

TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS

House Bill 1159 which took effect July 1, 2019 and as further amended by Senate Bill 518 which takes effect July 1, 2022 prohibits a local government from requiring a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on **single-family** residential property if the **property owner possesses documentation prepared by a Certified Arborist or Landscape Architect** that the tree **poses an unacceptable risk based on a tree risk assessment procedure outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017)**. The City will continue to require a Tree Inspection and Tree Removal or Grand Tree Trimming permit for all trees that are not subject to the exemption. If you have obtained such documentation from a Certified Arborist or Landscape Architect, please email it to Trees@StPete.org. The City will continue to assist our residents by having by an ISA Certified Arborist on staff conducting the required inspection for hazardous trees. The inspection fee is \$25.00.

What is a Protected Tree? Any shade tree 4” or larger diameter at breast height (DBH, as measured 4 ½ feet above ground) and any understory tree which is 8” or larger DBH and not identified as an Unprotected or Prohibited tree, generally included on the following table:

General List of Protected Trees:

SHADE	Red Mulberry	UNDERSTORY	Wild Olive
Oaks	Magnolia	Bay (Red, Silk, Swamp)	Plum
Cypress	Sweet Gum	Buttonwood	Holly
Pines	Sycamore	Cedar	Ligustrum
Elms	Sugarberry	Crape Myrtle	Sea Grape
Maples	Loblolly Bay & Willow	Hawthorn	

What is a Grand Tree? Any Protected tree which is 30” DBH or larger, with the exception of Laurel Oaks. Grand Trees are afforded a higher level of protection, and need to be preserved.

What is a Signature Tree? This is a category of non-native trees which because of the size, prevalence and history in our community warrant recognition and protection. Includes Banyan trees, Kapok trees that are 30” or larger DBH and Jacaranda trees and Royal Poinciana trees that are 8” or larger DBH.

How does this affect my proposed development? For any “over-the-counter” type applications (e.g. pools, additions, patios, driveways, etc.), you will need to verify if there are trees within 15-feet of the proposed construction, on the property or on adjacent property. If there are trees, then the trees need to be shown on the site plan, by size and species. For new construction, trees are to be shown on the site plan, by size and species, including on adjacent property if within 15-feet of proposed construction. **If Protected, Signature or Grand trees are proposed to be removed, or a Grand tree requires trimming of a branch 8” in diameter or greater, a permit will be required.**

What is the penalty if I do not get a permit? After-the-fact permit fees, replacement requirements and fines depend on the size and number of trees removed, and if any protected trees remain on-site. For example, removal of a 30-inch Grand Tree on residential property could result in a total of up to \$6,855 (After-the-fact permit, \$1,000; Payment in lieu of on-site replanting, \$5,355; Fine, \$500).

For more information, contact (727) 893-7471. Trees@St.Pete.org, or [visit our webpage](#)