



Mitigation Requirements

The City of Gainesville Tree Ordinance

Community Development Committee

October 14, 2015

Presented by Mark Siburt, City Arborist , Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
and
Earline Lührman, Urban Forestry Inspector, Planning & Development Services

#150167J

Purpose of Meeting

- At the July 16, 2015 City Commission meeting, a citizen expressed concerns with the tree removal permit process and required mitigation (#150167).
- City Commission referred this issue to the Community Development Committee.
- At the September 3, 2015 City Commission meeting, the issue of the Tree Ordinance and Appeal Process was referred to the Community Development Committee (#150322).

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- In 2003, the City Commission requested the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) recommend changes to the tree ordinance to reduce the impacts of the Southern Pine Beetle.
- In 2004, the City Commission asked the TAB to expand provisions for invasive exotic pest plant management.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- In 2004 a proposed development included the removal of a 40” live oak and the developer was unwilling to shift the building to save the tree.
- The City Plan Board denied the proposed development and the City Commission reaffirmed that decision.
- The law suit that followed ruled that the City could not deny the removal of the Live Oak since the Land Development Code allowed the removal.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- Strengthening the heritage tree protection was added to the TAB tasks by the City Commission.
- During 2008 and 2009, the TAB held twelve public meetings during which the tree ordinance was discussed.
- In addition to city staff (Urban Forestry, Planning, GRU, CRA), developers, builders, landscape architects, and engineers attended.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- The City Plan Board approved the proposed changes on February 25, 2010 by a 4-0 vote.
- The City Commission approved the petition on May 6, 2010 by a vote of 7-0.
- City staff prepared a draft ordinance and released it for review in March, 2011.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- Several public stakeholders expressed concerns which resulted in the Community Development Agency (CRA) directing CRA staff to hire a consultant to review the draft ordinance on April 18, 2011.
- Perkins + Will held three public meetings and presented recommendations to the CRA board on March 19, 2012, which were accepted.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- City staff and the TAB continued to meet with stakeholders and hold public meetings.
- On May 30, 2012, City Planning staff released a revised draft for review by stakeholders.
- On June 4, 2012, the TAB approved the draft with minor revisions.

History of Tree Ordinance Review

- The City Commission approved the changes on first reading on May 16, 2013.
- Final adoption after second reading occurred on June 6, 2013.

Mitigation for Developments

Category	Mitigation
High quality heritage trees, in fair or better condition	Mitigation payment based on tree appraised value, limited to three trees per acre averaged over the entire site. If more than three trees per acre in this category are located on the site then the trees with the highest tree appraised value throughout the site shall be used to calculate the payment. High quality heritage trees proposed for removal in excess of the overall average of three per acre shall require mitigation trees on an inch-for-inch on a diameter basis.
Heritage trees of other than high quality species, in fair or better condition	Mitigation trees on an inch-for-inch diameter basis.
Any heritage trees in less than fair or better condition; and any other regulated tree	Mitigation trees consisting of two trees of high quality shade species established for each tree removed.

High Quality Species

- Live Oak, Sand Live Oak, Bluff Oak, Basket Oak, Southern Red Oak, Southern Magnolia, Florida Maple, Longleaf Pine, Spruce Pine, Cedar Elm, Winged Elm, Florida Elm, Bald Cypress, Pond Cypress, Tupelo, Mockernut Hickory, Pignut Hickory, Pecan, Persimmon, Basswood, Tulip Poplar, White Ash, Green Ash and Yaupon, Dahoon, and American Holly species.

Fair or Better Condition

■ **Sec. 30-23. Definitions**

- *Fair or better condition* means that the tree has a relatively sound and solid root, trunk, and canopy structure, no major insect infestation or pathological problem, or problems that cannot be remedied with cultural practices, and a life expectancy greater than 15 years as determined by the city manager or designee. In the event of a disputed health condition, the condition rating system outlined in the latest edition of the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers Guide for Tree Appraisers shall be used by the city manager or designee to evaluate the health condition. A score of 60 or higher shall qualify a tree as fair or better condition.

Heritage Trees

- *Heritage trees* are trees that are larger than 20 inches diameter breast height; except for Water Oaks (*Quercus nigra*), Laurel Oaks (*Quercus hemispherica*), Sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) and Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*) which become heritage trees only when they are larger than 30 inches diameter breast height.

Tree Appraised Value

- The dollar value to the city of a tree on private or public property used for the purpose of calculating cash recompense for removal or destruction. The tree appraised value shall be calculated as follows:
- $(3.14) \times (\frac{1}{2} \text{ diameter breast height})^2 = \text{trunk area}$
- $(\text{trunk area}) \times (\text{unit factor for square inch price, as determined annually by the tree advisory board in consultation with the city manager or designee}) = \text{square inch value}$
- $(\text{square inch value}) \times (55\% \text{ diminution rating}) = \text{tree appraised value}$
- Example calculation: 20" Live Oak in fair or better condition:
- $(3.14) \times (\frac{1}{2} \times 20)^2 = 314 \text{ square inches of trunk area}$
 $(314 \text{ sq. in}) \times (\$40) = \$12,560 \text{ square inch value}$
 $(\$12,560) \times (.55) = \$6,908 \text{ tree appraised value}$

Trunk Formula Method

Trunk Formula Method Worksheet
Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition

Case # _____ Property _____ Date _____

Appraiser _____

Field Observations

1. Species _____
2. Condition _____ %
3. Trunk Circumference _____ in/cm Diameter _____ in/cm
4. Location% = [Site ____% + Contribution ____% + Placement ____%] / 3 = ____%

Regional Plant Appraisal Committee and/or Appraiser-Developed Modified Information

5. Species rating _____ %
6. Replacement Tree Size (diameter) _____ in/cm
(trunk area) _____ in²/cm² = T_{AR}
7. Replacement Tree Cost \$ _____
(see Regional Information to use Cost selected)
8. Installation Cost \$ _____
9. Installed Tree Cost (#7 + #8) \$ _____
10. Unit Tree Cost \$ _____ per in²/cm²
(see Regional Information to use Cost selected)

Calculations by Appraiser Using Field and regional Information

11. Appraised Trunk Area:
(T_{AA} or ATA_A; use Tables 4.4-4.7)
Or c² _____ x 0.080 } = _____ in² or cm²
Or d² _____ x 0.785 }
12. Appraised Tree Trunk Increase = T_A_{INCR} =
T_{AA} or ATA_A _____ in²/cm² (#11) - T_{AR} _____ in²/cm² (#6) = _____ in²/cm²
13. Basic Tree Cost = T_A_{INCR} (#12) _____ in²/cm² X Unit Tree Cost (#10) \$ _____ per
in²/cm² + Installed Tree Cost (#9) \$ _____ = \$ _____
14. Appraised Value = Basic Tree Cost (#13) \$ _____ X Species rating (#5) ____% X
Condition (#2) ____% X Location (#4) ____% = \$ _____
15. If the Appraised Value is \$5,000 or more, round it to the nearest \$100; if it is less,
round to nearest \$10.
16. Appraised Value = (#14) \$ _____

- Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition
 - Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers

Guide to Judging Plant Condition

- Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition
 - Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers

Guide to Judging Plant Condition

Scoring system

No apparent problems	4
Minor problems	3
Major problems	2
Extreme problems	1

Factor 1: Roots

- Root anchorage
- Collar/flare soundness
- Mechanical injury
- Girdling/kinked roots
- Compaction/waterlogged roots
- Toxic gases/chemical symptoms
- Presence of insects or disease
- Mushrooms

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 2: Trunk

- Sound bark and wood Cavities
- Mechanical or fire injury
- Cracks (frost or other)
- Swollen or sunken areas
- Presence of insects or disease
- Conks

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 3: Scaffold Branches

- Strong attachments
- Smaller diameter than trunk where attached
- Vertical branch distribution
- Free of included bark
- Free of decay and cavities Well pruned
- Well-proportioned/proper taper
- Wound closure
- Deadwood or fire injury
- Insects or disease

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 4: Small branches and Twigs

- Vigor of current shoots (compare previous growth) Well distributed through canopy
- Appearance of buds (color shape, size for species)
- Presence of insects or disease
- Presence of weak or dead twigs

	=	
Health		Subtotal
		(1-4)

Factor 5: Foliage and/or

- Buds Size of foliage/buds
- Coloration of foliage
- Nutrient status
- Herbicide, chemical, pollution injury
- Wilted or dead leaves
- Dry buds
- Presence of insects or disease

	=	
Health		Subtotal
		(1-4)

Total subtotal points assessed for the five Factors

	=	
0		0
		(8-32)

Divide subtotal points by 32 (total possible) and multiply by 100 to obtain the Condition rating

	=	
0%		0%
		(25-100)

Location %

- **Site**
 - A site is rated in relation to the value of other areas in the same city, county, or region, including the area's economic, functional, and aesthetic aspects.
- **Contribution**
 - A plant may have historic significance, be a rare species, or possess a unique structure. Plants may have screening, privacy control, wildlife habitat, or energy-saving qualities.
- **Placement**
 - The placement of the plant being appraised may determine how effective it is in providing its functional and aesthetic attributes.
- **Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition**
 - Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers

Perkins + Will Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL ORDINANCE

URBAN

INNOVATION SQUARE

RECOMMENDATION	GENERAL ORDINANCE	URBAN	INNOVATION SQUARE
flexibility in tree opening size- focus on volume rather than area	●	●	●
clarify that minimum architectural feature setback is 15 feet	●	●	●
simplify mitigation calculation formula	●	●	●
measure building setback from building face	●	●	●
allow "green street" stormwater management	●	●	●
reduce architectural feature setback to 10 feet	●	●	●
remove size limit for mitigation trees	●	●	●
allow trees planted for site development to count towards mitigation	Except for high quality trees		
require a minimum 4 foot width for shade tree planting opening areas	●	●	●
stormwater basin shape is not regulated	For basins under 5000 sq. ft.		
incentive for saving heritage trees within innovation square district (custom incentive can be developed for other urban districts)	Requires Comp Plan Amendment		
higher standard for soil volume (700 cf for single tree or 550 cf for trees with shared soil volume)	●	●	●
direct tree mitigation funds to trees in parks and streetscapes within innovation square district	Establishes mechanism		

Inch for Inch Mitigation

- Heritage trees of other than high quality species, in fair or better condition
- High quality heritage trees proposed for removal in excess of the overall average of three per acre shall require mitigation trees on an inch-for-inch on a diameter basis.

Inch for Inch Mitigation

- Total sum of inches (diameter) removed must be replaced with smaller trees
 - Example: 25” live oak
 - Replacement trees
 - Size: 30 gallon (2.5”)
 - Cost: \$100
 - $25''/2.5'' = 10$ trees
 - $10 \times \$100 = \$1,000$

2:1 Mitigation

- Any heritage trees in less than fair or better condition; and any other regulated tree
 - For each tree removed, two trees must be replanted

Perkins + Will Recommendations

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On Site Mitigation

- Sec. 30-254 (b)(1)
 - The installation of new trees for a development as required by this chapter may count as mitigation for trees removed from the site, except where those removed trees are of a high-quality species.
- Example:
 - Project requires 50 trees for parking lot, retention pond, street trees, etc. which equals 125" (50 trees x 2.5")
 - Mitigation for removals in addition to the tree appraised value is 150" or 60, 30 gallon trees; resulting in a difference of 25"
 - Option 1 – Plant 10 more trees on site
 - Option 2 – Increase container size
 - Increase 50 trees to 45 gallon (3") = 25" additional caliper inches
 - Option 3 – Pay to tree mitigation fund \$1,000

Tree Mitigation Fund

- Sec. 30-254 (b) (2)
 - This fund may be used for new tree plantings associated with public improvement projects or for the preservation of trees through the purchase of conservation lands, but shall not be used for tree maintenance or toward the installation of new trees that would already be required for a development.

Tree Mitigation Fund Policy



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department	No. 1.6.1a
POLICY	Issued: November 20, 2014
Subject: Use of Tree Mitigation Funds	Revised: 03-11-2015
Approval:  Steven R. Phillips, Director	

Approved by the Tree Advisory Board on February 9, 2015.

POLICY: This policy provides guidance as to the appropriate uses, intent, and mechanism for expenditure of funds from the City of Gainesville's Tree Mitigation Fund.

INTENT: The intent of the Tree Mitigation Fund is to augment the City's Urban Forestry Programs by funding projects that exceed the basic service levels for tree planting, routine pruning maintenance and hazard abatement, and removal of hazardous trees that were funded by the City at the time the changes to the Land Development Code were adopted by the Gainesville City Commission in 2013. These changes allowed the removal of significant high quality Heritage trees from the Urban Forest in exchange for money that would then be used for enhancement projects only. The Tree Mitigation Fund was never intended to pay for the City's routine, basic urban forestry services.

PRACTICE:

The City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department receives mitigation funds resulting from the removal of trees, tree violations, and other tree related consequences. These funds are placed in the City's tree mitigation fund, a separate city fund that holds funds collected as tree mitigation. Section 30-254 (b)(2) of the City's Land Development Code provides guidance for the use of these funds. Specifically, the Code states that "This fund may be used for new tree plantings associated with public improvement projects or for the preservation of trees through the purchase of conservation lands, but shall not be used for tree maintenance or for the installation of new trees that are required for a development." This policy is intended to provide additional guidance and clarification for the use of the Tree Mitigation Funds. The City Manager or his designee approves the use of all Tree Mitigation project funds as recommended by staff.

PROCEDURE:

The following provides additional detail regarding appropriate uses, intent, and mechanism for expenditure of funds from the City of Gainesville's Tree Mitigation Fund.

1. **Tree Planting:** The City of Gainesville's Tree Mitigation Funds may be used to fund the following tree planting related activities.
 - a. Purchasing trees for planting on public lands.
 - b. Purchasing irrigation and/or irrigation supplies related to the establishment of new tree plantings on public land.
 - c. Purchase of mulch, staking materials, or other necessary supplies to ensure the proper installation and long-term survival of new tree plantings on public land.
 - d. Contractual services related to tree planting and establishment on public lands.
 - e. Funds shall not be used for tree maintenance or for the installation of new trees that are required for a development.
2. **Establishment of newly-planted trees:** The Tree Mitigation Funds may be used for establishment of newly-planted trees on public land for a period of no more than three (3) years. Funds shall not be used for tree maintenance or for the installation of new trees that are required for a development. Related establishment functions could include but are not limited to: watering, fertilizing, mulching, and pruning.
3. **Land Acquisition:** The Tree Mitigation Funds may be used for the following land acquisition activities:
 - a. Acquisition of land to preserve high quality trees, heritage tree(s), or high quality natural habitat for public parks and preserves.
 - b. To meet the recommendations of PRCA Master Plan to acquire neighborhood parks as long as a park preserves high quality shade trees or heritage trees.
4. **Habitat Restoration Projects:** The Tree Mitigation Funds may be used for City nature park habitat restoration projects provided the projects include planting of new trees of species native to our region and that the projects have the recommendation of the Tree Advisory Board.
5. **Staffing:** The Tree Mitigation Funds may be used to fund City employees or interns to facilitate tree planting and establishment programs and projects funded with Tree Mitigation Fund.
6. **Tree Advisory Board Updates:** Each Tree Advisory Board meeting will include from staff a summary of expenditure and inputs to the Tree Mitigation Fund to date. The Tree Advisory Board will be appraised at an early point during the planning phases of proposed expenditure which will remove more than \$25,000 from the fund.

Tree Mitigation Fund Policy

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Tree Mitigation Fund Policy

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Tree Mitigation Fund

- Total Revenue = \$1,795,681.05
 - Total Expense = \$79,320.52
 - Balance = \$1,716,360.53
-
- As of 9/1/2015

Tree Mitigation Fund

- Expenditures to date
 - Materials and Supplies
 - \$44,334.26
 - Contractual Services
 - \$16,594
 - Staff
 - \$18,392.26
 - Total = \$79,320.52

Future Projects

- **NW 6th St Rail Trail (University – NW 7th Ave)**
 - Currently out for bid
- **SW 6th St Rail Trail (SW 5th Ave – Depot Ave)**
- **Downtown trees**
- **Empowerment Center**
- **NE 8th Ave (Waldo Road – NE 25th St)**
- **Tree Giveaway Event**

Tree Removal Permit

Return to:
 City Of Gainesville
 Nature Operations Division
 P.O. Box 490, Station 24
 Gainesville, FL 32627



Permit Number: _____
 Phone: (352) 393-8171
 Fax: (352) 334-3299
 Email: urbanforestry@cityofgainesville.org
 Location: Thomas Center B-306 NE 6th Ave

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT AND REPLANTING AGREEMENT

The Gainesville Land Development Code requires mitigation for each regulated tree removed. The amount of mitigation ranges from the standard mitigation (two – 15 gallon trees replanted for each regulated tree removed) to Tree Appraised Value. The size (diameter), species, and condition of the tree as well as the zoning and where on the property the tree is located, will determine the mitigation. Mitigation trees must be nursery-grown, at least 8" tall (15-gal) and 1.5" in caliper, and Florida Nursery Grade #1. Please see the "Sec. 30-254 Permits for tree removal; mitigation" handout for more details. The "Gainesville Tree List" handout provides the species that are approved for mitigation.

Applicant: _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

PRINT

Tree Location (Street Address): _____

Property Owner: _____ Phone _____

First Last

Owner's Mailing Address: _____ Zip _____

Owner's Email Address (optional): _____

All fields must be filled out completely.

Number to Remove	Species	Diameter	Reason for Wanting to Remove Tree

Tree(s) must be marked (paint, tape, flag, etc.).

Check box if a representative would like to be present at the time of inspection.

Property Owner's Signature Required*: _____

Printed Name

Signature

*Confirms agreement to satisfy mitigation requirement in accordance with Section 30-254, Gainesville Code of Ordinances; submit a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Permit with the City's Public Works Department, per Section 23-38, if the tree removal requires a road and/or lane closure, sidewalk closure or any part of the right-of-way; and request utilities to be marked by calling 811, when stump removal requires work below ground.

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Not Regulated _____ Permit valid through: _____

Mitigation required: _____

City of Gainesville Inspector: _____ Date: _____

Inspector's Comments _____

Permit Approval Criteria

Sec. 30-254(e)

- Removal or relocation of a regulated tree may be approved by the reviewing board, city manager or designee based upon one of the following findings:
 - 1) that the tree poses a safety hazard or has been weakened by disease, age, storm, fire or other injury; or
 - 2) that the tree contains a disease or infestation that could spread to other trees; or
 - 3) that the tree prevents the reasonable development of the site, including the installation of solar energy equipment or the installation or replacement of utility lines; or
 - 4) that the tree is causing or is likely to cause (as evidenced by competent substantial evidence) structural damage or problems to buildings or underground facilities due to excessive root or trunk growth, or soil expansion and contraction caused by uneven water uptake; or
 - 5) should be removed for some other reason related to the public health or welfare. This finding cannot serve as the sole basis for removal of high quality trees.

Tree Regulations Handout

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
TREE REMOVAL PERMITS AND TREE PRUNING
REGULATIONS SUMMARY – 12/1/2014

Tree Removal Permits

Cost: Free

Application: Obtain tree removal permit application from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs office located at 306 NE 6th Ave, 3rd floor

OR

Log onto our website at:

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/ParksRecreationCulturalAffairs/TreestheUrbanForest/TreeRemovalRegulations.aspx>

Every effort will be made to respond within five (5) working days of receipt of application. Tree inspection results or permit will be returned by mail, email or fax. Immediate inspections are not always possible, so please plan ahead. Permit applications can be sent via FAX to 352-334-3299 or email to the Urban Forestry Office at urbanforestry@cityofgainesville.org, or traditional mail to PO Box 490, Mail Station 24, Gainesville, FL 32627.

Tree Removal Permit Requirements

Detached single family homes (RSF1, RSF2, RSF3, or RSF4): Only heritage trees are regulated. Tree species of high quality are regulated anywhere on the property. All other heritage tree species are regulated in the legal setback.

For all other zoning designations: Tree removal permits are required for trees 8" in diameter except Slash and Loblolly Pine which require permits when they are 20" in diameter.

Commercial: All businesses and offices

Multi-family housing: Condominiums, triplex, apartments

Planned Developments: Rock Creek, Turkey Creek Forest, Sorrento, Blues Creek, Hillcrest, Kensington Park, Mill Pond, Walnut Creek, Vintage View, Lenox Place (not a complete list)

Note: All trees planted in parking lots, adjacent to the street or in areas which might be part of the approved landscape plan require permits, even if they are smaller than 8" in diameter.

Definitions

Heritage trees: All native trees species are Heritage trees when they are larger than 20" in diameter, except for Water Oaks, Laurel Oaks, Sweetgums, and Loblolly Pines, which become Heritage trees at 30."

High Quality Species: Live Oak, Sand Live Oak, Bluff Oak, Basket Oak, Southern Red Oak, Southern Magnolia, Florida Maple, Longleaf Pine, Spruce Pine, Cedar Elm, Winged Elm, Florida Elm, Bald Cypress, Pond Cypress, Tupelo, Mockernut Hickory, Pignut Hickory, Pecan, Persimmon, Basswood, Tulip Poplar, White Ash, Green Ash and Yaupon, Dahoon, and American Holly species.

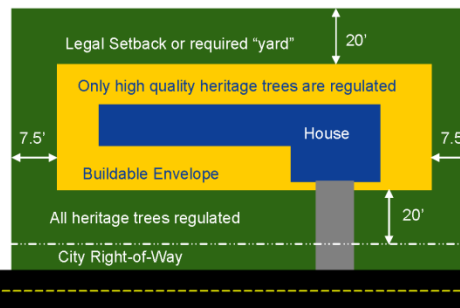
Legal Setbacks: The area between the lot line and a determine distance where structures are not allowed and must remain a "yard." Example: front: 20' from edge of right-of-way

back: 20' from the rear lot line

sides: 7.5' from the property edges on the sides

Precise distances vary depending on the neighborhood. If the tree is close to the house and inside the distances listed above, it won't need a permit. If you're not sure, the City Planning Division at 334-5023 can clarify the setback distance for the property in question.

Nature Operations, Urban Forestry – Station 24, P.O. Box 490, Gainesville, FL. 32627
(352) 393-8171, Fax (352) 334-3299



Mitigation [Sec 30-254 (d)]: There are several factors that determine what the mitigation is for trees removed. The size (diameter), species, condition, and the zoning of the property will decide the mitigation. The standard mitigation is two – 15 gallon trees replanted for every one tree removed. Mitigation trees must be at least 8' tall, 1.5" in trunk caliper, and Florida Nursery Grade #1. If there is not enough space for mitigation trees on site, as determined by the City Arborist, trees may be planted on other properties within the city limits or mitigation can be paid to the Tree Mitigation Fund. As the quality of tree species, condition and zoning regulations increase, so does the mitigation. Mitigation trees must be from the Gainesville Tree List. Please see a copy of "Sec. 30-254 Permits for tree removal; mitigation" for more details.

Trees Removed Without A Permit [Sec 30-312 (c) (2)]: If a heritage tree was removed without a permit then the required mitigation shall be double what is required as mitigation in section 30-254.

Permit Approval Criteria [Sec 30-254 (e)]: Removal or relocation of a regulated tree may be approved by the reviewing board, city manager or designee based upon one of the following findings:

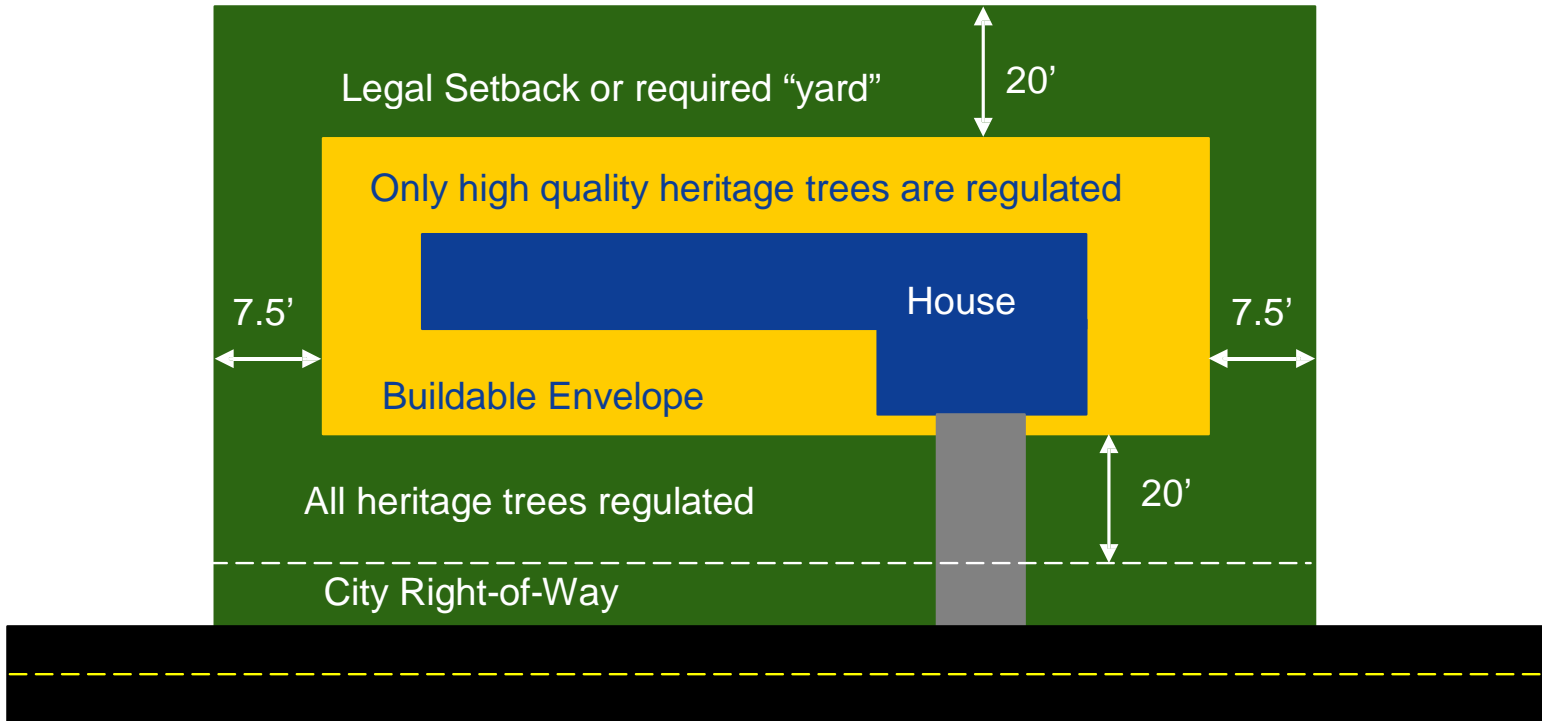
- (1) that the tree poses a safety hazard or has been weakened by disease, age, storm, fire or other injury; or
- (2) that the tree contains a disease or infestation that could spread to other trees; or
- (3) that the tree prevents the reasonable development of the site, including the installation of solar energy equipment or the installation or replacement of utility lines; or
- (4) that the tree is causing or is likely to cause (as evidenced by competent substantial evidence) structural damage or problems to buildings or underground facilities due to excessive root or trunk growth, or soil expansion and contraction caused by uneven water uptake; or
- (5) should be removed for some other reason related to the public health or welfare. This finding cannot serve as the sole basis for removal of high quality trees.

Pruning Regulations [Sec. 30-256 (c)]: All trees may be pruned to maintain shape and promote their shade-giving qualities and to remove diseased or dying portions in areas where falling limbs could be a hazard to people or property. Tree pruning shall be done in accordance with the most current version of the American National Standard for Tree Care Operations "Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance" (ANSI A300) and "Pruning, Trimming, Repairing, Maintaining, and Removing Trees, and Cutting Brush—Safety Requirements"(ANSI Z133). No more than 25 percent of the crown should be removed at one time. On young trees, limb removal shall leave no more than 33 percent of the trunk bare of branches. So that shade trees can grow with sturdy structure, the top branch or leader shall not be removed. Hooks shall not be used to climb trees unless the tree is being taken down. Mature trees overgrowing vehicular use areas shall be pruned to allow the passage of emergency vehicles. Excessive pruning, pollarding, or pruning of trees into round balls of crown or branches, which results in an unnecessary reduction of shade and promotes weak branch attachments is prohibited. If the city manager or designee finds same additional shade trees shall be required to be planted on the site on up to an inch-for-inch basis.

Nature Operations, Urban Forestry – Station 24, P.O. Box 490, Gainesville, FL. 32627
(352) 393-8171, Fax (352) 334-3299

Single Family Zoning

- RSF1, RSF2, RSF3, & RSF4



Tree Board of Appeals

- Sec. 2-430.16. (a) The tree board of appeals shall consist of three members nominated by the tree advisory board and appointed by the city commission. Any candidate for the tree board of appeals shall be qualified in arboriculture. The board is authorized to hear appeals from any order, decision, or determination made by the city manager or designee with respect to the removal of trees, documentation regarding failure to protect trees during development and construction, or the determination/interpretation of the tree appraised value with respect to the mitigation requirements for heritage trees. Appeals shall be filed with the city manager or designee. The tree board of appeals shall apply standards and considerations found in section 30-254 and 30-254.1 of the Land Development Code and shall have authority to decide any question involving the interpretation of the city manager or designee's order.

Tree Board of Appeals

- Typical appeal situations:
 - Citizen opposes the removal of a tree posted by the City.
 - Property owner disagrees with denial of a tree removal permit.
 - Developer disagrees with the determination/interpretation of the tree appraised value.
- The Tree Board of Appeals does not have the authority to reduce the mitigation, unless the code has been interpreted incorrectly.

Contact Information

- Mark Siburt, City Arborist
- 352-393-8187
- siburtmd@cityofgainesville.org

- Planning and Development Services
- 352-334-5022

Gainesville Tree Ordinance

Questions?