

The Shores Tree Requirements

Since 1992, the planting of street trees (primarily native Oaks) has been required by Manatee County for single homes and new developments to provide a pleasing canopy and shade along the street. As neighborhoods mature, so do the landscape plantings and adjustments may need to be made if they are causing problems.

Tree Maintenance

All landscape plants require regular maintenance and Oak trees are no exception. It is very important that the Oak trees be trimmed every 4 to 5 years to keep them in shape. This includes pruning branches, thinning the inside of the tree canopy, removing dead branches, suckers and moss. This will keep them healthy and looking beautiful.

Oaks develop a large root system that can lift pavers, side-walks and cause other structural damage. Roots can be cut periodically to reduce problems or the tree may be removed depending on the damage being caused.

No oak tree is to be removed from the property unless it meets the following requirements from the county.

Approved reasons for removing a street tree include:

- The tree is dead, diseased or in declining health.
- The tree is causing problems with driveways, sidewalks, street-lights, sewer service, or other (services), which can't be fixed by maintenance practices.
- The tree is located less than:
 - 10 feet of a sidewalk located within the right of way
 - 10 feet of a water main that is owned and maintained by Manatee County
 - 4 feet of a backflow preventer or sewer clean-out valve
 - 6 feet from a walkway or driveway

Remediation

- You must replace the tree within 30 days of removing the existing tree and it must be planted within 25 feet back from the right of way. *(This time frame may be extended by the HOA depending upon circumstances).*
- The replacement tree must be graded Florida #1 by Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants.
- Trees cannot be planted within a public or private utilities easement or setback.
- Existing trees located within 25 feet of the ROW may be considered in lieu of a replacement tree.
- You must meet the tree type and lot size requirements below.

COUNTY TREE REQUIREMENTS BASED ON LOT SIZE

100+ feet of linear right of way (ROW) frontage: one canopy tree for every 50 feet of frontage

- **60-100 feet** of linear ROW: one canopy per frontage
- **>60 feet** of linear ROW frontage: one smaller maturing, canopy or on3 understory tree per lot, regardless of the number of street trees removed.
 - Corner lots must provide two street trees maximum, one per frontage
- **>25 feet** back from ROW may plant an approved understory tree

TREE TYPE DESCRIPTIONS, SPECIFICATIONS & PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

Canopy Tree (produces one main trunk and normally reaches a height of 30 feet or more upon maturity)

- Min. 10 feet in height
- 2.5 inch caliper (trunk width)
- 25-50 gallons

Understory Tree (produces single trunk or multiple trunks and normally reaches a height of less than 30 feet upon maturity)

- Min. 6 feet in height
- 1.5 inch caliper (trunk width)

- 25-30 gallons

Palm Trees

- Two required for each tree removed
- Min. 15 feet in height

The Shores Tree Policy

If a resident would like to apply for tree removal – the Shores Modification Form with the specifics should be filled out and submitted to the property manager. In addition to this, the county stipulates (per Florida Statute 163.045), that property owners are required to obtain proper documentation from an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or a Florida licensed landscape architect, that the tree(s) present a danger to the property. The Shores Design Review Board (DRB) can waive this requirement if the request meets the county criteria for tree removal and if the documented damage can be easily verified by inspection.

The Shores will require a replacement tree for front street trees removed, unless it is deemed not necessary based on the particulars of the site and existing landscape plantings. This will be determined on a per lot basis by the Shores DRB. Refer to the Shores Tree Replacement List for options.

No tree, palm or shrub, the trunk of which exceeds six (6) inches in diameter may be cut down, destroyed or removed from a lot without the prior written approval from the DRB.