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Tree Preservation and Aquatic and Wetland Resources Programs

Tree Preservation Program

The Tree Preservation Program enforces Chapter 27, Article XIV of the Broward County Pollution Control Code, titled “Tree Preservation and Abuse Ordinance”. [Read more about the ordinance.](#)

Tree Preservation Program Areas of Responsibility and Municipalities

The Tree Preservation and Abuse Ordinance has Countywide authority, although it is not enforced in municipalities that have as stringent regulations. Currently the Tree Preservation Program covers the following Areas of Responsibility and Specific Municipalities:

- Unincorporated Broward County
- Broward County controlled properties and facilities,
- Broward County Environmentally Designated Lands* (LAPC, ERL, NRA NFC)
- The School Board of Broward County, FL. controlled sites
- Lighthouse Point
- Lauderdale Lakes
- Lazy Lake
- North Lauderdale
- Pembroke Park
- Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
- Town of Hillsboro Beach
- Wilton Manors

**LAPC: Local Areas of Particular Concern; NRA: Natural Resource Areas; ESL: Environmentally Sensitive Land*

The Tree Preservation and Abuse Ordinance Regulates the Following:

- Tree Removal and Tree Relocation: A license is required for the removal or relocation of trees, except for nuisance trees. In order to remove or relocate trees, the removal and relocation must be justified, and either relocation or replacement of trees must take place.
- Pruning: Improper pruning of trees and palms, such as “hat racking”, “topping”, “stub cutting” or “excessive lifting” is prohibited. Corrective actions such as tree removal and replacement, or corrective pruning are required for improperly pruned trees.
- Tree Protection from Construction: Certain steps are required to be taken to ensure that trees are not damaged during construction activities. These include installation and maintenance of highly visible tree protection barriers and conducting onsite pre-construction meetings to go over tree protection related issues.

- Payments into and expenditures from the Tree Preservation Trust Fund: Payment may be made in certain instances to the Broward County Tree Preservation Trust Fund in lieu of tree replacement requirements. The Fund is used for tree planting projects that enhance the tree canopy of Broward County.

Other activities of the Tree Preservation Program:

- Public outreach projects such as tree giveaways, educational seminars and school presentations.
- Assist in the development of regulations regarding tree related issues.

Removing and Relocating Trees

Do you need to remove or relocate a tree in Broward County? If so, you need to fill out a Tree Removal License Application and pay a fee.

1. Fill out, print, and submit via mail the [Tree Removal License Application](#) (PDF 4 KB).
2. Submit an electronic application via [ePermits](#).

If submitting via mail, please mail the application to:

Public Works and Environmental Services Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DIVISION

Attn: Tree Preservation Program

1 North University Drive, Mailbox 201

Plantation, FL 33324

Please make checks payable to: Broward County Board of County Commissioners

For information regarding tree replacements, please view the [Replacement Tree Category List \(PDF 50KB\)](#).

Reporting Tree Abuse

You can report tree abuse, illegal tree removal, or any other violation regarding trees.

Reporting is simple and can be done via:

- Phone: (954) 519-1499, (954) 831-4000 or 311

- Online: [MyBroward](#)

Application Form:

- [Tree Removal License Application](#)

Resources:

- [Tree Preservation Brochure](#)

Fees:

A. Tree Preservation and Abuse Fee Schedule

Removal Type	Developed Single Family or Duplex Residential Property	All Other Developed Residential Occupied Property	All Other Property
For the Initial Tree Removal License.	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
Plus, for each proposed to be removed or relocated, less than 18" dbh.	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Plus, for each tree proposed to be removed or relocated 18" dbh and over.	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Plus, for each tree removed or relocated prior to obtaining a Tree Removal License having a dbh less than 18".	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Plus, for each tree removed or relocated prior to obtaining a Tree Removal License having a dbh of 18" or greater.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

B. Tree Removal License Modification Fee Schedule

For a modification of a license \$100.00

Plus, for each additional tree proposed to be removed or relocated:

Type of Modification	Developed Single Family or Duplex Residential Property	All Other Developed Residential Occupied Property	All Other Property
Less than 18" dbh	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
18" dbh and over	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Each tree removed or relocated prior to obtaining a Tree Removal License Modification having a dbh less than 18"	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Each tree removed or relocated prior to obtaining a Tree Removal License Modification having a dbh of 18" or greater	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

Note: * dbh = diameter at breast height (4 1/2 feet off ground)

Tree Preservation Trust Fund

The Tree Preservation Trust Fund was created pursuant to the Broward County Administrative Code, Chapter 27, PART XXXIII, to be used for tree planting projects that enhance the tree canopy of Broward County. In certain instances, payments can be made to the Broward County Tree Preservation Trust Fund in lieu of tree replacement requirements.

Trust Fund Committee Meetings

The purpose of the Committee is to review and make recommendations on requests for funding from the Tree Preservation Trust Fund. Meetings are scheduled as needed based upon funding requests. For more meeting information see below.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do all trees require a tree removal permit?

All trees 3 inches in trunk diameter (measured at 4.5 feet above the ground or DBH) require a Broward County Tree Removal License. There are exemptions however, such as nuisance trees, hazard trees or trees near powerlines. Contact 954-519-1483 to determine if a tree removal license is required.

In which cities does Broward County enforce its Tree Preservation and Abuse Ordinance?

The Ordinance is enforced within the following municipalities: Hillsboro Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Lauderdale Lakes, Lazy Lake, Lighthouse Point, North Lauderdale, Pembroke Park, Unincorporated Broward County, and Wilton Manors.

In addition, the Ordinance is enforced on the following properties countywide: School Board Property, Broward County Property, and County Environmental Designated Lands (LAPC, NRA, NFC).

The following municipalities have Certified Tree Ordinances and enforce their Ordinance in lieu of County enforcement: Coconut Creek, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Dania Beach, Davie, Deerfield Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hallandale Beach, Hollywood, Lauderhill, Margate, Miramar, Oakland Park, Parkland, Pembroke Pines, Plantation, Pompano Beach, Southwest Ranches, Sea Ranch Lakes, Sunrise, Tamarac, Weston, and West Park.

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number and the assigned reviewer.

Are there restrictions on how trees and palms can be trimmed?

All trees and palms must be trimmed in accordance with Broward County Code and ANSI national pruning standards. Improper practices such as “topping”, “hatracking”, “overlifting”, or “lions tailing” are prohibited. Contact 954-519-1483 for more information.

Is a permit required to trim trees?

Broward County does not require a permit to trim trees.

My neighbor’s tree is growing onto my property. Am I allowed to trim it?

A tree overhanging your property can be trimmed from your property, as long as the tree trimming rules as described above are followed.

When is a Broward County license necessary for mangrove trimming?

All mangrove trimming/alterations require a Broward County Environmental Resource License (ERL). County licensing fees apply.

Are there any mangrove trimming licensing exemptions for Broward County?

Broward County does not have any exemptions for mangrove trimming.

Do I also need a state permit for mangrove trimming from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)?

Broward County has been delegated by FDEP to regulate mangrove state trimming permits. If a state trimming permit is needed, it would be issued concurrently with the county license. State permitting fees would apply in addition to the county licensing fees.

Do I need a professional mangrove trimmer?

A professional mangrove trimmer must either supervise or conduct all trimming of trees that exceed 10 feet in height.

Who is a professional mangrove trimmer?

The following persons are considered professional mangrove trimmers:

- ISA certified arborists;
- Professional wetland scientists certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists;
- Certified ecologists certified by the Ecological Society of America and other qualified individuals; and
- Certified environmental professionals, certified by the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals.

Who do I call for questions about mangrove trimming?

To get more information on licensing requirements, contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section at (954) 519-1483.

Palm Tree Care

Introduction

To think of Florida without imagining palm lined beaches, pink flamingos, and blue water is difficult. Palms trees are synonymous with our semi-tropical climate. This page will help you learn the basic needs of these tropical treasures.

Palm Selection:

Look at neighborhood palms and see which ones seem to thrive in your area. Take advantage of the many local nurseries within Broward County where you can see the many varieties of palms available. In most cases you can select and tag the palm that will be delivered to your property. Finally, you might go to one of your County Library Branches and look at a Florida Landscape Plants reference guide. You can obtain many ideas for Species selection and placement that could save you much time and effort.

Lethal Yellowing susceptibility of many of Florida's palms makes it prudent to select a resistant species. This disease causes the bloom to turn black and the immature fruit to drop, followed by the yellowing of fronds from the lower to the upper areas, culminating in bud rot and subsequent death. Lethal Yellowing is transferred by the insect plant hopper or leafhopper (*Myndus crudus*). Manila palms and many varieties of Coconut palm are particularly vulnerable to this disease.

Native palms are generally more resistant. These include Sabal palm, Royal palm, Paurotis palm, Florida Thatch palm and Key Thatch palms. Non- native resistant palms include Alexander, Queen, Washingtonia, Maypan Coconut, and other species. Further information about resistant palms can be obtained from the Broward County Cooperative Extension Service.

Planting:

Location: Look at the proposed location and visualize the palm as full grown. Look up to see if there is clearance from buildings and overhead obstructions. A Royal Palm may grow into power lines rapidly. Another example would be the planting of Coconut Palms within a parking lot or thin highway median strips. Tell your nursery professionals where you will be planting the palm and they will be able to help with the particular requirements for each palm species.

Depth: Plant at the same height as grown except when the roots are exposed. In this case they should be planted with the soil level one half inch higher than the lower edge of the trunk. Use clean sand next to the trunk.

Soil: Palms do not like to be planted in heavy muck or clay soils since these soils hold too much water. They do well in sand and gravel-sand soils where water drains quickly. The perfect soil would be a sandy soil with 10 to 20 percent muck or peat to hold the water and provide nutrients. If the palm must be planted in rock or compacted marl/clay soil, then the hole around the root ball should be filled with a sandy peat replacement soil which is mounded in a low hill 6 inches above grade and 6 feet in width.

Initial Fertilization: Blend in fertilizer at the time of planting to enrich the soil removed from the hole. The mixing rate of two ounces of palm fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter (measured at ground level) should be sufficient. After watering and settling in the tree, one additional ounce of slow-release palm fertilizer per three inches of trunk on the ground will get the tree off to a good start.

Watering In: Water-in a new palm as you plant it. "Rock" the ball gently to remove all trapped air in the new hole. Working in the soil around the root ball as it is watered in with a shovel or rod is also very helpful. This is most important when planting large palms and helps avoid compaction of the root zone area.

Watering For Healthy Establishment: Water a newly planted palm at least twice a week for the first six months. Add enough water to insure a moisture penetration of a foot and a half (18 inches). Sandy soil requires more watering to maintain the moisture.

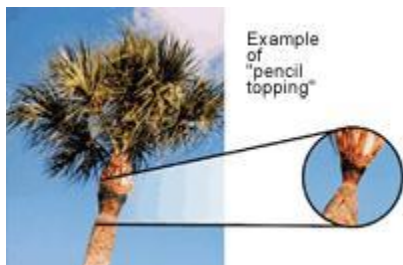
Established Palms:

Fertilization: Established palms should be fertilized with a slow-release palm fertilizer a minimum of twice per year; four applications are better. A palm fertilizer in the form of slow-release pellets and contains roughly 8 to 9 percent Nitrogen, 2 to 3 percent Phosphorus, 11 to 12 percent Potassium plus trace elements. Because palms are highly prone to several potentially fatal micronutrient deficiencies, any fertilizer applied to them should contain 1-2% Iron and Manganese, plus trace amounts of Zinc, Copper, and Boron to prevent these deficiencies. This is commercially available with NPK ratios of (12-4-12) or (8-2-12). The application rate for established palms is eight ounces (half pound) per inch of trunk diameter.

Water: During dry periods, soak the base of the tree with an open hose at least twice a month.

Pruning Palm Trees:

Avoid pruning trees whenever possible. Most palms shed their fronds naturally, but others drop the fronds after some time. When it is necessary to prune the trees, never remove fronds that do not hang below a line parallel to the ground. The hurricane or candle cut pruning of palms is a violation of Broward County Code and is subject to enforcement action. As palms recycle nutrients from the browning fronds to the heart of the palm (translocation of nutrients), frond removal deprives the tree of needed nutrients and weakens its defenses against invasive molds and fungi. Allowing self-pruning or self-cleaning is especially important for species that have a 'crown shaft' which is a green column below the fronds. Additionally, repeated hurricane cuts produce a condition known as "pencil topping" which is the narrowing of the palm trunk just below the fronds. Hurricane winds may snap off the top of the palm where the thinning has occurred, allowing the top of the palm to become airborne.



For trees without crown shafts, prune fronds by sawing them off close to the trunk after they have turned brown. Broward County Code states that pruning of live palm fronds that initiate above the horizontal plane is considered tree abuse. This means that the "Hurricane Cut" or "Candle Cut" is not only harmful to the palm, but in most cases are Broward County Code violations. Code violations can result in fines, tree removal and tree replacement. Never pull or rip off fronds. Permanent wounds to the trunk can occur allowing for fungus or rot invasion and produces ever-enlarging holes in the trunk. The only time a "Hurricane Cut" is permissible is in regard to newly installed palms and palms to be relocated, as this cut reduces evapotranspiration rates (water loss) and aids palm tree survival and establishment in these circumstances. Removing green fruit and seeds with pruning saws does not hurt the palm and keeps the ground clear. The blooming stalk can be removed as soon as it appears.

Mulching:

Palms benefit from an 18-inch layer of mulch applied at least six inches away from the trunk and 2 to 6 inches thick. Use commercial sterilized mulch. Freshly ground tree mulch can contain the organism responsible for the lethal disease 'Ganoderma Butt Rot.' Dead Palm trees containing the deadly fungus '*Ganoderma zonatum*,' can be ground up into a fine looking but lethal mulch. Tools used in removing dead trees should be sterilized by rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) or hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), to prevent transferal of the fungus.

More Important Palm Information

- Puncture Wounds Never Heal!
- Do not use nails or screws to attach lights or signs to the trunk of any palm tree.
- Do not use climbing spikes to climb any palm tree as this is considered tree abuse unless the palm is dead and or licensed for removal.
- Do not use a machete to remove fronds as an overstrike will wound the trunk of the tree. One must be very careful using a chain saw for the same reason.
- Do not use String Trimmers to trim away grass from the palm trunk. Use mulch to keep grass away. String Trimmers can slowly remove the bark from the base of the tree leading to decline.
- Do not plant in openings of concrete or black top of less than six feet in diameter.
- Do not place sprinklers close to the trunk of a palm.
- Do use Manganese Sulfate to treat a palm with "frizzle top".

Proper Tree Care

This is a guide to help you obtain the maximum benefits of your new trees and to increase their chances for long-term survival.

The Benefits of Your Tree

- Increases the value of your property.
- Provides shade which lowers air temperature thus conserving energy and lowering air conditioning bills.
- Cleans the air.
- Cuts down on noise pollution by acting as a sound barrier.
- Provides privacy and beauty.

Selecting the Best Location

- Analyze your planting location for the type of soil, moisture/irrigation, and surrounding objects which could interfere with the tree's growth.
- Visualize the tree as fully grown when you plant it. A large tree should not be planted under power lines, in small parking lot islands or close to buildings.
- Always follow FPL's [Right Tree in The Right Place Guidelines](#).
- Avoid planting weak wooded trees such as Mahogany, Laurel Oak, or Mango close to buildings or structures as they tend to break up in high winds.
- Avoid trees with aggressive root systems like Ficus or Black Olive trees near buildings, sidewalks, parking lot islands or underground utilities.
- Ask an [International Society of Arboriculture](#) (I.S.A.) certified arborist to recommend several species which would thrive in your location and their maintenance specifications to follow.
- The [Tree Preservation Program](#) can also make suggestions in selecting the correct tree for a particular location.

Selecting Your Tree

- Generally, look for a tree with a single straight trunk. A ten-foot tree should have branching only in the upper 5 feet.
- Branching should be evenly balanced on all sides of the tree.
- The leaves should be fully formed, reasonably free of insect damage, and an appropriate shade of green color for the species.
- The trunk and bark should not be swollen, sunken, broken, and/or discolored from a fungus or a cut.
- The tree should have no physical damage or wounds to the trunk or branches.
- Containerized trees should not be pot-bound or have roots extending out of the container. Do not purchase trees with roots circling/girdling more than 1/3 around the container. Slice spiraling roots vertically on opposite sides, making sure not to disturb the soil any more than necessary. New roots will originate from the pruned area.

- For trees with burlap, inspect to assure that the roots have been kept damp and that the larger roots have been cut cleanly. Ensure that the soil is still packed tight within the root ball. Check for the presence of girdling/circling roots and follow the same procedure for remediation of girdling roots for container grown trees.
- Plastic "Grow Bags" must be removed before planting.
- The container or burlap ball should be ten inches in diameter for every one inch of trunk diameter.
- Turn over the soil within an area equal to several diameters of the root ball and to a depth equal to the bottom of the root ball.
- The depth of planting should be close to the original depth. Ensure that the trunk flair (where the trunk widens) is just above the surface allowing air to circulate.
- It is essential to "water in" or soak the root ball to assure the removal of air pockets in the soil and get moisture to the root zone area. Always water beyond the root ball to promote root extension.
- If staking is necessary to ensure stability, drive stakes into the ground around the tree (away from the root ball). Loosely place rubber ties around the trunk to allow for growth. Do not drive nails into the tree.
- Remove the mechanical support(s) as soon as the tree can stand the wind on its own. This is usually after seven months for broadleaf trees and after twelve months for palms.
- Cover the planting area starting six inches from the tree trunk flair with two to three inches of mulch to keep the roots from drying out and establish a mulch ring for continued maintenance practices. Avoid placing any mulch around the base of the trunk of the newly installed tree and also avoid excessive mulch in the root ball area.

Planting Your Tree

- Turn over the soil within an area equal to several diameters of the root ball and to a depth equal to the bottom of the root ball.
- The depth of planting should be close to the original depth. Ensure that the trunk flair (where the trunk widens) is just above the surface allowing air to circulate.
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- Cover the planting area with two to three inches of mulch to keep the roots from drying out and establish a mulch ring for continued maintenance practices starting six inches from the trunk flair of the tree.

Establishing Your New Tree

- Initial watering of newly planted trees is the best way of assuring their survival.
- Make sure the roots are appropriately watered at least twice a week for the first two months.

- Water less frequently for the third month.
- After three months the tree should be able survive without additional irrigation.
- If you see the leaves drying, continue to water your tree during dry periods.
- Newly installed trees are exempt from the South Florida Water Management District's policies concerning watering for the first thirty days after installation.

Fertilizing Your Tree

- Fertilize trees the same way you would do in other areas of your yard, at least three times per year. Do not use 'weed and feed' products, as they may damage established trees. Use "palm mix" fertilizers because they contain micronutrients recommended for most trees.
- Maintain a ring of mulch, at least 3 feet in diameter and 3 inches deep starting six inches from the tree trunk flair. This will keep 'weed eater trimmers' from damaging fragile bark and allowing the entrance of insects and infection. Mulching retains moisture, minimizes weeds, and provides nutrients to the root zone.

Trimming Your Tree

- If you trim your own trees, learn how to do it correctly. Improper trimming can be dangerous to you and cause damage to your trees and property.
- If you hire someone, check their insurance, whether their company name is on their vehicle, and references of previous work.
- Good arborists will be familiar with proper standards and are able to assist you in all phases of tree maintenance. [International Society of Arboriculture \(ISA\)](#) certification is a good indicator of professionalism.
- Cuts should be made as follows:
 - Never TOP or HAT RACK a tree (cutting off its top).
 - Never OVER LIFT (removing the lower canopy of a tree).
 - Never OVER PRUNE trees (removing over 1/4 of the canopy). Poor pruning causes unhealthy trees and safety problems.

For Further Assistance Contact your tree professionals in the Tree Preservation Program at (954) 519-1483.

Tree Pruning Keeps Trees Healthy

Pruning tree limbs properly and on a regularly scheduled basis will improve tree health, control growth, and enhance fruiting, flowering, and overall appearance.

Proper Pruning

Set an objective for why the tree will be pruned. Poor pruning can cause lifelong damage to the tree.

When you Should Prune

Trees should be pruned for the first time when they are young to develop a single dominant trunk, then every 3 to 5 years thereafter.

Pruning is best done from winter to early spring (before new growth starts) because wounds close quickly as growth starts in the spring and insect and disease infestations are less likely.

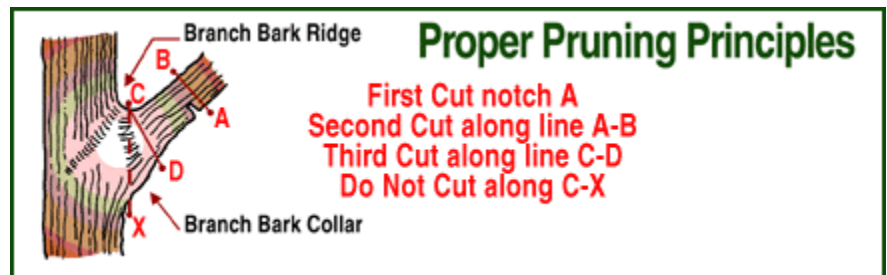
Step back and look at the tree to be pruned. Try to **imagine what it will look like when it is going to be larger** and remember that tree limbs will increase in diameter and length but will not move upward on the trunk as the tree grows.

Proper Pruning Cuts

In order to make a proper pruning cut, you must first locate the branch collar.

The branch collar is an extension of the main stem of the tree where the branch joins the main trunk. Cutting into the branch collar allows decay to expand into the main trunk of the tree.

- Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the branch collar. Do not leave branch stubs, living or dead. Use sharp hand tools designed for pruning and wear safety equipment. Do not paint wounds with wound paint. It does not prevent decay and may interfere with proper wound closure.
- Homeowners should never climb a tree to prune limbs or attempt to prune limbs near overhead power lines.
- The amount of live tissue to be removed depends on the tree's size, species, age, and pruning objectives. Generally, no more than 1/4 of the crown should be removed at once, and less for mature trees.



Prune Trees Before Storms and Hurricanes

Prune for strength and form. Topping a large tree causes excessive sprouting of weakly attached new branches and also increases wind resistance by creating denser branching patterns. Excessive lifting

creates a condition where trees become top-heavy. Both of these methods of pruning increase the chances of wind damage in the long run.

Prune for strength by removing:

- Co-dominant leaders and multi-trunks to encourage the growth of one main single "central" leader.
- Injured, diseased and dead branches.
- Rubbing branches.

Prune for form by removing:

- Excess lateral branches to produce a ladder effect at maturity.
- Water sprouts and root suckers.
- Limbs that turn inward, cross or extend.

Choose a Tree Service/Arborist

Homeowners who rush to accept the service of a tree or lawn care company are frequently taken advantage of by fly-by-night amateurs who commonly consist of a pickup truck and chainsaw. The result of this is poor quality work, and greater long-term costs.

The best option is to choose an arborist that is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. The arborist (tree care professional) you will want to hire should:

- Be fully insured for property damage, personal liability and worker's compensation.
- Be a member of a professional association such as the National Arborist Association, the Florida Urban Forestry Council, the International Society of Arboriculture, or the American Society of Consulting Arborists.
- [Find an Arborist](#)

Broward County Tree Trimmer Licensing Ordinance

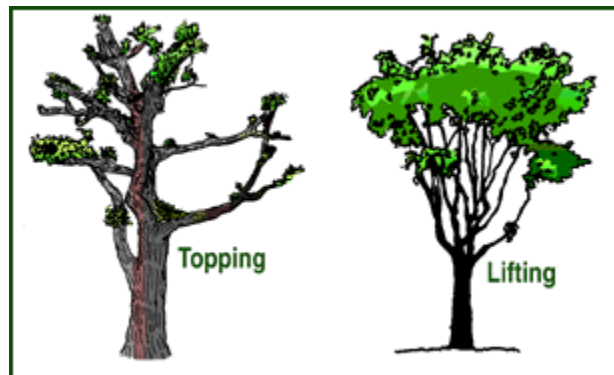
Note: Due to Chapter No. 2021-214, Laws of Florida, as amended (HB 735), titled Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing, tree trimming companies are no longer required to obtain a Tree Trimmers License from Broward County as of July 1st, 2025.

Broward County encourages commercial interests to continue to enroll in the UF/IFAS Broward County Extension's basic and advanced tree trimming classes which will continue to be offered. Attendees will gain valuable training skills regarding proper cuts per ANSI standards referenced in county and municipal codes, learn to recognize and avoid tree abuse, and abide by ANSI standards for safe operation of power tools and much more. Successful completion of Extension's classes will earn participants a certification that is good for two years and may well be required to trim trees on public as well as private property. Interested persons should contact UF/IFAS Broward County Extension at (954) 756-8519.

Tree Abuse by Improper Pruning

Topping/Hat Racking

Topping is a type of pruning where most of the canopy is removed from a tree, leaving mostly branch stubs. Topping initiates decay in the trunk and main branches and attracts wood boring insects. Never top a tree or allow anyone to top one of your trees. Topping is equivalent to butchering a tree. Competent arborists do not top trees. *Topping is considered tree abuse and is a violation of Article Fourteen Broward County Code.*



Excessive Lifting

Excessive lifting is a common pruning practice wherein all the lower branches of the tree are removed to provide clearance for cars, structures, etc. Over lifting, or excessive thinning of trees is a poor pruning practice. This type of pruning causes trees to be top heavy, reduces trunk taper and increases the chances of branch failure. It also disfigures the natural form of the trees. *Over lifting of trees is considered tree abuse and is a violation of Article Fourteen Broward County Code.*

Resources

- [Benefits of Proper Tree Pruning and Hiring an Arborist](#)
- [Tree Preservation Brochure](#)

Mangrove Trimming

South Florida is a region of changing landscapes. Freshwater wetlands and cypress swamps historically stretched from coast to coast. Mangroves were common on the western and southern coastline and on the offshore islands. With the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) and the opening of new inlets to the ocean, environments more suitable to mangroves were created. As a result, mangroves became common along both sides of the ICW and in some places formed wide fringes over a mile wide.

Today the ecology of South Florida is very different and only the very southern counties continue to have vast mangrove preserves. These mangrove regions are important to South Florida's economy and ecology and form an important ecological link with the freshwater cypress and Everglades wetlands. Mangroves support marine food chains and serve as habitat and nursery grounds for many species of birds, fish and wildlife. In Broward County, West Lake Park's 1,500+ acres of coastal mangrove wetlands is one of the largest urban parks in Florida. It is rich in native vegetation and wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species.



Within the urban landscape of canals and seawalls, it is common to find small fringes of mangroves that continue to provide habitat and refuge for native fauna. These areas are important for shoreline stabilization, filter nutrients from upland sources and maintain water quality. For these reasons, mangrove areas of varying locations and sizes are protected and conserved. The Broward County Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section regulates and enforces the protection of mangroves throughout the county in order to ensure that mangroves continue to remain an asset for the future.

Red Mangrove (Rhizophora mangle)

A medium sized tree typically found in tidal areas or offshore islands. Leaves are elliptical and leathery with a shiny deep green color above and pale underneath. The seeds germinate while still attached to the tree and the pencil-shaped propagules can be up to 10 inches long. The most noticeable feature of red mangroves is the interlocking network of prop-roots that arise from the trunk and branches to shallowly penetrate the soil. The tree bears yellow flowers all year round but predominantly so in spring and summer.



Black Mangrove (Avicennia germinans)

A medium sized tree with oblong leaves often encrusted with salt. The leaves tend to be light grey to whitish on the underside. The black mangrove is most easily recognized by a system of upward growing pencil roots that radiate out from the tree. These finger-like projections often form a carpet around the tree and are thought to help the plant breathe.



White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*)

A medium sized tree with broad flattened oval leaves that branch out from the stem opposite each other. At the base of the leaf are a distinctive pair of salt glands. Flowering occurs in spring and early summer.

Definitions

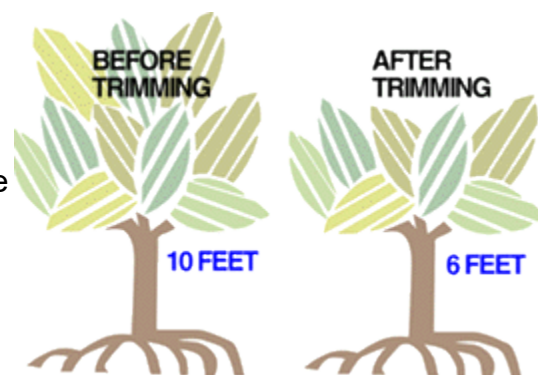
- MANGROVE ALTERATION: Defoliation, destruction and or removal of mangroves
- MANGROVE: Any specimen of the red (*Rhizophora mangle*), black (*Avicennia germinans*), or white (*Laguncularia racemosa*) mangroves.
- MANGROVE MITIGATION: Areas on public or private lands that were created, enhanced, restored or preserved to compensate for the loss of mangroves elsewhere.
- RIPARIAN MANGROVE FRINGE: Mangroves growing along the shoreline; the fringe does not exceed fifty feet in width and does not include mangroves on uninhabited islands, or mangroves set aside as conservation, preservation or mitigation areas that were set up without trimming provisions.
- TRIMMING: Cut branches, twigs or limbs.

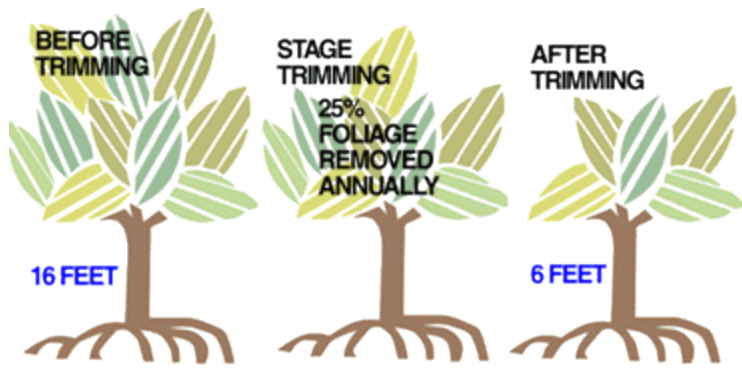
Mangrove Trimming

Due to their ecological importance, mangroves have long enjoyed protection through State of Florida regulations concerning removal and trimming. In an effort to simplify the process, the Legislature passed legislation in 1995, amended in 1996, titled the Mangrove Protection Rule, Section 403.9321 through 403.9333 Florida Statutes. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection coordinates the implementation of the Rule in conjunction with local governments, such as Broward County, that are designated to act as the state's local representatives.

Trimming Methods

Trimming is restricted to a height of 6 feet. This is the minimum height at which the mangrove should stand. Canopy trimming should be done in stages to prevent injury and defoliation of the tree.





Trees After The Storm

Replanting Storm-Safe Trees

As you consider replacement of trees lost to the recent storm events, reviewing the following important factors will give your new tree the best chance to survive future storm winds:

What can I do to keep my new tree from toppling over in a storm?

Keeping a tree upright in a storm is influenced by two factors:

1. Minimizing wind resistance above-ground
2. Maximizing anchoring below ground.

Trees use their root system to anchor themselves against storm winds. Contrary to popular opinion, the root system of a healthy tree does not reflect the shape of the above ground canopy. Ideally, roots spread out in all directions, four to five times the tree height, mostly in the top one foot of soil. These far reaching, essentially shallow roots, anchor the tree as storm winds blow from side to side. When a tree is placed too close to foundations, driveways and other built structures that interrupt the radial extent of the roots, or when roots are cut to protect or make way for built structures, the tree is more prone to topple. This can also occur if roots grow in a spiral bundle around the tree rather than radially outward - we will discuss this below “How do I know if I’m buying a good quality tree?” and “How do I plant my tree to give it the best start?” Assess the space that you have available for planting your new tree and choose the right tree for the location. A good recommendation is to avoid built structures for at least a 10ft x 10ft space for a small tree and at least a 30ft x 30 ft space for a large tree. Minimizing wind resistance above-ground is achieved through proper pruning. Trees foliage can catch the wind like a sail. Some routine maintenance is required to reduce the canopy density and thereby reduce the “sail effect”. Proper pruning can reduce the “sail effect” and also remove dead, broken and crossing branches and ensure that your tree has a strong and pleasing structure. Improper pruning can weaken tree structure, increase maintenance costs, and ultimately result in a denser canopy and an increased “sail effect”.

How do I know if I am planting a new tree near utility lines?

Aboveground Utility Lines - Trees that will be 20 feet at mature height and less can be planted below and adjacent to overhead utility lines. Trees reaching 30 feet in height should be offset 30 feet from the utility lines. Proper setback will avoid the need for drastic trimming which may result in an unnatural appearance. It will also ensure a safer and more reliable electrical system. For more detailed information about this subject, please visit the [Florida Power and Light Publication “Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place”](#).

Underground Utilities – Before you dig, contact Sunshine State One at 1-800-432-4770 for locating underground utilities. Plant trees far enough away from buried cables and sewer lines so that the roots do not grow into these utilities and avoid trees with aggressive root systems such as Ficus and Black Olives.

How do I choose the right tree for my space?

Choosing the right plant for your area can be tricky, but start by determining what the mature tree size and growth character your site can support. Determine how much sunlight and water is available in the area. Then choose a tree that will fit the available space and do well given the available light and water. To find out the growth characteristics and the light and water needs of various species please visit the [South Florida Water Management District publication "Water wise"](#).

Which wind resistant tree species should I plant?

A tree's storm survivability will depend largely on plant stock quality, tree care, and planting the right tree in the right place in addition to the storm resistance of the species, however, the following list of trees have been noted to be highly resistant to storm wind.

Recommended Large Trees and Palms (35' +)

- Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* v. *distichum*
- Cabbage Palm, *Sabal palmetto*
- Canary Island Date Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*
- Gumbo Limbo, *Bursera simaruba*
- Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*
- Mastic, *Sideroxylon foetidissimim*
- Pond Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* v. *nutans*
- Red Bay, *Persea borbonia*
- Royal Palm, *Roystonea regia*
- Sabal Palm, *Sabal Palmetto*
- Slash Pine aka: Dade County Pine, *Pinus elliottii* v. *densa*
- Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Sweet Bay Magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*
- Wild Tamarind, *Lysiloma latisliqua*

Recommended Medium Trees and Palms (15' - 34')

- Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*
- Black Ironwood, *Krugiodendron ferreum*
- Christmas Palm, *Adonida merrillii*
- Dahoon Holly, *Ilex cassine*
- Florida Thatch Palm, *Thrinax radiata*
- Foxtail Palm, *Wodyetia bifucata*
- Geiger, *Cordia sebestena*
- Lignum Vitae, *Guaicum sanctum*
- Paurotis Palm, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*
- Pigeon Plum, *Coccoloba diversifolia*
- Pindo Palm, *Butia capitata*
- Podocarpus, *Podocarpus macrophyllous*
- Satin Leaf, *Chrysophyllum oliviforme*
- Senegal Date Palm, *Phoenix reclinata*

- Silver Buttonwood, *Conocarpus erectus*
- Stopper spp., (White, Redberry & Spanish) *Eugenia v. axillaris, confusa and foetida*
- Sweet Acacia, *Acacia farnesiana*

Recommended Small Trees and Palms (up to 14')

- Buccaneer Palm, *Pseudophoenix sargentii*
- Jamaican Caper, *Capparis cynophallophora*
- Roebelenii Palm, *Phoenix roebelenii*

Which trees should I avoid planting?

The following trees were found to be poor storm survivors:

- African Tulip Tree
- Albizia (Woman's Tongue)
- Australian Pine
- Avocado
- Bischofia
- Black Olive
- Brazilian Beautyleaf
- Carrotwood
- Cassia
- Earleaf Acacia
- Eucalyptus
- Ficus spp.
- Floss-silk Tree
- Golden Rain Tree
- Hong Kong Orchid
- Indian Rosewood
- Jacaranda
- Java Plum
- Key Lime
- Mahogany
- Mango
- Melaleuca
- Norfolk Island Pine
- Pongam
- Queen Palm
- Queen's Crepe Myrtle
- Royal Poinciana
- Sand Pine
- Sausage Tree

- Seaside Mahoe
- Silk Oak
- Southern Red Cedar
- Tabebuia (yellow)
- Washingtonia Palm
- Wax Myrtle
- Ylang-ylang

How do I know if I'm buying a good quality tree?

This is one of the most important considerations when buying a tree and it is one of the least known issues. All trees are not created equal. Trees are sold commercially in various “grades”. A better grade tree is far more likely to grow into a strong storm resistant tree than a poor grade tree. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is responsible for the grading system. In general, a tree is of a higher grade when it has a single straight trunk, its branches are uniformly distributed around the trunk if seen from above, branches alternate around the trunk without being directly opposite to each other and the roots do not circle excessively within the container. Poor grade trees will have more than one main trunk, an unbalanced branch arrangement, an uneven canopy and roots circling within the container.

For more information, please view the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services site on [Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants](#).

How do I plant my tree to give it the best start?

Dig a hole NO DEEPER than the height of the root ball, with a width at least 2 to 3 times greater than the diameter of the root ball. Place the tree in the center of the hole. Backfill the hole with only the same soil dug from the hole. Water in the backfill as you go, to remove all air pockets. Do not add anything to the hole except the soil! Pile the last shovel full of soil in a mound up around the tree trunk. Gently pull this mound back off of the trunk in all directions to form a shallow bowl around the tree that can hold water. Water thoroughly and immediately after planting the tree to ensure all air pockets are displaced. Daily watering during the first six weeks is the most important thing you can do for your tree. Give your tree 5 gallons of water for every inch of trunk diameter each time you water. Pay close attention to the soil around your tree, watering less often if the soil is soggy. Mulching is a very important part of tree planting. After watering the tree, spread the mulch in a circle 2 to 4 feet from the base of the trunk - but keep it 2 to 3 inches away from the trunk itself (to prevent trunk rot). The mulch should be 3 to 4 inches deep. For more detailed information, please visit the following website: [Broward County Tree Preservation Program Proper Tree Care](#)

How and when do I prune my tree?

Routine maintenance can correct issues and help ensure your tree grows into a storm survivor.

- Prune saplings for structure.
- Prune for strength during development.
- Prune properly prior to hurricane season.

- Improper pruning will increase hurricane hazards. See [Broward County Tree Preservation Program “Proper Tree Pruning”](#) .

Should I keep my storm damaged tree?

As you assess your storm damaged tree there are many factors that will determine if you should keep it, or remove and replace it. You may want to consult with an ISA certified arborist to make this determination to ensure you do not keep a tree that could grow into a potential hazard. The following are excellent resources to determine if your tree can be saved:

- [National Arbor Day Foundation website “When A Storm Strikes”](#)
- [National Arbor Day Foundation Publication “Storm Recovery – Trees”](#)
- [University of Florida IFAS website “Treating Damaged Trees & Palms”](#)
- [University of Florida IFAS website “Trees and Hurricanes”](#)

Do I need a permit to remove my storm damaged trees?

Trees that have been toppled, or severely damaged trees that have suffered permanent loss of 50% or more of their canopy, do not require a permit for removal. This does not include trees that have been defoliated (loss of all their leaves) as these trees should recover. For trees which have not been severely damaged, whether a permit is required depends on the type and size of tree(s) that are proposed for removal. Contact the Tree Preservation Program at (954) 519-1483 for further information.

Trust Fund Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at Government Center West, 1 North University Drive, Plantation FL 33324, Sabal Palm Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Meeting is also available virtually via Teams, **see meeting agenda below for specific virtual meeting instructions.**

Purpose

Pursuant to the Broward County Administrative Code, Chapter 27, PART XXXIII, the purpose of the Committee is to review requests for funding from the Tree Preservation Trust Fund and then make recommendations to the Director of the Public Works and Environmental Services Department. Meetings are scheduled as needed based upon funding requests.

Committee Members

- Peter Burke (Representative of Public Works and Environmental Services Department)
- Michael Orfanedes (Representative of Parks and Recreation Division)
- Anthony Gross (Representative of Public Works and Environmental Services Department)

Meeting Agenda, Backup Material and Minutes

Date	Agenda	Backup Material	Minutes
May 2, 2024	Meeting Agenda 5/2/2024	Application for Funds	Meeting Minutes 5/2/2024
September 27, 2024	Meeting Agenda 9/27/2024	Applications Summary	Meeting Minutes 9/27/2024
December 17, 2024	Meeting Agenda 12/17/2024	Funding Request	Meeting Minutes 12/17/2024
February 20, 2025	Meeting Agenda 2/20/2025	Applications Summary	Meeting Minutes 2/20/2025
July 3, 2025	Meeting Agenda 7/3/2025	Applications Summary	Meeting Minutes 7/3/2025
August 20, 2025	Meeting Agenda 8/20/2025	Applications Summary	Meeting Minutes 8/20/2025
April 1, 2026	Meeting Agenda 4/1/2026	Applications Summary	Draft Meeting Minutes 4/1/2026

Aquatic and Wetland Resources Program

The mission of the Aquatic and Wetland Resource Program is to protect, restore and enhance the biological productivity, abundance and diversity of marine, estuarine, freshwater and terrestrial resources, which includes Broward County's wetland resources. The Program licenses work done in, on, or under surface waters of Broward County; including dredge/fill, work in wetlands/other surface waters, docks, seawalls, mangrove trimming/alteration.

What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are areas of transition between land and water. In general, a wetland is an ecosystem where water is at or covering the surface of the ground for all or part of the year; in Florida, wetlands may be defined by looking at the types of plants growing in them, by the types of soils present and/or the presence of hydrologic (water level) indicators.

The Value of Wetlands

One of the world's most important natural resources and are the most productive ecosystems in the world.

Improving Water Quality

Wetlands serve as Natural Filtration Systems

Protecting from Floods

Wetlands provide storage areas that provide flood protection

Controlling Shoreline Erosion

The plants found in wetlands retain excess nutrients and some pollutants and physically hold soil in place with their root systems, reducing and absorbing wave energy and erosion.

Recharging Florida's Aquifer

Wetlands serve as important aquifer recharge areas or areas where groundwater is replenished.

Recreation and Appreciation

Wetlands have recreational, historical, scientific and cultural values. They provide places to hunt, fish, canoe, boat, bird watch and photograph wildlife, and they provide natural scenic vistas for nature lovers and artists.

Biological

Wetlands provide food that attracts many animal species. Dead plant leaves and stems break down in the water to form small particles of "detritus" or enriched organic material. This detritus feeds many

small aquatic insects, shellfish and small fish that are food for larger predatory fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

Many of the U.S. breeding bird populations including ducks, geese, hawks, woodpeckers, wading birds and many songbirds feed, nest and raise their young in wetlands. Fish use inland and coastal wetland areas for spawning and nursery areas.

Wetlands have been compared to tropical rain forests and coral reefs in the number and diversity of animal and plant species they support. In fact, more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives. In addition to the habitat wetlands provide, they also provide important water quality benefits.

Human Impacts on Wetlands

South Florida's wetlands have also suffered secondary impacts from human development pressures. The alteration of Southeast Florida's hydrology by the elaborate canal systems designed to protect residents from flooding has impacted wetlands by decreasing the hydrology necessary for maintaining wetland plant species. Pollutants from storm runoff on streets and highways combined with the use of fertilizers and pesticides have increased the nutrients introduced into surface waters and degraded the water quality that supports wetland plant species. Another impact has been the introduction of non-native plant species also known as exotics. Two well-known exotics, the Melaleuca and Brazilian pepper trees, have overgrown wetland areas. Their rapid growth chokes out native species and decreases the habitat value of the wetlands.

History of Wetlands in the Southeast Broward County

Large areas of wetlands were drained and converted for other land uses such as housing developments and farmland. With the exception of the historic coastal ridge which runs along Dixie Highway and U.S. 1 (Federal Highway), most of Southeast Florida was part of a larger, productive wetlands ecosystem: [The Everglades](#).

View the Military [Map](#) of Florida's Peninsula South of Tampa Bay from 1856.

Types of Wetlands in Broward County

After the passage of the Swamp and Overflowed Lands Grant Act, drainage districts were formed. By the late 1920's much of the wetlands in South Florida, were drained by numerous canals designed to reclaim land.

In Broward County that reclaimed land is now populated with over 1.4 million residents. Although development pressures have converted a portion of Florida's historic wetland areas to lakes and filled areas, two-thirds of Broward County is set aside as water conservation areas and remains a part of the Everglades.

Broward County's wetlands range in size from tiny, isolated patches to larger systems such as the Everglades water conservation areas. Because they are so varied, wetlands can be difficult to

recognize. Some are wet all of the time and others may look dry most of the time. Wetlands do not have to be part of a larger system to be valuable. Isolated and intermittent wetlands provide important habitat for many important species such as frogs, lizards, snakes and turtles.

There are two general categories of wetlands in Broward County, **Coastal and Freshwater (non-tidal)**. Both types of wetlands are further categorized as swamps which are characterized by shrubs or trees such as maples, gums, bald cypresses and mangroves; or as marshes, characterized by grasses and sedges, where few if any trees and shrubs grow.

Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands consist of saltwater mangrove swamp areas along the Intracoastal Waterway and its adjoining canals with some intermittent saltwater marsh areas. These provide habitat for wading birds such as the great Blue Heron and Roseate Spoonbill, and nursery areas for saltwater fish including tarpon, snook and snapper species.

Freshwater (non-tidal) Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands consist of cypress swamps, pond apple and cypress sloughs, freshwater marshes, saw grass marshes and wet prairies. Cypress swamps and sloughs provide habitat for many animal species considered threatened or endangered, such as the White Ibis. Air plants, ferns, orchids and lilies are often found perched on tree buttresses and limbs in the swamp. Freshwater marshes are the open areas found along lakes and contain low-growing species such as grasses and cattails. Saw grass marshes are dominated by tall, sometimes impenetrable saw grass and found in and adjacent to the Everglades. Wet prairies are shallow basins covered with grasses and other low plants adapted to growing in wet areas, providing habitat for foxes, turtles, lizards, snakes and fish. Wet prairies can also remain dry for long periods of time.

Application Forms:

- [Environmental Resource General License](#)
- [Request for Wetlands Determination](#)
- [Application to Transfer License](#)
- [Application to Transfer- Marine Facilities Operational License](#)
- [Environmental Resource License Application](#)
- [Environmental Resource General License for Floating Vessel Platforms \(FVP\)](#)
- [Forms of the Environmental Resource Permitting, State 404 Permitting, and Submerged Lands Programs](#)
- [SPGP Commencement Notification](#)
- [SPGP Statement of Compliance](#)
- [SPGP Application for Transfer](#)

Apply Online

Resources:

- [Army Corps of Engineers - SPGP](#)
- [Broward County Environmental Resource Permits Delegation Agreement](#)
- Changes in Everglades Water Flow
- GIS Maps and Dashboards
- Protected Natural Lands

Fees:

Project Type	Fees
For Section 27-336: General Licenses	\$200.00
* For Section 27-334: Maintenance dredging or projects equal to or less than 100 cubic yards of dredged and/or fill material, and/or Installation of buoys or aids to navigation (added 08/22/2017)	\$375.00
* For Section 27-334: • Projects greater than 101 to less than 1,000 cubic yards of dredged or fill material; • Marina or dockage facility less than or equal to 10,000 square feet of water surface area; • Seawall less than or equal to 200 feet in length; • Installation of subaqueous transmission or distribution lines with less than 1000 cubic yards of dredged or fill material	\$675.00
* For Section 27-334: • Projects with 1,001 to 10,000 cubic yards of dredged or fill material;	\$1,200.00

• Marina or dockage facility with greater than 10,000 square feet of water surface area; • Seawalls greater than 200 feet in total length.	
* For Section 27-334 Projects with 10,001 to 100,000 cubic yards of dredged or fill material	\$3,000.00
* For Section 27-334: • Projects greater than 100,000 cubic yards of dredged or fill material.	\$6,000.00
For Section 27-334: Request for license transfer	\$150.00
For Section 27-334: Request for license modification.	\$150.00
For Section 27-334: "Mitigation Monitoring Fee" for in-county mitigation projects:	• The annual fee shall be 40% of the initial license fee which shall be submitted prior to license issuance. • As of 08/22/2017 ordinance change, there is no fee for mitigation bank projects.
For Section 27-334: "Wetland Jurisdictional Determinations" • Determinations will be performed subsequent to the receipt of a written request accompanied by the following processing fees	(a) For parcels less than or equal to 2 acres \$100.00 (b) Each additional acre or portion thereof 50.00
For Section 27- 334 (c): Projects proposing new or expanding marine facilities:	• A non-refundable filing fee deposit of \$100 per new slip proposed to be submitted with

	an Environmental Resource License (ERL) application
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- A mitigation fee based on the Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) fee schedule for the year the ERL is issued.

Manatee Protection Plan Fee Schedule

New per slip fee as of FY 2022: \$666.00

Annual per slip fee as of FY 2022: \$32.00.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I also need a state permit for in-water work from the state's Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)?

Broward County has been delegated by [FDEP](#) to regulate in-water projects in some areas of the county. If a state permit is required, it would be issued concurrently with the county license. State permitting fees would apply in addition to the county licensing fees. To get more information on licensing requirements contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section at (954) 519-1483.

When is a license necessary?

Any work in, on or under water or wetlands requires a license, including but not limited to, deck/dock installation or replacement, seawall installation, renovation or cap work, installation of boatlift, jet ski lifts, floating vessel platforms, dredging, installation of pilings, subaqueous utility crossings or clearing or filling of wetlands.

Where can I find the applications?

Applications for County licenses and State permits can be found at: [Forms](#).

Who do I call for questions about licensing?

Please contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section at 954-519-1483.

Can I create or fill a surface water / pond on my property?

Yes. A license is required to excavate a water body greater than 1 acre in size from uplands or to fill any size surface water area. Prior to any excavation, a wetland determination should be obtained.

What can I fill a surface water / pond with?

Materials that do not contain solid waste, are not capable of decomposition, or do not cause water quality degradation. Construction, Recycled Compost Material (RCM), and demolition materials are NOT allowed. Prior to any filling, an environmental resource license (ERL) is required.

Can I place mulch on my wetland area?

Mulch is considered to be filling a wetland as is laying sod.

Can a wetland area be mowed?

A wetland area may be mowed, as long as the remaining wetland plants are at least 6" or taller.

Can I remove exotic trees from my wetland area?

An environmental resource license (ERL) is required to remove exotic trees from a wetland area, and the use of heavy equipment is prohibited.

Do I have wetlands on my property?

The presence of wetlands on a property is not always obvious. To determine if there are wetlands on your property, you can request a wetland determination from the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section by submitting an application with the appropriate fee. The State method for evaluation of wetlands, found in Chapter 62-340 Florida Administrative Code, is used.

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number and the assigned reviewer.

How long does a wetland determination take?

If the wetland determination application is complete, staff will visit the site as soon as possible. Typically, this may take one to two weeks depending on staff schedules.

Other regulatory agencies

State Permitting

Broward County has been delegated by FDEP to regulate projects in some areas of the county. If a state permit is required, it would be issued concurrently with the county license. State permitting fees would apply in addition to the county licensing fees. For more information contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section at (954) 519-1483.

If the project is not in the Broward County delegation area you may contact these offices:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
West Palm Beach Office 561-681-6600
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
West Palm Beach Office 800-432-2045

Federal Permitting

A permit may also be required from the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).
South Florida Area Office 561-472-3500

When is a Broward County license necessary for mangrove trimming?

All mangrove trimming/alterations require a Broward County Environmental Resource License (ERL). County licensing fees apply.

Are there any mangrove trimming licensing exemptions for Broward County?

Broward County does not have any exemptions for mangrove trimming.

Do I also need a state permit for mangrove trimming from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)?

Broward County has been delegated by FDEP to regulate mangrove state trimming permits. If a state trimming permit is needed, it would be issued concurrently with the county license. State permitting fees would apply in addition to the county licensing fees.

Do I need a professional mangrove trimmer?

A professional mangrove trimmer must either supervise or conduct all trimming of trees that exceed 10 feet in height.

Who is a professional mangrove trimmer?

The following persons are considered professional mangrove trimmers:

- ISA certified arborists;
- Professional wetland scientists certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists;
- Certified ecologists certified by the Ecological Society of America and other qualified individuals; and
- Certified environmental professionals, certified by the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals.

Who do I call for questions about mangrove trimming?

To get more information on licensing requirements, contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Aquatic and Wetlands Resources Section at (954) 519-1483.