

## Exemption

A resident does not need a tree removal permit if one of the following criteria exists:

- The property owner possesses documentation compliant with Section 163.045, Florida Statutes, that a tree poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property and removal is the only means of mitigating its risk below moderate as defined by the statute.
- During the period of an emergency, such as a hurricane, tropical storm, flood or any other act of God.
- Removal of trees not having protected tree status.
- Franchised public utility companies and tree expert companies under their employment.
- Any tree listed on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's List of Invasive Species.

## Penalty

Any person not in compliance with the provisions of the tree protection article will be subject to a fine of \$250 for the first violation and \$500 for any subsequent violation. Each violation will be considered a separate offense, which may be prosecuted separately.



In 2020 the City was a named Tree City USA for the 30th consecutive year. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program recognizes communities that have taken steps to develop comprehensive tree management programs.

### Recommended Native Canopy Tree

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| ● Live Oak      | ● Bald Cypress      |
| ● Laurel Oak    | ● Slash Pine        |
| ● Sweet Gum     | ● Longleaf Pine     |
| ● Florida Maple | ● Southern Magnolia |

The information contained in this brochure is a summary of Article XIV "TREE PROTECTION." If you have any questions concerning the information in this brochure or to obtain a complete copy of the Ordinance, you may contact:

Nick Wilson  
Natural Resources Supervisor  
850-781-6451

# GULF BREEZE TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE



GULF  
BREEZE  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

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Tree Removal Application Link  
City Web Page [Cityofgulfbreeze.us](http://Cityofgulfbreeze.us)

## Tree Removal Permit

Applications to remove any protected tree shall be reviewed by the Natural Resources Supervisor and acted upon by the City Manager. Since protected trees have aesthetic as well as historical value, permits for their removal may be issued by the City only upon showing by the applicant that one of the following criteria exists:

- Removal of the tree is essential to constructing proposed improvements and that no feasible alternative site plan will save such protect tree(s),
- Removal of the tree is essential for the public welfare that such tree be removed.

The City will make a site inspection and may make recommendations for alternative methods of preservation of the tree or for the safe removal of such.

## How do I get a Permit?

Application can be found on the City web page [cityofgulfbreeze.us](http://cityofgulfbreeze.us)

## What is a protected tree?

Any tree with a diameter of 12 inches or greater, measured 4½ feet above grade.

## Do I need a permit to remove a protected tree?

Yes. No person, organization, society, association, corporation, or other government agency or any agent or representative thereof, directly or indirectly, shall cut down, destroy, remove or effectively destroy, through damaging, any tree as heretofore described, whether it be on private property or right-of-way within the defined limits of the city, without having first obtained a permit to do so.

## Do I need a permit to prune or trim a protected tree?

No. The pruning of trees as normal maintenance is exempt from permitting provided such pruning does not result in mutilation, death, or removal of the tree.

## How much does a tree removal permit cost?

The City does not assess a permit fee for tree removals.



## Heritage Trees Preservation

- Heritage tree means any tree 48 inches in diameter, which provides proportionately more of the benefits associated with trees, and often defining the local landscape.
- Heritage trees shall be preserved within the city unless removal is mitigated as defined below:

## Tree Mitigation & Replacement Formula

Canopy crown of 60 ft. or greater or a trunk diameter (measured at 4.5 ft. above grade) of 30 inches or greater =

**Six trees planted for each one removed.**

Canopy crown of 40 ft. to 59 ft. or a trunk diameter of 20 inches to 29 inches =

**Four trees planted for each one removed.**

Canopy crown of 18 ft. to 39 ft. or a trunk diameter of 12 inches to 19 inches =

**Two trees planted for each one removed.**