

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE

## to Jacksonville Tree Protections and Tree Removal Permits





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# PROTECTED TREES AND EXEMPT TREES

Permits are required to remove **Protected Trees** and **Exempt Trees**.

A **Protected Tree** requires a permit to be removed. The City makes a determination whether a tree can be approved for removal, relocation, replacement or payment into the Tree Trust Fund based upon 14 criteria found in 656.1206(f) of the City's ordinance and must be stated in the tree removal permit application.

An **Exempt Tree** also requires a \$25 application fee and for the applicant to provide supporting evidence of entitlement to exemption. If it is determined that a tree is **Exempt** then no mitigation is required. If a tree is not Exempt, then it should be determined whether a tree is **Protected**.

**DBH** is **Diameter at Breast Height** and is the diameter of the tree measured 4.5 feet above the ground for single trunk trees. If the tree forks between ground level and one foot above ground level, then the tree is considered a multi-trunked tree. The DBH for multi-trunked trees is determined by measuring each trunk immediately above the fork and adding the total diameter of each of the four largest trunks.



Those found to have **illegally** removed protected trees without a permit or have improperly pruned trees which has resulted in the death of the protected tree can be liable for double the permit fees and double the amount of mitigation inches to be required.

# WHAT ARE EXEMPT TREES?

**A.** Any tree located on an individual lot on which either a single-family dwelling or a mobile home is located, provided that the lot is not capable of further subdivision and the home is occupied, or capable of occupancy, for residential use.

**B.** Any tree, other than a 11.5" DBH hardwood tree, that is located in or on property that has been subdivided for a residential development by a plat of record, or that is in the process of being platted and has received a sketch plan approval through the Development Services.

**C.** Any tree smaller than 11.5" DBH located within existing proposed rights-of-way or easements within single family (including mobile home) subdivisions that are platted or are in the process of being platted, and have received a sketch plan approval through the Development Services Division.

**D.** Any tree determined to be a danger to traffic flow or traffic site visibility by the City Traffic Engineer.

**E.** Any tree that poses an imminent danger to the public health safety or welfare that requires immediate removal.

**F.** Invasive species, consisting of: Pond Willow, Chinese Tallow, Paper Mulberry Chinaberry Camphor, Wax Myrtle, Golden Raintree, Cherry Laurel, and trees identified by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as invasive species, terrestrial weed or noxious weed.

**G.** Trees that are diseased, dead, or deteriorated due to acts of nature, as certified by an Arborist.

# WHAT ARE PROTECTED TREES ?



**PROTECTED TREES ARE ANY TREES IN DUVAL COUNTY BEING CLEARED FOR IMPROVEMENTS OR CONSTRUCTION THAT FALL INTO THE BELOW CATEGORIES:**

**A.** Any tree that was utilized as a replacement tree during previous mitigation activities.

**B.** Any tree that was previously utilized for a tree conservation credit.

**C.** Long Leaf Pines and Sabal Palms with a DBH of 11.5" or greater, located within the interior of lots (greater than 20' from R/W and greater than 10' from other property lines).

**D.** Any hardwood tree with a DBH of 24" or more is an Exceptional Specimen Tree and is Protected.

**E.** On private or public property - any tree with a DBH of

**I.** 6" or more located on any lot within 20 feet of a street right-of-way.

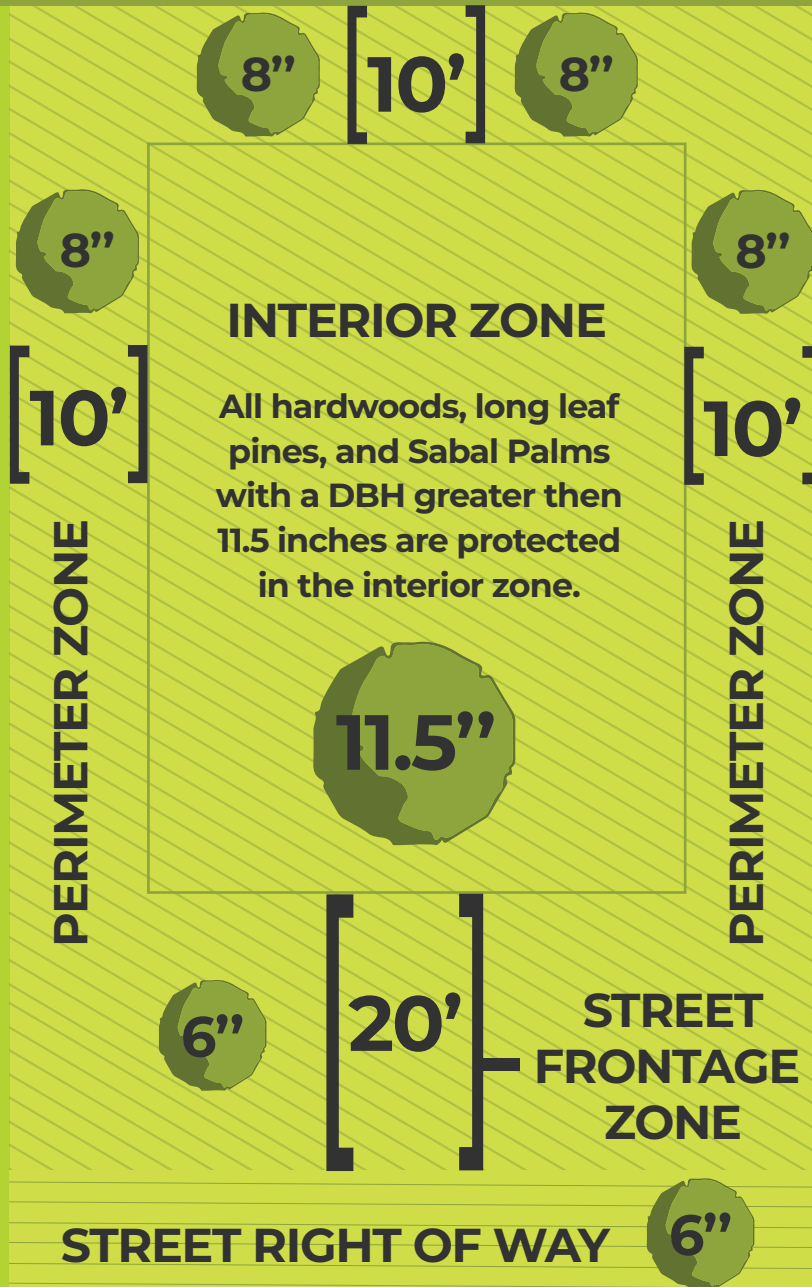
**II.** 8" or more located on any lot within 10 feet of any other property line.

**III.** 11.5" or more located elsewhere on the lot.

**IV.** 6" or more located with a governmental right-of-way.

# PRIVATE & PUBLIC PROTECTED TREES

## Site Clearing & Tree Removal Permit Requirements



### KEY

5



# equals number of inches within each area that is protected



Non single-family residential property



Right of Way

# PLEASE NOTE

The information provided in this pamphlet is a suggested approach for assistance only and that the Ordinance Code and Charter take precedence over what may or may not have been included in this pamphlet. Please reference the Article 25 of the Charter and Section 656 Part 12 of the City of Jacksonville Municipal Code that can be found at the following links:

**Article 25 of the Charter:**  
[jaxdigstrees.org/article25](http://jaxdigstrees.org/article25)

**Section 656 Part 12 of the City of Jacksonville Municipal Code:**  
[jaxdigstrees.org/656part12](http://jaxdigstrees.org/656part12)

**The COJ Tree Removal Permit Application can be found here:**  
[jaxdigstrees.org/trp](http://jaxdigstrees.org/trp)

**Annually, the cost per inch for monetary mitigation of Ordinance Code Protected Trees shall be posted on a COJ Bulletin entitled "Tree Mitigation Costs for [ year ] for Ordinance Code Protected Trees & Charter Protected Trees" that can be found here:**  
[jaxdigstrees.org/costtree](http://jaxdigstrees.org/costtree)

Please Visit [JaxTreeMitigation.coj.net](http://JaxTreeMitigation.coj.net) for information about the COJ's Tree Mitigation Trust Fund to file an issue if you notice illegal tree removal/pruning, and to see how the City is spending tree funds.

Please Visit

**[JaxTreeMitigation.coj.net](http://JaxTreeMitigation.coj.net)**

for information about the COJ's Tree Mitigation Trust Fund



## KEY TREE CONTACTS FOR JACKSONVILLE

Please visit the COJ CARE System at:

**630CITY.COJ.NET**

to request a tree be planted in the public right of way in front of your house or business, to report illegal pruning or tree removal, and to contact the City for any other tree-related issues.

**UF Urban Forestry Extension**

**Agent- Larry Figart  
(904) 255-7450  
lfigart@coj.net**

**Florida Forest Service  
(850) 681- 5800**

**Arbor Day Foundation  
(888) 448-7337  
[www.Arborday.org](http://www.Arborday.org)**



# WE HELP TREES

**Jax Digs Trees** is a community initiative through which both organizations and individuals can come together to support the growth and protection of our city's tree canopy.

**Greenscape of Jacksonville, Scenic Jacksonville, Sierra Club (Northeast Florida Group)** and the **Public Trust** are the principal members of the Jax Digs Trees collaborative.

For more information visit:

**JAXDIGSTREES.ORG**



*Scenic Jacksonville*



**Greenscape of Jacksonville**

(904) 398-5757

greenscape@bellsouth.net

**Public Trust Environmental  
Legal Institute of Florida**

(904) 247-1972

john@publictrustlaw.org