



**CODE OF ORDINANCES  
CHAPTER 23:  
PROTECTION OF TREES  
AND THE NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT**

**TREE  
REMOVAL  
PERMIT  
SUMMARY**

This provides an overview of Chapter 23. For the full ordinance and tree removal permit application, visit [www.coab.us/trees](http://www.coab.us/trees)

# CALL BEFORE YOU CUT

Removing any tree with a trunk 8" in diameter or larger may require a permit!



## Permitting Process

Removal of any tree or vegetation that has a DBH (diameter at breast height) of 8" or more on private property, or of any DBH on public property, is regulated and requires a permit. Requirements are not intended to restrict property owner's rights or preempt state statutes.

Trees listed on the Atlantic Beach Prohibited Species List are not regulated and are exempt from mitigation.

For more information about the permitting process, please refer to Exhibit A of the Tree Removal Permit Application or Section 23-23 of the Ordinance.

## Fees

Application fees are due with the application, amendment, extension, re-inspection, or appeal.

Category	Fee
Tree and vegetation removal permit application fee:	
a. Single- or two-family residential uses (per lot)	\$125.00
b. Multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or other	\$250.00
Extensions	\$50.00
Appeals	\$125.00
Variances	\$300.00
Reinspection fees	\$50.00
Research or extensive time fees (per hour)	\$50.00

The trees of Atlantic Beach do more than just add to the charm of our community. They provide storm water protection by absorbing water. They help us spend less on energy — up to 50% less on air conditioning — and their shade can make our homes 6° - 8° cooler. They dissipate wind to protect other trees and homes. And they increase property values! 1 mature tree can add \$10,000 to the price of a home. Trees also help support resilience and increase the overall economic value of our community.

**CALL BEFORE YOU CUT!**

**904-247-5800**

Mature trees are part of our Atlantic Beach storm defense and community value.  
Let's protect them together!



The City of Atlantic Beach and the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) developed the Tree Removal Permit to protect and preserve our trees and natural environment.

# Mitigation

Unless payment into the Tree Conservation Fund has been approved, *tree replacement, relocation or preservation are the preferred methods of mitigation.* Mitigation is assessed such that the number of inches removed are proportional to the number of inches replaced, relocated, or preserved.

## STANDARD MITIGATION ASSESSMENT (ratio is inches removed: inches owed)

Classification	Category of Regulated Tree			
	DBH less than 14"	DBH equal to or greater than 14" and less than 30"	DBH of 30" or greater	Heritage Trees
Vacant lot	1 : 0.5	1 : 0.5	1 : 1	1 : 2.5
Developed lot	1 : 0.5	1 : 1	1 : 2	1 : 3
New construction	1 : 1.5	1 : 2	1 : 3	1 : 4
Public property	1 : 1.5	1 : 2	1 : 3	1 : 4
Environmentally sensitive areas	1 : 2	1 : 2	1 : 3	1 : 4
Historic corridor	1 : 2	1 : 2	1 : 3	1 : 4

# Tree Replacement

- To receive mitigation credit, replacement trees must be on the Atlantic Beach Recommended Species List.
- New oaks must replace removed oaks.
- New palms may replace removed palms.
- Designated Maritime Species trees must be replaced by Designated Maritime Species, not limited to the same species.
- When a Designated Maritime Species is removed, at least 25% of mitigation must be provided in the form of replacement.



## Minimum Replacement Requirements

- **Residential:** One 4" caliper tree planted/preserved per 2,500 sq. ft. of parcel area (1 shade tree must be in front yard. A 3-palm tree cluster may replace a single shade tree on oceanfront lots)
- **Commercial:** One 4" caliper tree planted/preserved per 8,000 sq. ft. of parcel area
- **Industrial:** One 4" caliper tree planted/preserved per 10,000 sq. ft. of parcel area
- **Public/semi-public (government or institutional):** One 4" caliper tree planted/preserved per 10,000 sq. ft. of parcel area

## Tree Protection

Protective barriers around preserved trees and signage must be placed prior to commencement of construction and shall be constructed in accordance with Section 23-32(c). Any planted/preserved tree that dies within 3 years must be replaced by the owner.



## Permit Exemptions

A permit may not be required in the case of the following:

- Emergency situations
- Safety hazards
- Diseased, infested, or invasive plants
- Utility or city crew operations
- Surveying or engineering access needs

Owners claiming any exemption have the burden of proof and verification by a certified arborist may be required.

## Designated Maritime Species

Among the most valuable and desirable species in Atlantic Beach.

- **Bald Cypress**
- **Cedar**
  - Southern Red Cedar
  - Eastern Red Cedar
- **Elm**
  - Winged Elm
  - Florida Elm
- **Live Oak**
- **Hickory**
  - Pecan
  - Mockernut
  - Pignut Hickory
- **Loblolly Bay**
- **Magnolia**
  - Southern Magnolia
  - Sweetbay Magnolia
- **Maple**
  - Red Maple
  - Florida Maple
- **Tupelo**
- **Pine**
  - Loblolly Pine
  - Long-leaf Pine
  - Pond Pine