and W. Ozello Trail from W. Holloway Path to Pirates Cove
<b>Rock Crusher Area</b>	N. Bearmount Terrace between W. Fox Lane and SR-44 W. Fox Lane between N. Rockcrusher Road and N. Bearmount Terrace

### **5740. TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS**

To ensure the health and survival of preserved trees within the project construction area, the following measures shall be required before any land clearing, grading, or construction operations take place:

- A. A highly visible tree protection barrier, at least 36 inches in height, shall be placed around the drip line of protected trees except residential homesites which may use plastic ribbons or other temporary marking measures. The barrier may not be closer than five feet, nor need be further than 20 feet, from the trunk of any protected tree.



- B. Large areas containing trees to be preserved may be staked off with stakes being a maximum of ten feet apart, connected by plastic ribbon, and setback from the drip line of all protected trees.
- C. No equipment, chemicals, debris, or other stored material shall be placed within tree protection areas.

- D. Where grade cuts are necessary within the tree drip line, proper root pruning will take place and be overseen by a qualified individual.
- E. Raising the grade within the tree drip line will not be permitted unless an appropriate dry well and drainage design is approved by the County.

#### **5745. REFORESTATION STANDARDS**

- A. A plan will be required to detail the species, location, and numbers of required plantings.
- B. Replanted trees will either be the same species as those removed or a native species of similar mature height placed in an appropriate growing environment, and be within the same tree category. No single species will make up more than 40 percent of the plantings unless there is a proven ecological benefit defined by a qualified individual.
- C. Trees planted adjacent to utility lines and other potential hazards will be of a species of an appropriate type and mature height.
- D. Each tree will be of Florida Grade #1 nursery stock or better, as defined by the Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants (GSNP) of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or its successor agency, and a minimum size of two inches caliper. Caliper is defined as six inches above grade. Trees from the County's Tree Enhancement Program are exempt from this provision.
- E. Replacement trees on nonresidential property should not be planted within ten feet of any existing or proposed pavement, building, or property line, and be a minimum of 15 feet from any other tree unless otherwise approved by the County. Establishment of trees within buffers and landscaped areas required by this LDC may count toward these reforestation standards, subject to review by the Land Development Division Director.
- F. Trees planted to meet reforestation requirements will be maintained in a healthy condition for a minimum of one year or until they are fully established.

#### **5750. MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS**

To ensure the purpose and intent of the tree preservation and protection standards, certain circumstances will require either on-site or in-kind reforestation unless the tree removal was undertaken without a permit in which case mitigation cannot be utilized.

The Citrus County Landscape Enhancement Fund (LEF) has been established to offset loss to the county's trees and tree canopy and provide for in-kind

reforestation. LEF funds may be used for tree planting projects by the County on County property and for other projects that advance tree preservation and further the intent of this ordinance. Payment to the fund will be by tree credit. The mitigation fee shall be calculated using a value of \$250 per replacement tree for trees 4" to 5" dbh, and utilizing the table outlined in the Administrative Regulations for larger trees. Replacement trees shall be of the same species as those removed, unless the tree is listed as invasive in this chapter.

- A. Removal of regulated trees within a canopy and tree-lined scenic road section without a permit will require reforestation with 1.5 times the tree diameter inches or a mitigation payment of 1.5 the fees outlined in this chapter. Replacement trees shall be of the same species as those removed.

**INVASIVE EXOTIC TREE SPECIES**

These tree species are altering native plant communities by displacing and/or hybridizing with native plant <b>*(IT MAY BE ILLEGAL TO CULTIVATE OR POSSESS THESE TREE SPECIES)</b>	
Australian Pine	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>
Catclaw (Black) Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
Brazilian Beefwood	<i>Casuarina glauca</i>
Brazilian Pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthefolius</i>
Camphor Tree	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
Chinese Tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
Melaleuca (Punk tree)	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>
Silk Tree (Mimosa)	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>

**REFORESTATION GUIDELINES AND INVENTORY OF TREE SPECIES NATIVE TO CITRUS COUNTY**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Mature Height</b>	<b>Suitable Growing Environment</b> D = Deciduous E = Evergreen C = Cone-bearing
*Tree species not listed may be used for reforestation at the discretion of the <u>Land Development</u> Director or his/her designee.			
<b>Category I: Native Evergreen and Mixed Overstory</b>			
Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	65'	E, coastal hammock, swampy areas
Cypress, Bald	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	100'	D, C, along ponds, lakesides and flowing water
Cypress, Pond	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	80'	D, C, flatwood ponds, mainly coastal wet areas
Elm, American	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	100'	D, moister upland areas
Hickory, Pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>	120'	D, variety of upland areas

**REFORESTATION GUIDELINES AND INVENTORY OF  
TREE SPECIES NATIVE TO CITRUS COUNTY**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Mature Height</b>	<b>Suitable Growing Environment</b> D = Deciduous E = Evergreen C = Cone-bearing
*Tree species not listed may be used for reforestation at the discretion of the <u>Land Development</u> Director or his/her designee.			
Hickory, Water	<i>Carya aquatica</i>	100'	D, floodplains, riverbanks
Magnolia, Southern	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	100'	E, moist upland woods
Mangrove, Black	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	60'	E, coastal inter-tidal zone
Mangrove, White	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	60'	E, coastal inter-tidal zone
Mangrove, Red	<i>Rizophora mangle</i>	80'	E, coastal inter-tidal zone
Oak, Diamond Leaf	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	100'	D, floodplains, moist areas
Oak, Live	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	70'	E, variety of well drained upland sites
Oak, Sand Live	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	60'	E, excessively drained soil, scrub only
Oak, Swamp Chestnut	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	100'	D, floodplains, limestone surface areas
Oak, Water	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	100'	D, moist woods, typically near wetlands
Poplar, Yellow (Tuliptree)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	100'	D, moist soils, bluffs adjacent to water
Pine, Longleaf	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	100'	E, C, sandy soils of flatwoods and upland ridge
Pine, Sand	<i>Pinus clausa</i>	80'	E, C, excessively drained soil, scrub only
<b>Category II: Mixed Overstory and Understory</b>			
Ash, Carolina	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	40'	D, swamps, moist woods, pond sides

Ash, Green	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	100'	D, floodplains, swamps
Ash, Prickly (Hercules Club)	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	55'	D, coastal hammocks, wet woods, sand dunes
Ash, White	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	80'	D, rich soils. Mixed woodland areas
Basswood, American	<i>Tilia americana</i>	70'	D, moist mixed wooded areas
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>	80'	D, swamps, fresh water margins
Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	65'	D, floodplains, moist woods

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TREE SPECIES NATIVE TO CITRUS COUNTY**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Mature Height</b>	<b>Suitable Growing Environment</b> D = Deciduous E = Evergreen C = Cone-bearing
*Tree species not listed may be used for reforestation at the discretion of the <u>Land Development</u> Director or his/her designee.			
Buckthorn, Carolina	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	40'	D, moist deciduous forested areas
Cottonwood, Eastern	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	90'	D, bottomlands, wet woodlands
Elm, Winged	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	40'	D, floodplains, well drained soils
Holly, American	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	45'	E, moist woods, variety of upland areas
Holly, Dahoon	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	40'	E, cypress ponds, flatwood depressions, wetlands
Hophornbeam, Eastern	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	50'	D, mixed moist woodlands
Loblolly Bay	<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	50'	E, swamps, flatwood edges
Magnolia, Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	60'	E, swamps, wetlands
Maple, Florida (Sugar)	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	80'	D, moist upland areas, depressions
Maple, Red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	60'	D, moist woods, swamps and other wet areas
Oak, Laurel	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i>	80'	E, moist, sandy upland areas
Oaks (not otherwise listed)	<i>Quercus spp.</i>	25' – 60'	D-E, well to excessively drained sandy soils
Persimmon, Common	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	50'	D, variety of upland habitats

Red Bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	50'	E, hammocks, bluffs, moist areas
Sassafrass	<i>Sassafrass albidum</i>	40'	D, dry bluffs, disturbed sites
Sugarberry (Hackberry)	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	75'	D, moist woods, upland woods
Swamp Bay	<i>Persea Palustris</i>	40'	E, swamps and other wetland areas
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	100'	D, moist lowland woods
Water Locust	<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	80'	D, floodplains, river swamps

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<b>Category III: Native Palms and Cone-bearing Evergreens</b>			
Cedar, Eastern Red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	40'	E, C rocky outcrops, upland and lowland
Palm, Cabbage (Sabal)	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	60'	E, upland, mainly coastal areas
Pine, Loblolly	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	100'	E, C, variety of upland and lowland areas
Pine, Pond	<i>Pinus serotina</i>	60'	E, C, wet areas, shallow ponds
Pine, Slash	<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	130'	E, C, moist sandy areas
<b>Category IV: Mixed Small Understory</b>			
Buckeye, Red	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	30'	D, bottomland, rich mesic woods
Bumelia, Gum	<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	30'	D, dry, sandy uplands
Bumelia, Tough	<i>Bumelia tenax</i>	20'	D, interior scrub and other dry areas
Carolina Laurel Cherry	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	30'	E, variety of upland habitats, spreads profusely
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	60'	D, mixed woods, general upland areas
Dogwood, Flowering	<i>Cornus florida</i>	30'	D, well drained wooded areas
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	25'	D, rich woods, roadsides, yards
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	30'	D, variety of upland areas
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	25'	D, mixed upland woods and bottomlands
Holly, Carolina	<i>Ilex ambigua</i>	20'	D, sand ridges and upland woods
Holly, Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	30'	D, floodplains, moist woodlands
Holly, Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	25'	E, variety of upland habitats
Hornbeam, American (Ironwood)	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	40'	D, wet woodlands, swamps
Mayten	<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i>	20'	E, coastal scrub and hammock edges
Mulberry, Red	<i>Morus rubra</i>	40'	D, bottomland woods and general upland sites
Myrsine	<i>Myrsine floridana</i>	20'	E, coastal hammocks, pinelands

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*Tree species not listed may be used for reforestation at the discretion of the <u>Land Development</u> Director or his/her designee.			
Myrtle, Wax	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	40'	E, variety of moist and dry areas
Plum, Chickasaw	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	25'	D, woodland edges, dry soils
Plum, Hog (Flatwoods)	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	20'	D, mixed woodlands, pine flatwoods
Sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	30'	D, dry woodlands, sandhill habitat
Sumac, Winged	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	20'	D, upland areas, dry woods, disturbed areas
Wild Olive (Devilwood)	<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>	40'	E, floodplains, swamps and moist woods
Willow, Coastal Plain	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	30'	D, water's edge and other moist areas
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	25'	D, lowlands, slopes, ravines, mesic woods

**5800. CANOPY PROTECTION OF RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER COLONIES**

- A. The Board of County Commissioners has determined that certain areas within the county merit special protection of the trees that provide habitat to the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). These habitats have been identified as those existing in ecological areas defined as sandhills. The purpose of this section is to protect this species through additional criteria for development not regulated by this LDC. For the purpose of this section, the exemptions stated in this LDC, shall not be applicable.

- B. The presence of Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies will be preliminarily determined with a review by the Department of Growth Management personnel. Any aggrieved party may file for an appeal in accordance with this LDC, where the staff findings are challenged regarding the existence or nonexistence of these colonies.



- C. For parcels with a Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony (ies), a tree preservation site plan shall be submitted. This plan shall provide for:
1. Onsite preservation of Longleaf Pines (*Pinus palustris*) that contain an active, inactive, or start-hole created or used by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.
  2. Establishment of a 200-foot buffer around any active nest of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
  3. Preservation of 80 percent of the basal area of Longleaf Pines within a 330-foot radius of pines that contain an active, inactive, or start-hole.

**(Ordinance No. 2013-A08, Sections 5300, 5710, adopted April 23, 2013)**

**(Ordinance No. 2016-A07, Section 5510, adopted April 12, 2016)**

**(Ordinance No. 2017-A21, Section 5550, adopted May 9, 2017)**

**(Ordinance No. 2021-A27, Section 5800, adopted September 14, 2021)**

**(Ordinance No. 2022-A39, Section 5710, adopted July 12, 2022)**

**(Ordinance No. 2025-A04, Sections 5510, 5705, 5750, adopted March 11, 2025)**