

DRAFT TREE CODE – 10/12/26

Ordinance Section 1.

DIVISION 12. - LANDSCAPING/TREE PROTECTION/~~ARTIFICIAL TURF~~

Section 3-1201. - Purpose.

It is the purpose of this division to establish minimum landscaping/tree protection standards in order to promote the preservation of existing tree canopies, the expansion of that canopy and the enhancement of the quality of existing and future development in the city. ~~This division also establishes parameters for the use of artificial turf.~~

Section 3-1202. - General landscaping standards.

A. Applicability.

1. *In general.* All new landscaped areas shall be constructed in accordance with the standards in this division.
2. *New uses.* Any landscaped area serving a new use or a change of use shall satisfy the standards of this division.
3. *Existing developed lots.* Existing lots not meeting the requirements contained in this division shall be brought into full compliance to the greatest extent practicable as determined by the Community Development Coordinator under one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. If an existing use except those uses identified in subsection d. below is improved or remodeled in a value of 25 percent or more of the total assessed valuation of the principal structure as reflected on the property appraiser's current records at the time of application or as established by a qualified independent appraiser using a recognized appraisal method.
 - b. If an amendment, other than a minor amendment, is required to an existing approved site plan.
 - c. If a parking lot requires additional landscaping pursuant to the provisions of Article 3, Division 14.
 - d. If a single-family detached dwelling and two-family attached dwelling property not meeting the requirements contained in Section 3-1205.D.2 proposes an addition to the principal structure or new accessory structure exceeding 200 square feet, that lot shall be brought into full compliance with the tree requirements as established in that section.
4. *Residential landscaped area requirement.* Any residential property that meets one of the below scenarios shall set aside a minimum of 25 percent of the gross land area of the front yard for landscaped areas, which shall contain living plant materials.
 - a. New construction of detached or attached dwellings on property within a residential zoning district.

- b. Improvements within the front yard of a property within a residential zoning district that is developed with detached or attached dwellings.
 - c. Any property proposing a new installation or repair/replacement of artificial turf in the front yard.
- B. *Plant material specifications.* Except as provided in subsection (6) below, plant materials which are utilized to satisfy the landscaping required by this development code shall comply with the following minimum standards, shall be Florida #1 grade or better, and shall be included in the city's recommended shade tree, accent tree and palm tree list, unless otherwise approved by the Community Development Coordinator:

1. Minimum plant material standards:

Table 1 – Minimum Plant Material Standards

PLANT	SIZE (at installation)	OTHER REQUIREMENTS
Shade Tree	10' height 2.5" caliper	All materials shall be Florida Grade #1, and be planted a minimum of five feet from any impervious area.
Accent Tree	8' height 2" caliper	2 accent trees = 1 shade tree; unless overhead lines are unavoidable; no more than 25% of required trees may be accent trees. All materials shall be Florida Grade #1.
Palm Tree	10' clear trunk	Can be used to satisfy 75% of tree requirements on Beach, Sand Key & Island Estates, 25% elsewhere in the City. Staggered clusters of 3 palms trees = 1 shade tree, except for specimen palms trees* such as: which count as shade trees on a 1:1 ratio. All materials shall be Florida Grade #1.
Shrubs	A.) 18—24" in height when used in a perimeter buffer - planted every 36", (measured from the center of the shrub) providing a 100% continuous hedge which will be 36", high and 80% opaque 12 months	

	from the time a certificate of occupancy is received (excluding drives and visibility triangles where applicable) B.) 14—24" in height when used for interior - planted every 30"—36", respectively (measured from the center of the shrub) with a 3 gallon minimum	
Ground Cover	1 gallon minimum - planted a maximum of 24" O.C.	Encouraged in lieu of natural turf to reduce irrigation needs.
Natural Turf	N/A	Natural turf areas should be consolidated and limited to areas of pedestrian traffic, recreation and erosion control, and shall be a drought tolerant species.

* Examples of specimen palms include Phoenix canariensis (canary island date palm), Phoenix dactylifera (edible date palm), Phoenix sylvestris (Sylvester Palm), and Phoenix reclinata (senegal date palm) and Bimarckia noblis (Bismark Palm).

1. Exception.
 - a. Single-family detached and two-family attached dwellings. The above size requirements with regard to shade trees and accent trees shall not be applied to single-family detached dwellings and two-family attached dwellings. For those uses shade trees shall have minimum height of eight feet and minimum caliper of two inches, and accent trees shall have minimum height of six feet and minimum caliper of one inch.
2. Organic mulch may be used as an integral, but minor, element of a landscaping plan as determined by the Community Development Coordinator.
3. Required landscaping that incorporates existing trees, in particular any native plant material, is strongly encouraged and credit for the use of such materials shall be given against the requirements of this division.
4. All plants shall be healthy, free of diseases and pests, and a native or a non-invasive plant naturalized to Central Florida. Plants recommended in the Guide of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Native Plant Society, Florida Yards.ORG, University of Florida or other entity as approved by the Community Development Coordinator shall be used.
5. A minimum variety of tree species shall be provided: each species shall provide a minimum of ten percent of the total number of trees.

6. An appropriate device (e.g. concrete mow strip, bender board, brick pavers), installed consistent with manufacturer's specifications, is required to separate live plant materials from artificial turf.

Table 2 - Minimum Number of Species by Number of Trees

Total No. of Trees	Minimum No. of Species
1—9	1
10—19	2
20—29	3
30—49	4
50—over	5

7. Those species listed within ~~Category I of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's most recent List of Invasive Plant Species~~ the city's adopted List of Invasive/ Nuisance Plant Species will not be accepted as a landscape material and shall not be permitted to be installed.
8. While all citrus species of trees may be planted, they will not be accepted as a landscape material to meet landscape requirements.
9. ~~However, the~~ The number of trees on single-family detached dwelling or two-family attached dwelling properties (e.g. lot, subdivision) shall not be less than as follows unless otherwise determined by the Community Development Coordinator to be unfeasible or physically impossible:

Table 3 - Required Number of Trees on Single-Family Detached Dwelling and Two-Family Lots

<u>Required Number of Trees on Single-Family and Two-Family Lots</u>	
<u>Lot Size</u> <u>(square footage)</u>	<u>Number of Required Trees</u>
<u>Less than 2,500</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2,501 - 5,000</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>5,001 - 7,500</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>7,501 - 10,000</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>10,001 - 15,000</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Over 15,001</u>	<u>8</u>

[This table was amended to add less than 2,500 sq. ft. and break down square footages to be consistent with Pinellas County's code]

- ~~9.10.~~ The city manager may modify the size specifications of the trees required in this section only if the applicant for development approval demonstrates to the city manager that such size is not readily available in the market area and that the

proposed landscaping treatment is equal to or superior to the landscaping which would have been provided with the larger trees.

C. *Irrigation.*

1. An irrigation plan shall be submitted with the landscape plan and shall clearly identify whether the proposed irrigation system is permanent or temporary for the purpose of establishing plant material. For multifamily and nonresidential properties an automatic permanent underground irrigation system shall be designed and installed providing complete water coverage for all required and other landscaping materials shall be provided and maintained as a fully functioning system in order to preserve the landscaping in a healthy growing condition.
2. If a single-family dwelling is required to install landscaping and an irrigation system is not installed to maintain that landscaping, then a hose bib shall be installed a maximum of 50 feet from the required landscaping.
3. All irrigation systems connected to the public potable water supply system shall include a backflow preventer at the service connection.
4. All irrigation systems shall be installed so as to minimize spray upon any impervious surface, such as sidewalks and paved areas.
5. All irrigation systems shall include a rain sensor/shut off device to avoid irrigation during periods of sufficient rainfall.
6. Underground irrigation shall not be installed within the driplines of existing trees unless root protection measures are provided.
7. If available, reclaimed water shall be used for irrigation purposes.
8. Low volume, drip, emitter, or target irrigation shall be used for trees, shrubs and groundcovers unless physically impossible to install.
9. Natural turf areas shall be irrigated on separate irrigation zones from tree, shrub and groundcover beds.
10. Retained trees, shrubs and native plant communities shall not be required to be irrigated, unless directed to do so by the Community Development Coordinator.
11. The Community Development Coordinator may waive the requirement for uniform or full irrigation coverage upon determining that one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - a. The site's dimensions and landscape design can be adequately maintained through micro-irrigation or other non-mechanical watering methods capable of sustaining the required plant material.
 - b. The landscape plan consists of primarily water-efficient or Florida-Friendly landscaping.
 - c. Existing native plant habitat is retained and preserved.

- D. *Perimeter buffers.* Except in the Downtown or Tourist Districts, excluding the Old Florida District where landscaping requirements are defined in Beach By Design: A Preliminary Design for Clearwater Beach and Design Guidelines, or in designated scenic corridors with approved special plans, landscaping shall be installed in a perimeter buffer in accordance with the standards in this division and the following table:

1. Perimeter landscaping requirements:

Table 4 - Perimeter Landscaping Requirements

		ADJACENT USE				
		Detached Dwellings	Attached Dwellings or Residential Equivalent	Non-Residential	Arterial or Collector Rights-of-Way	Local Rights-of-Way
PROPOSED USE	Non-Residential	Min. 10' wide buffer	Min. 10' wide buffer	Min. 5' wide buffer	Min. 15' wide buffer	Min. 10' wide buffer
		1 Tree / 35'				
		100% Shrubs (6' high within 3 years)	100% Shrubs			
	Attached Dwellings or Residential Equivalent	Min. 10' wide buffer	Min. 10' wide buffer	Min. 10' wide buffer	Min. 15' wide buffer	Min. 10' wide buffer
		1 Tree / 35'				
		100% Shrubs (6' high within 3 years)	100% Shrubs			

2. *Perimeter walls/fences within landscape buffers.*

- a. In addition to the above perimeter landscaping requirements, a decorative perimeter wall or PVC fence that is six-feet in height shall be required and located adjacent to that portion of the property line of the non-residential use which is directly adjacent to any property designated as residential in the zoning atlas. The wall or PVC fence shall have only those openings as required to meet hurricane or severe storm construction standards, or pedestrian ways necessary for neighborhood connectivity.
- b. *Exceptions:* An exception to the above perimeter wall/fence requirement may be permitted, pursuant to the processing and approval of a Level One (Flexible

Standard) application, where the wall would be redundant to a wall already in existence on the adjacent property, or where the wall would have a demonstrably negative impact on the adjacent property.

3. Front slopes of stormwater retention areas may comprise up to 50 percent of any required landscape buffer width, provided that the slope is 4:1 or flatter. Shade or accent trees may be planted along the top of bank down to the seasonal high water line, provided that they are a minimum of 12 feet apart on center and at least five feet away from pipes and control structures. Groundcover and ornamental grasses may be planted in swales.
 4. Notwithstanding the provisions in subsection (1) above, any parcel of land subject to the provisions of this division, which exceeds one acre in size, shall have a minimum perimeter buffer width of ten feet.
 5. Notwithstanding the provisions in subsection (1) above, the required landscaping materials in a perimeter buffer may be increased if the prescribed landscaping has little buffering value for an adjacent less intensive use due to unusual topographic conditions or where other unique circumstances exist, such as swales, which merit special landscaping treatments.
 6. Plantings associated with community gardens cannot be counted toward meeting the perimeter landscaping requirements.
 7. The use of artificial turf in required perimeter buffers is prohibited.
- E. *Interior landscaping.*
1. *Foundation plantings.*
 - a. Foundation plantings shall be provided for 100 percent of a building façade with frontage along a street right-of-way, excluding space necessary for building ingress and egress, within a minimum five-foot wide landscaped area. A minimum of 50 percent of the area shall contain shrubs with the remainder to be ground cover.
 - b. Landscape materials required by Section 3-1202.E.2., below, cannot be counted toward meeting these foundation planting requirements.
 - c. Plantings associated with community gardens cannot be counted toward meeting a foundation planting requirement.
 2. *Parking lots.* If the paved vehicular use area is greater than 4,000 square feet, then landscaping for the interior of parking lots shall be provided in accordance with the following:
 - a. *Required interior islands.*
 1. Ten percent of gross vehicular use area or 12 percent of gross vehicular area if parking spaces are greater than or equal to 110 percent of required parking shall be provided in an island.
 2. Interior islands shall be incorporated into parking lot designs so that no more than 20 parking spaces are provided in a row.
 3. Interior islands incorporating bioswales shall not be required to provide curbing; however:
 - i. If curbing is provided, then breaks shall be incorporated that would allow water to enter the bioswales within the interior islands.

- ii. If curbing is not provided, then a two-foot-wide rock buffer shall be constructed between the edge of the pavement and the bioswale.
- 4. Depth of interior islands. All interior landscape islands shall have a minimum depth that is consistent with the depth of the adjacent off-street parking space.
- 5. Width of interior islands. All interior landscape islands shall have a minimum width of 17 feet as measured from back of curb to back of curb.
- 6. Required trees/plants.
 - i. A minimum of one shade tree, or accent/palm equivalent, shall be provided in each interior landscape island.
 - ii. One shade tree, or accent/palm equivalent, shall be provided per 300 square feet of required greenspace.
 - iii. Shrubs shall be provided in an amount to equal or exceed 50 percent of the required greenspace.
 - iv. Groundcover shall be utilized for required greenspace in-lieu of natural turf.
 - v. The use of artificial turf in interior landscaped islands is prohibited.
- 7. Plantings associated with community gardens cannot be counted toward meeting the interior island requirements.
- b. *Central landscape island.*
 - 1. Where a central landscape island is provided to allow for low impact development techniques, the width of the central landscape island shall be as follows:
 - i. A minimum of seven and one-half feet when no pedestrian path is provided; or
 - ii. A minimum of 12.5 feet when a pedestrian path is provided. The pedestrian path shall be a minimum of five feet in width.
 - 2. Central landscape islands incorporating bioswales shall not be required to provide curbing; however:
 - i. If curbing is provided, then breaks shall be incorporated that would allow water to enter the bioswale within the central landscape island.
 - ii. If curbing is not provided, then a two-foot wide gravel buffer shall be constructed between the edge of the pavement and the bioswale.
 - 3. Required trees/plants.
 - i. One shade tree, or accent/palm equivalent, shall be provided per 300 square feet of island area.
 - ii. Shrubs shall be provided in an amount to equal or exceed 50 percent of the required greenspace.
 - iii. Groundcover shall be utilized for required greenspace in-lieu of natural turf.
 - iv. The use of artificial turf in central landscaped islands is prohibited.
 - 4. Plantings associated with community gardens cannot be counted toward meeting the central landscape island requirements.

- F. *Fences and walls.* If a fence or wall in the front setback for any use exceeds three feet, a three-foot-wide landscaped strip shall be provided on the right-of-way side of the fence or wall (but not within the right-of-way), consisting of a solid hedge or a mix of plantings such as shrubs, small trees, flowers and vines installed at intervals along the entire fence or wall, appropriate to the species, sufficient to provide coverage at maturity.
- G. ~~*Comprehensive landscaping program.*~~ The landscaping requirements of this division may be waived or modified as a part of a Level One or Level Two approval, as the case may be, if the application for development approval includes a comprehensive landscape program which satisfies each of the following criteria:
1. ~~*Architectural theme.*~~
 - a. ~~The landscaping in a comprehensive landscape program shall be designed as a part of the architectural theme of the principal buildings proposed or developed on the parcel proposed for development; or~~
 - b. ~~The design, character, location and/or materials of the landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program shall be demonstrably more attractive than landscaping otherwise permitted on the parcel proposed for development under the minimum landscape standards.~~
 2. ~~*Lighting.*~~ Any lighting proposed as a part of a comprehensive landscape program is automatically controlled so that the lighting is turned off when the business is closed.
 3. ~~*Community character.*~~ The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program will enhance the community character of the City of Clearwater.
 4. ~~*Property values.*~~ The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program will have a beneficial impact on the value of property in the immediate vicinity of the parcel proposed for development.
 5. ~~*Special area or scenic corridor plan.*~~ The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program is consistent with any special area or scenic corridor plan which the City of Clearwater has prepared and adopted for the area in which the parcel proposed for development is located.
 6. ~~*Properties within the US 19 District.*~~ The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program for properties in the US 19 District shall not result in the reduction of the pedestrian and landscape improvements required in Appendix B, Division 4, Street Frontage Standards, except as provided for in Appendix B, Division 7, Flexibility.
 7. ~~*Properties within the Downtown District.*~~ The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program for properties in the Downtown District shall not result in the reduction of the pedestrian and landscape improvements required in Appendix C, Division 4, Frontage Standards, except as provided for in Appendix C, Division 7, Flexibility.
- H. ~~*Tree inventory.*~~ All tree inventories shall be performed by a certified arborist, and shall comply with the following:

1. ~~Tree evaluation grades.~~ The following grading system shall be utilized to evaluate existing trees and to indicate whether the tree is worthy of preservation and/or removal:

Grade	Evaluation Criteria
0	Dead; removal is required
1	Poor (nearly dead and/or hazardous); removal is required
2	Below average (declining, diseased, poor structure, potential hazard); removal is required
3	Average (minor problems, minor decline, minor tip die back, minor inclusion); problems can be corrected; worthy of preservation
4	Above average (healthy tree with only minor problems); worthy of preservation
5	Outstanding (very healthy); shall be preserved
6	Specimen (unique in size, age, exceptional quality); shall be preserved

2. ~~Tags.~~ For sites greater than or equal to one acre in size, all trees shall be tagged with aluminum tags and aluminum nails, or other method specifically approved by the community development coordinator. The tag numbers must correlate to the numbers in the tree inventory.
3. ~~Off-site trees.~~ All tree inventories shall include off-site trees up to 25 feet away from the property line of the subject property.

Section 3-1203. ~~Artificial turf.~~

~~A. General standards.~~

1. ~~The use of artificial turf is permitted on all properties upon approval of a building permit and must meet and maintain compliance with the provisions of this section.~~
2. ~~For properties in residential zoning districts, artificial turf shall not be counted towards the minimum required landscaped areas.~~
3. ~~The use of indoor or outdoor plastic or nylon carpeting as a replacement for artificial turf or natural turf on the ground shall be prohibited.~~
4. ~~Artificial turf may be used in lieu of plant materials required in Section 3-1202.B for parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields.~~

~~B. Location standards.~~

1. ~~Artificial turf may be installed on approved concrete patios, porches, and rooftop patios or decks without a permit.~~
2. ~~Artificial turf may not be installed in a right-of-way unless otherwise approved by the city engineer. If such artificial turf is approved to be installed, a city right-of-way permit must be obtained prior to commencing work.~~
3. ~~Artificial turf may not be installed in permanent drainage features such as drainage swales or ponds unless otherwise approved by the city engineer.~~

- ~~4. Artificial turf shall not be installed in perimeter buffers required by Section 3-1202.D or vegetative buffers adjacent to the Preservation District or jurisdictional wetlands required by Section 3-907.A.~~
- ~~5. Artificial turf shall not be installed as required trees/plants in interior or central landscape islands consistent with Section 3-1202.E.~~
- ~~6. Artificial turf is prohibited in any area that is used for the parking or driving of motor vehicles.~~

~~C. Minimum design standards.~~

- ~~1. Artificial turf shall consist of green lifelike individual blades of grass that emulate natural turf in look and color except where artificial turf is used in parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields.~~
- ~~2. Artificial turf shall have a pile height of:
 - ~~a. A minimum of 1.5 inches for residential installations except for specialty artificial turf installations such as K-9 grass or putting greens located in the side or rear yards, which may be approved with a shorter pile height as determined to be deemed practicable by the Community Development Coordinator.~~
 - ~~b. A minimum of 0.5 inches for nonresidential installations.~~~~
- ~~3. Artificial turf shall have a minimum face weight of 50 ounces per square yard.~~
- ~~4. A minimum eight-year manufacturer's warranty that protects against color fading and a decrease in pile height is required for all artificial turf.~~
- ~~5. Artificial turf shall be flame retardant and free of lead and PFAS.~~

~~D. Permitting.~~

- ~~1. Installation requires a building permit, and such supporting documentation as required the Community Development Coordinator.~~
- ~~2. A building permit will not be required for installation of 100 square feet or less of artificial turf installed in the side or rear yard of private property if the requirements of this section are met. One installation of 100 square feet or less is allowed on a property and will be counted toward the property's total impervious surface ratio (ISR).~~

~~E. Installation.~~

- ~~1. All artificial turf shall, at a minimum, be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.~~
- ~~2. Artificial turf installations shall meet tree preservation and protection requirements pursuant to Section 3-1206.~~
- ~~3. Installation around existing trees may be restricted to ensure tree roots are not damaged with the installation of the base material or artificial turf and that the overall health of the tree will not be compromised.~~
- ~~4. Drainage shall be designed so that stormwater is discharged in a manner that does not adversely affect adjacent lots, rights-of-way (ROW), and/or other downstream or upstream properties and shall follow historic flow paths in the watershed.~~
- ~~5. An appropriate barrier device (e.g. concrete mow strip, bender board, brick pavers), installed consistent with manufacturer's specifications, is required to separate artificial turf from live plant materials.~~

- ~~6. Artificial turf seams shall be installed using a combination of seaming tape and glue with the grain of each piece of artificial turf running in the same direction.~~
- ~~7. All edges shall be secured with staples or nails, trimmed to fit against all regular and irregular edges to resemble a natural look and tucked in and anchored consistent with the manufacturer's specifications.~~
- ~~8. If installed immediately adjacent to a seawall, artificial turf shall be pinned or staked behind the seawall. No artificial turf or installation mechanism shall be attached directly to or placed on a seawall or seawall cap.~~
- ~~9. After installation, artificial turf shall be visually smooth with the grain pointing in a single direction.~~
- ~~10. If infill is recommended by the manufacturer, it shall consist of clean silica sand or sand-based product with no plastic pellets or crumb rubber with the exception of parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields which may use crumb rubber.~~
- ~~11. Artificial turf installed by residential property owners shall be treated as impervious and count towards the property's impervious surface ratio (ISR).~~
- ~~12. Artificial turf installed by a licensed general contractor or professional with experience in installation of artificial turf will be treated as pervious if the following installation standards are met:~~
 - ~~a. Artificial turf backing must be dual flow or hole punched to allow for drainage.~~
 - ~~b. For nonresidential installations, a leveling layer shall be provided consisting of one inch of decomposed limestone or granite.~~
 - ~~c. A subbase layer shall be provided consisting of four inches or more of clean stone, which consists of washed granite or limestone that meets FDOT #4, #57, or #89 stone specifications.~~
 - ~~d. To ensure adequate retention volume in the subbase layer, a minimum size of $\frac{3}{8}$ to one inch stone is required.~~
 - ~~e. The underlying soils must remain uncompacted.~~
- ~~F. *Inspection.* The Community Development Coordinator shall inspect the property to verify that the artificial turf was installed in accordance with all provisions of the Development Code.~~
- ~~G. *Maintenance.*~~
 - ~~1. Artificial turf shall be maintained by the property owner in a green fadeless condition and free of dirt, mud, sand, stains, odors, weeds, debris, tears, holes, seam separations, excessive wear, and impressions.~~
 - ~~2. Maintenance shall include but is not limited to regular rinsing with water to wash away pollen and seeds, brushing to keep the blades upright and protect against damage, debris removal, repair of depressions and ruts to maintain a visually smooth surface, elimination of odors or weeds, and ensuring edges are tucked and staked.~~
 - ~~3. Artificial turf must be maintained in a manner so that stormwater drainage does not adversely affect adjacent lots, ROWs, and/or other downstream or upstream properties and allows historical flow paths in the watershed to continue and function.~~

4. Artificial turf must be replaced if it falls into disrepair with fading/discoloration, excessive wear, holes, seam separations, heat degradation, or surfaces that are no longer level due to depressions, ruts, air pockets, or loose areas.
 - a. Repair of artificial turf areas shall be performed with like for like materials from the same manufacturer and done in a manner that results in a repair that blends in with the existing artificial turf.
 - b. In the event a like material cannot be obtained, then the most similar material which still meets installation standards may be used; however, evidence that supports the unavailability of a like material from the same manufacturer must be provided.
 - c. Repair or replacement of artificial turf requires a building permit as described in this section.
 - d. Repair or replacement of artificial turf that is not in compliance with the regulations of this section must bring the property into conformance to the greatest extent practicable as determined by Community Development Coordinator.

~~H. Existing artificial turf.~~

1. Artificial turf installed before April 17, 2025 (the "enactment date") is permitted to remain on a property if the below conditions are met:
 - a. Evidence is provided to the Community Development Coordinator demonstrating the artificial turf was installed before the enactment date. Such evidence may be provided in the form of a dated invoice identifying the purchase of the artificial turf before the enactment date or other compelling evidence deemed acceptable by the Community Development Coordinator.
 - b. If artificial turf was installed in a right of way before the enactment date, an after the fact right of way permit must be applied for. The city engineer will determine if the artificial turf may remain and issue the right of way permit or deny the permit and require the artificial turf to be removed from the right of way.
 - c. All existing artificial turf must comply with maintenance standards in Section 3-1203.G.
2. Artificial turf permitted to remain on a property will count toward the calculation of stormwater fees and the property's ISR for purposes of future development and permitting and could impact future improvements to the property.
3. Notwithstanding this section, properties meeting one of the conditions provided under Section 3-1202.A.3 shall be brought into conformance with this Code.

Section ~~3-1204.3-1203.~~ - Installation and maintenance.

- A. All required landscaping shall be installed in accordance with an approved landscape plan, including all specified conditions to a particular development approval, and inspected prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion. In the event there are any changes to the approved landscape plan, such changes must be reviewed and approved and noted on the plan prior to notification for the final inspection for a certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion. An

application for development approval for which landscaping is required shall be accompanied by a landscape plan which includes information the community development coordinator may generally require unless waived or modified by the community development coordinator.

- B. All landscaped areas must be covered with shrubs, ground cover, natural turf, three inches of organic mulch, artificial turf (where permissible), or other suitable material which permits percolation.
 - 1. Where mulch is used, it must be protected from washing out of the planting bed.
 - 2. Landscape rock with a minimum size of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to one inch in diameter shall be used to redirect stormwater from gutter systems to prevent erosion.
 - 3. Plastic sheets shall not be installed under mulches.
 - 4. Artificial turf shall be installed according to the standards in ~~Section 3-1203~~ Article 3, Division 27.
- C. Trees which are balled and burlapped must have the burlap removed or folded down at the time of planting. All twine or rope must be removed. If wire baskets are used, the upper rows must be cut before planting. If stakes or guy wires are used to support a tree, the wire must be covered with protective material where it is in contact with the tree and the stakes or guy wires must be removed after one year.
- D. Except as provided for in Section 3-1202, all landscaping required by this division must be protected from vehicular and pedestrian traffic by the installation of curbing and wheel stops, or other protective devices along the perimeter of any landscaping which adjoins vehicular use areas or sidewalks. These protective devices shall have a minimum height of six inches above grade.
- E. Landscaping shall be installed in a manner which minimizes conflicts between the landscaping and signage and utilities.
- F. No parking, display of vehicles or outdoor storage or display of merchandise is permitted in or over any required landscaped area, nor are vehicles permitted to overhang any required landscaped area.
- G. Soil in which required landscaping is to be installed must be generally indigenous to the locale. Soil must be loose, friable and free of limestone and other construction materials, roadbase material, rocks, weeds, grasses, hardpan clay or other debris. pH shall be adjusted where necessary to be compatible with the plant species being installed. Soil shall be slightly swaled to retain surface stormwater. Backfill soil material shall be thoroughly watered in and around plant root balls to prevent any air pockets. The use of amended and enriched soils may be required where necessary to increase the water retention capabilities of soils in order to reduce the amount of watering needed to meet the landscaping's water requirements.
- H. To minimize traffic hazards, at street or driveway intersections, all landscaping installations must provide unobstructed views in accordance with the sight triangle requirements in Article 3, Division 9.
- I. The owner and tenant, if any, are jointly and severally responsible for the regular and continuous maintenance and protection of all required landscaping, including the irrigation system, which shall be maintained in a healthy growing condition so as to present a neat and orderly appearance, free from refuse, debris and weeds.

- J. Required shade trees planted shall not be topped, shaped or severely pruned, but must be allowed to grow to maturity and attain their natural form so that crown development is not inhibited.
- K. All landscaping near public sidewalks must be maintained to allow unobstructed passage of pedestrians.
- L. Dead, declining, missing and diseased plant material shall be replaced with healthy material of similar type in keeping with the landscaping requirements at the time of original planting and in accordance with the approved landscape plan.
- M. Landscaping will be inspected periodically by the City, but not less frequently than every three years to ensure that proper maintenance is provided.

Section ~~3-1205~~ 3-1204.- Tree protection.

- ~~A. Removal permit Required. No person may remove or cause to be removed any protected tree or any palm with a ten-foot clear and straight trunk without first having procured a permit as provided in Article 4, Division 12, with the noted exception of all citrus species of trees which do not require a permit for removal.~~
- ~~B. Criteria for issuance of a removal permit.~~
 - ~~1. No permit shall be granted for the removal of a specimen or historic tree.~~
 - ~~2. In determining whether or not a required removal permit shall be granted, the community development coordinator shall consider the following:~~
 - ~~a. The condition and location of the protected tree, specimen tree stand, or palm with respect to species, tree structure, competition, disease, insect attack, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures and interference with utility services.~~
 - ~~b. Protected trees, specimen tree stands, and palms shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible and reasonable flexibility in the design of permitted uses shall be granted, within the parameters of the zoning district within which the property is located, in order to ensure such preservation.~~
 - ~~c. Whether protected trees or palms can be successfully relocated on-site in order to accommodate the proposed development.~~
 - ~~d. If a protected tree or palm must be removed in order to permit an economic use of the property which would otherwise be permitted, the applicant must give the city a reasonable opportunity to relocate the tree to another site in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-1205(C) and replace protected trees on-site in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-1205(D) or pay into the city's tree bank for every protected tree that is removed in accordance with the provisions in Section 3-1205(D).~~
 - ~~3. Expiration. Tree removal permits shall be valid for a period of six months from the date of issuance. Extensions may be granted by the community development coordinator or designee for good cause.~~
- ~~C.~~A.~~Relocation by city or county.~~ The applicant for a tree removal permit may authorize the city to enter upon the property and remove a tree or palm at the city's expense prior to the owner's proposed removal, if in the opinion of the city manager, such tree is of sufficient value to warrant relocation by the city. The city manager, in deciding

whether to accept or reject such a donation, shall consider the tree's physical condition, health or other circumstances, such as potential damage to utility lines, that may be anticipated to occur during such relocation as well as the city's need for the proposed donation. Such donated trees will be utilized for landscaping on public lands or as otherwise determined by the city manager.

D. ~~Tree and palm requirements and replacements.~~ Tree and palm replacements shall be in compliance with Section 3-1202.B. and the following:

1. ~~Attached dwellings and non-residential properties.~~ The total amount of DBH removed from a multi-family or non-residential site shall be replaced on an inch-for-inch basis.
2. ~~Single family detached dwelling and two family attached dwelling properties.~~ The total amount of DBH removed from single family detached dwelling or two family attached dwelling properties (e.g. lot, subdivision) shall be replaced on an inch-for-inch basis, or such deficit shall be met by paying a fee of \$48.00 per inch of DBH to the tree bank. However, the number of trees on single family detached dwelling or two family attached dwelling properties (e.g. lot, subdivision) shall not be less than as follows unless otherwise determined by the Community Development Coordinator to be unfeasible or physically impossible:

Required Number of Trees on Single Family and Two Family Lots	
Lot Size (square footage)	Number of Required Trees
Less than 5,000	2
5,000—10,000	4
10,001—15,000	6
Over 15,001	8

3. ~~When the community development coordinator determines that there is not sufficient space available to replace the equivalent of all protected trees on-site in accordance with these requirements, the remaining DBH deficit shall be met by paying a fee of \$48.00 per inch of DBH to the tree bank. The community development coordinator may determine that certain protected trees are not required to be replaced based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, species, health, hazards, or other conditions.~~
4. ~~Monies paid to the tree bank in this manner shall be used for tree planting projects on public lands within the city and for other urban forestry enhancement projects designated by the city manager.~~
5. ~~Conditions and specifications.~~
 - a. ~~Characteristics.~~ The replacement trees shall have at least equal shade potential, screening properties and other characteristics comparable to those of the trees for which a removal request has been submitted. The specific locations and design of required replacement trees shall be in accordance with proper urban forestry practices and as approved by the city manager.

- b. ~~Size.~~ Replacement trees shall be in compliance with the size and quality standards set forth in Section 3-1202.B.1.
- c. ~~Species.~~ The city may require that the species of the replacement trees be the same as those for which removal is being requested, or may require such replacement trees to be of a species native to the West Central Florida area. Exotic, "naturalized" trees or palms may be used to meet replacement requirements only with the consent of the city manager.
- d. ~~Native understory plant and enhanced tree protection credit.~~ Native vegetation such as ground cover, shrubs and small trees growing as understory plants to large shade trees are often critical to the survival of a tree that is to remain after development. Therefore, to promote the survival of protected trees after construction, the city manager may reduce the total tree replacement requirements by ten percent if native understory vegetation is allowed to remain within allotted green areas around the subject trees and/or enhanced tree protection methods are utilized such as chain link fence barricades, root aeration systems, cabling and bracing, mulching, fertilization and water during construction activities. The city manager may allow such reduction only upon a determination that the understory vegetation contains valuable native plants that are desirable in an urban environment, and will significantly enhance the subject trees' chance of survival. Native vegetation utilized to meet tree replacement requirements will be noted on an approved site plan by size, species and total area covered. In addition, the native plant material will be maintained in a healthy growing condition, and replaced by comparable plants approved by the city manager should the plants decline.
- e. ~~Credit for required landscaping.~~ Any landscaping required to be installed by [Section 3-1202](#) or [3-1203](#) may be used as credit against tree replacement requirements.
- f. ~~Credit for undeveloped multi-family and commercial property.~~ Twenty-five percent of the DBH of the trees existing on an undeveloped property zoned MHDR, HDR, or any commercially designated property shall be permitted to be removed with no requirements for tree replacements. This removal allowance may be used only one time on any particular site.
- g. ~~Waiver of replacement trees' specifications.~~ The community development director may waive the characteristics, or species, of the replacement trees only if the applicant for development approval demonstrates to the community development coordinator that such size is not readily available in the market area and that the proposed landscaping treatment with replacement trees is equal to or superior to the landscaping which would have been provided with the larger trees.
- h. ~~Waiver of replacement requirements for public utilities projects.~~ The community development coordinator may exempt the city from the tree replacement requirements solely for public utilities projects.

E.B. Protective barrier requirements and protection during construction activities.

1. A protective barrier shall be placed around all protected trees or palms prior to land preparation or construction activities according to the following:
 - a. At or greater than the full dripline of all species of mangroves and sabal palm trees;
 - b. At or greater than the full dripline of all protective native pine trees and other conifer tree species;
 - c. ~~At or greater than two-thirds of the dripline of all other protected species;~~
 - d. At or greater than the full dripline of trees within a specimen tree stand.
 - e. [Add statement about protecting palms - Ted K]
2. Protective barriers are to be constructed using no less than two-inch by two-inch lumber of upright posts. Upright posts are to be at least four feet in length with a minimum of one foot anchored in ground and three feet above ground. Upright posts are to be placed at a maximum distance of eight feet apart. Horizontal rails are to be constructed using no less than one inch by four inch lumber and shall be securely attached to the top of the upright post. The community development coordinator must approve any variation from the above requirements.
3. Whenever a protective barrier is required, it shall remain in place until all construction activity is terminated. The area within the barrier limits shall remain undisturbed by any activity during construction. Native ground cover and understory vegetation existing within the barriers shall remain throughout construction. Exotic plant species may be removed providing written consent is obtained from the community development coordinator. Plant species removed with the consent of the coordinator may be removed only by manual labor utilizing hand tools or by other approved methods.
4. Prior to the erection of any required protective barrier, all surface foreign material, trash or debris shall be removed from the area to be enclosed by the barrier, and after erection of the barrier no such material or litter shall be permitted to remain within the protected area. No equipment, chemicals, soil deposits or construction materials shall be placed within such protective barriers.
5. Large areas on a development site, where land preparation and construction activities will not occur, or where heavy machinery will not venture, shall not require protective barriers as otherwise required by Section 3-1205(E)(1) above. Such areas shall be delineated at the point of interface, using a woven fabric ribbon or other materials approved by the community development coordinator. Approved materials shall be attached to two-inch by two-inch upright posts. Upright posts shall be made of wood or other suitable material approved by the community development coordinator, be at least four inches in height and be spaced no more than 50 feet apart. No ropes or ribbons shall be attached to any protected tree or palm. The community development coordinator shall make the final determination as to the location of the protective barrier.
6. No signs, building permits, wires or other attachments of any kind shall be attached to any protected tree or palm. Guy wires designed to protect trees are excluded, however, from this prohibition.

7. At all times, due care shall be taken to protect the critical root zone of trees or palms protected by this section, and root pruning requirements shall apply to such trees.

F.C. *Proper tree care; prohibited tree pruning.*

1. When construction activities affect protected trees so that the critical root zone is disturbed, or when pruning must be performed on a tree's crown, adherence to the following arboricultural techniques is required:
 - a. When the critical root zone will be disturbed, affected roots must be severed by clean pruning cuts at the point where construction impacts the roots. Roots can be pruned by utilizing trenching equipment designed for this purpose or by hand digging a trench and pruning roots with a pruning saw, chain saw or other equipment designed for tree pruning. Roots located within the critical root zone that will be impacted by construction must be pruned to a depth of 18 inches below the existing grade or to the depth of disturbance if less than 18 inches from the existing grade. When underground utility lines are to be installed within the critical root zone, the root pruning requirements may be waived if the lines are installed via tunneling or directional boring as opposed to open trenching.
 - b. When pruning lateral branches of protected trees, the proper pruning techniques as described herein, must be followed. Flush cuts (pruning cuts that remove the branch collar) and stub cuts (cuts that leave a stub on the tree) are improper pruning techniques. Any tree that has been improperly pruned will not be recognized as a tree left on the property in a healthy growing condition; and therefore will not be utilized to meet tree replacement requirements.
2. It shall be unlawful to remove from a protected tree more than 30 percent of a tree's foliage during a period of one year.
3. It shall be unlawful to perform the techniques of topping or other pruning techniques that remove the vertical leader stems of protected trees except to the extent permitted by this section.
4. When trees must be topped, such as in instances where there is interference with overhead wires or nearby structures, a tree removal permit shall first be obtained. The community development coordinator will determine if the tree can tolerate the necessary pruning, or if the tree should be removed. The community development coordinator will indicate on the permit that the removal of the tree will be permitted, or will modify the permit to allow the necessary pruning, or may deny the permit.
5. When determining whether more than the allowed 30 percent of a tree's crown has been pruned, the community development coordinator shall use the following information to make a decision:
 - a. The quantity and diameter of vertical stems pruned;
 - b. Typical crown characteristics of the affected tree species;
 - c. Aerial photographs or other recent photographs that would indicate the tree's appearance prior to pruning;
 - d. Testimonials from eyewitnesses as to the tree's former appearance;

- e. Remains of foliage debris on the site.
- 6. [add a new subsection "6" regarding improper palm pruning – Ted K.]
- 7. Based on the above information, a written report shall be prepared citing all evidence used to support the claim of violation. The violation shall be treated as an illegal tree removal and process accordingly.
- G.D. Protection of tree trunks or palm stems. It shall be unlawful to use tree spikes or other devices that damage tree trunk tissue of protected trees or palms.

Section ~~3-1206~~ 3-1205. - Scenic corridors.

- A. *Purpose.* The purpose of designating primary and secondary scenic corridors is to establish areas in the city which have particular significance, in terms of tourism, economic development or community character, and which therefore should have enhanced and differentiated landscaping requirements. It is anticipated that specific corridor plans will be approved by the city commission for each corridor and that when such plans are adopted, they shall constitute the requirements for landscaping along these corridors.
- B. *Primary corridors.*
 - 1. Bayshore Boulevard
 - 2. Belcher Road
 - 3. Causeway Boulevard
 - 4. Chestnut Street
 - 5. Cleveland Street
 - 6. Coronado Drive
 - 7. Court Street
 - 8. Courtney Campbell Causeway
 - 9. Druid Road
 - 10. East Shore Drive
 - 11. Fort Harrison Avenue
 - 12. Gulf Boulevard
 - 13. Gulf to Bay Boulevard
 - 14. Gulfview Boulevard
 - 15. Hamden Drive
 - 16. Mandalay Avenue
 - 17. Marine Street
 - 18. McMullen-Booth Road
 - 19. Memorial Causeway
 - 20. Missouri Avenue
 - 21. Pierce Boulevard
 - 22. Poinsettia Avenue
 - 23. State Road 580
 - 24. U.S. 19
- C. *Secondary corridors.*
 - 1. Bayshore Drive
 - 2. Belleair Road

3. Countryside Boulevard
4. Curlew Road
5. Drew Street
6. East Avenue
7. Edgewater Drive
8. Enterprise Road
9. Hampton Road
10. Hercules Avenue
11. Highland Avenue
12. Keene Road
13. Lakeview Road
14. Landmark Drive
15. Myrtle Avenue
16. Northeast Coachman Road
17. Nursery Road
18. Old Coachman Road
19. State Road 590
20. Sunset Point Road

Section 3-1206 Comprehensive landscaping program.

- A. The landscaping requirements of this division may be waived or modified as a part of a Level One or Level Two approval, as applicable, if the application for development approval includes a comprehensive landscape program that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection B.
- B. The comprehensive landscape program shall satisfy all of the following criteria:
 1. *Architectural theme.*
 - a. The landscaping in a comprehensive landscape program shall be designed as part of the architectural theme of the principal buildings proposed or developed on the parcel proposed for development; or
 - b. The design, character, location and/or materials of the landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program shall be demonstrably more attractive than landscaping otherwise required under the minimum landscape standards.
 2. *Lighting.* Any lighting proposed as a part of a comprehensive landscape program is automatically controlled so that the lighting is turned off when the business is closed.
 3. *Community character.* The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program will enhance the community character of the City of Clearwater.
 4. *Property values.* The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program will have a beneficial impact on the value of property in the immediate vicinity of the parcel proposed for development.
 5. *Special area or scenic corridor plan.* The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program is consistent with any special area or scenic

corridor plan adopted by the City of Clearwater for the area in which the parcel proposed for development is located.

6. Properties within the US 19 District. The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program for properties within the US 19 District shall not reduce the pedestrian and landscape improvements required in Appendix B, Division 4, Street Frontage Standards, except as provided for in Appendix B, Division 7, Flexibility.
7. Properties within the Downtown District. The landscape treatment proposed in the comprehensive landscape program for properties within the Downtown District shall not reduce the pedestrian and landscape improvements required in Appendix C, Division 4, Frontage Standards, except as provided in Appendix C, Division 7, Flexibility.

Ordinance Section 2.

~~DIVISION 11. LANDSCAPING PLAN~~

~~Section 4-1101. Landscaping required.~~

~~Landscaping shall be required in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 Division 12 for the following development:~~

- ~~A. Any landscaped area serving a new use or a change of use.~~
- ~~B. If an existing use is improved or remodeled in a value of 25 percent or more of the valuation of the principal structure as reflected on the property appraiser's current records or if an amendment, other than a minor amendment, is required to an existing approved site plan.~~
- ~~C. If a parking lot requires additional landscaping pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 Division 14.~~

~~Section 4-1102. Plan requirements.~~

~~An application for development approval for which landscaping is required by Article 3, Division 12 or by any other provision of this Development Code shall be accompanied by a landscape plan which includes whatever information the community development coordinator may generally require unless waived or modified by the community development coordinator.~~

DIVISION 12. TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

Section 4-1201. - Permit required.

No person may remove or cause to be removed any protected tree or palm without first having procured a permit.

- A. State of Emergency Tree Removal Permits. Upon a declaration of state of emergency by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, City of Clearwater City Council, or the Governor, the Community Development Coordinator may issue no fee tree removal permits for up to 180 days.
- B. Hazardous trees. Prior to removal of a hazardous tree, a no-fee tree removal permit is required to be approved by the city.

- C. Citrus trees are exempt from tree removal permits.
[note other exemptions]

Section 4-1202. – Criteria for Issuance of a tree removal permit

- A. Criteria for issuance of a tree removal permit.
1. No permit shall be granted for the removal of a specimen tree.
 2. In determining whether or not a required removal permit shall be granted, the community development coordinator shall consider the following:
 - a. The condition and location of the protected tree, specimen tree stand, or palm with respect to species, tree structure, competition, disease, insect attack, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures and interference with utility services.
 - b. Protected trees, specimen tree stands, and palms shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible and reasonable flexibility in the design of permitted uses shall be granted, within the parameters of the zoning district within which the property is located, in order to ensure such preservation.
 - c. Whether protected trees or palms can be successfully relocated on-site in order to accommodate the proposed development.
 - d. If a protected tree or palm must be removed in order to permit an economic use of the property which would otherwise be permitted, the applicant must give the city a reasonable opportunity to relocate the tree to another site in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-1204(A) and replace protected trees on-site in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-1205(D) or pay into the city's tree bank for every protected tree that is removed in accordance with the provisions in Article 3, Table 3.
- B. Expiration. Tree removal permits shall be valid for a period of six months from the date of issuance. Extensions may be granted by the community development coordinator or designee for good cause.

Section 4-1202, 4-1203. - Removal permit—Application.

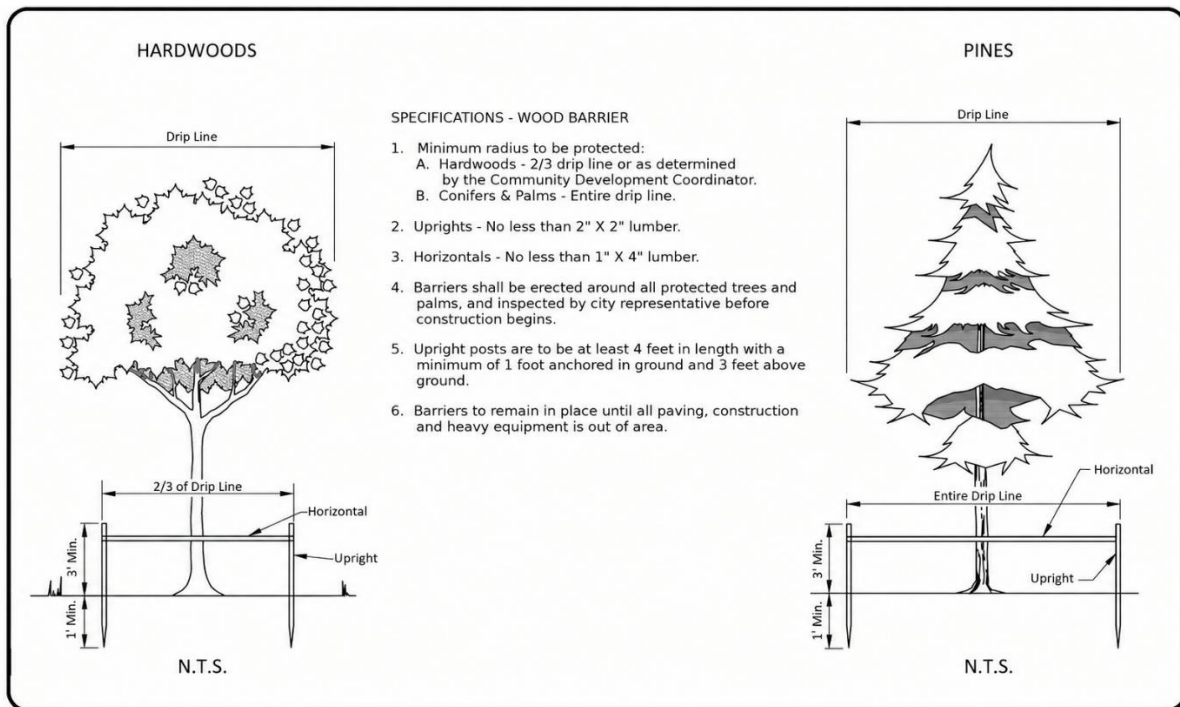
Any person who is required by this division to obtain a permit to remove a tree or palm shall make written application to the community development coordinator on application forms to be provided, accompanied by the fee required by Section 4-202(E) and including the following documentation:

- A. Requirements for multi-family and all non-residential properties, and subdivisions.
1. A site plan showing the location of all protected trees and palms by size, canopy and species, distinguishing the tree or trees proposed to be removed, the scaled location of proposed tree barricades, existing and proposed structures, walks, driveways, and parking areas and other improvements. Tree barricades shall be installed at a minimum radius of 2/3 of the drip line or as determined by the Community Development Coordinator.
 2. A tree inventory, prepared by an ISA or ASCA certified arborist, or landscape architect of all shade trees four inches DBH and greater, accent trees two inches

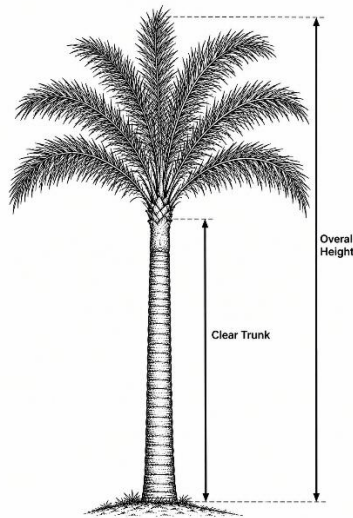
DBH and greater, and any other tree or palm as part of an approved landscape plan specifying the size, canopy, and condition of such trees or palms.

3. A tree preservation plan is prepared by an ISA or ASCA certified arborist, ~~consulting arborist~~, landscape architect, ~~or other specialist in the field of arboriculture~~ specifying how each tree or palm is to be protected and how site development impacts the critical root zones (drip lines) and how to address these impacts, i.e. crown elevating, root pruning and/or root aeration systems. The tree preservation plan must show the tree barricade limits (two-thirds of the drip line and in the root prune lines, if any), and the tree barricade detail and other pertinent tree preservation information.

Tree Barricades



Palm Planting Detail



4. A topographical survey of the property, if the change in elevation of the grade is greater than five feet or if the property is one acre or more in area.
5. Justification of tree or palm removal.
- B. *Requirements for single-family detached dwellings and two-family properties.* A survey showing the location and size of all protected trees and palms, the tree(s) and/or palm(s) proposed to be removed and the reason for removal.
- C. Tree inventory.
 1. All tree inventories shall be performed by an ISA or ASCA certified arborist or landscape architect, and shall comply with the following:
 2. Tags. For sites greater than or equal to one acre in size, all trees and palms shall be tagged with aluminum tags and aluminum nails, or other method specifically approved by the community development coordinator. The tag numbers must correlate to the numbers in the tree inventory.
 3. Off-site trees. All tree inventories shall include off-site trees or palms up to 25 feet away from the property line of the subject property.
- D. Tree rating system.
 1. The following rating system shall be utilized to evaluate existing trees or palms and to indicate whether the tree or palm is worthy of preservation and/or removal:

[THE TREE RATING TABLE HAS THE SAME NUMBER OF CATEGORIES AS PINELLAS COUNTY'S CODE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL OF THE SAME REQUIREMENTS]

Table 1 – Tree Rating System

<u>0</u> <u>"Poor"</u>	<u>Dead/dying. Nuisance or invasive species. Tree has poor vigor and low foliage density for its species. Extensive twig and branch dieback present. Tree may have a single serious defect or multiple significant defects such as uprooting or splitting, actions will not improve the health or mitigate defects.</u>	<u>May be removed with approved permit. No replant trees required. Minimum landscape requirements do not apply.</u>
<u>1</u> <u>"Fair"</u>	<u>Reduced vigor. Twig dieback, defoliation, and/or dead branches may comprise up to 40% of the crown. Damage from insects or diseases may be significant. Tree may have a single defect of a significant nature or multiple moderate defects. Tree form has major deviations from species norm. Corrective actions not practical or would require multiple treatments over several years.</u>	<u>May be removed with approved permit. Replant trees required per Table 2.</u>
<u>2</u> <u>"Good"</u>	<u>Vigor is normal for the species. No significant damage due to disease or pests. Any twig dieback, defoliation, or discoloration is minor. Tree has well-developed</u>	<u>Trees or palms with a 2 or 3 rating are not eligible for a stand-alone tree removal permit that is not associated with a building permit .Minimum landscape</u>

	structure. Defects and health disorders are minor and can be corrected. Tree form has minor deviations from species norm.	requirements apply. Replant trees required per Table 2.
<u>3</u> <u>"Excellent"</u>	Native tree in excellent condition; no visible signs of decay; less than 10% deadwood present; no significant structural defects (root girdling, codominance is lower half). This rating shall include trees with historical significance and unusual or rare species. It shall also include hardwood species >36" DBH and softwood species <20" DBH that would otherwise be a grade 2.	Trees or palms with a 2 or 3 rating are not eligible for a stand-alone tree removal permit that is not associated with a building permit. Minimum landscape requirements apply. Replant trees or palms required per Table 2.

- E. Credit for required landscaping for single-family detached dwelling and two-family attached dwelling properties. Any landscaping required to be installed by Section 3-1202 or 3-1203 may be used as credit against tree replacement requirements as a credit towards the deficit of inches removed:
1. Two Accent trees equals 1 replant credit
 2. Three Palms equals 1 replant credit
 3. One Specimen palm equals 1 replant credit
 4. One Shade tree equals 1 replant credit
- F. Tree and palm replacements. Tree and palm replants shall be in compliance with Section 3-1202.B. and the following:
1. Trees or palms having a 1, 2, or 3 rating will be replaced on the same site from which they were removed, as provided in Table 1.
 2. In addition to any required replant trees or palms, lots must contain the minimum number of landscape trees required based on the lot size per Table 3, Article 3, Division 12.
 3. Tree removal permits not associated with a building permit. Tree removal permits that are not associated with a building permit are required to replant one tree for every tree that is removed, unless the site meets the minimum tree requirements in Table 3, Article 3, Division 12.

4. Attached dwellings and non-residential properties. Palms cannot replace shade trees. The total amount of DBH removed from a multi-family or non-residential site shall be replaced based on Table 2.
5. Single-family detached dwelling and two-family attached dwelling properties.
 - a. The total amount of DBH for shade trees removed from single-family detached dwelling or two-family attached dwelling properties (e.g. lot, subdivision) shall be replaced in accordance with Article 4, Table 2.
 - b. Each tree or palm above the minimum tree requirements in Table 3, Article 3, Division 12 counts as a tree credit. This does not apply to after the fact permits.

[THE REPLANT TREE REQUIREMENTS TABLE BELOW WAS COPIED FROM THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE.]

Table 2 – Replant Tree Requirements

<u>DBH of tree removed</u>	<u>Number of replants required by grade</u>		
	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>
<u>4" – 14"</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>14.1" – 24"</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>24.1" – 34"</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>>34"</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>

4. Alternative to replants on-site:
 1. When the community development coordinator determines that there is not sufficient space available to replace the equivalent of all protected trees on-site in accordance with these requirements, a payment of \$300 per tree shall be paid to the tree bank for single family detached or two-family properties and \$500 per tree for multi-family and commercial properties. Tree removal permits that are not associated with a building permit are not permitted to pay into the tree bank fund until the minimum number of required trees is met in Article 3, Table 3.
[Note: Pinellas County charges a \$300 flat fee for single family/duplex/triplex and \$500 flat fee for multifamily and commercial for tree bank contribution in lieu of planting per tree]
 2. The intent of the tree bank is to benefit the public by expanding, improving, preserving and managing a healthy urban forest. Monies paid to the tree bank shall be used for:
 - a. Tree planting projects on public lands within the city limits, including the purchase of trees and maintenance through establishment, and associated equipment for tree planting.

- b. Ecological inventory or assessment of the urban forest and urban forest management plan.
 - c. For the payment of fees by the city to a landscape professional or certified arborist for educating City Staff or general public regarding tree protection and preservation and conducting tree assessments.
 - d. Other urban forestry enhancement projects designated by the city manager.
 - e. Purchase of trees for tree giveaway or programs allowing the city to plant trees on residential private property.
 - f. No more than 70% of the fees collected shall be used for anything other than the purchase of trees and maintenance through tree establishment for use on public lands within the city limits.
3. City tree giveaway. For single-family detached dwellings, trees from the tree giveaway may earn a total of two tree credits per property:
- 1. Two Accent trees equals 1 replant credit
 - 2. Three Palms trees equals 1 replant credit
 - 3. One Specimen Palm equals 1 replant credit
 - 4. One Shade tree equals 1 replant credit
4. Credit for trees above minimum requirements. Each tree above the minimum number required for single family and two-family lots in Table 3, Article 3, Division 12 may be credited towards the required number of replants in Table 2. A tree survey is required demonstrating that the number of trees exceeds minimum requirements. This provision does not apply to after-the-fact permits.
5. Native understory plant and enhanced tree protection credit. Native vegetation such as ground cover, shrubs and small trees growing as understory plants to large shade trees are often critical to the survival of a tree that is to remain after development. Therefore, to promote the survival of protected trees or palms after construction, the city manager may reduce the total tree replacement requirements by ten percent if native understory vegetation is allowed to remain within allotted green areas around the subject trees and/or enhanced tree protection methods are utilized such as chain link fence barricades, root aeration systems, cabling and bracing, mulching, fertilization and water during construction activities. The city manager may allow such reduction only upon a determination that the understory vegetation contains valuable native plants that are desirable in an urban environment, and will significantly enhance the subject trees' chance of survival. Native vegetation utilized to meet tree replacement requirements will be noted on an approved site plan by size, species and total area covered. In addition, the native plant material will be maintained in a healthy growing condition, and replaced by comparable plants approved by the city manager should the plants decline.

6. The community development coordinator may determine that certain protected trees or palms are not required to be replaced based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, species, health, hazards, or other conditions.
8. *Waiver of replacement trees' specifications.* The community development director may waive the characteristics, or species, of the replacement trees only if the applicant for development approval demonstrates to the community development coordinator that such size is not readily available in the market area and that the proposed landscaping treatment with replacement trees is equal to or superior to the landscaping which would have been provided with the larger trees.
9. *Waiver of replacement requirements for public utilities projects.* The community development coordinator may exempt the city from the tree replacement requirements solely for public utilities projects.
10. *Credit for undeveloped multi-family and commercial property.* Twenty-five percent of the DBH of the trees existing on an undeveloped property zoned MHDR, HDR, or any commercially designated property shall be permitted to be removed with no requirements for tree replacements. This removal allowance may be used only one time on any particular site.
11. *Credit for nuisance/invasive species removal.* For properties developed with single-family detached dwelling units and two-family attached dwelling properties, removal of nuisance species listed within the city's adopted List of Invasive/Nuisance Plant Species may be credited towards replant requirements as provided in Table 3. Nuisance/invasive trees removed under this provision must be maintained to prevent regrowth/reestablishment. One credit will be applied for each nuisance/invasive tree that is removed for single-family detached dwelling and two-family dwellings.

[Note: Pinellas County's tree code provides credits for removal of nuisance/invasive trees based on dbh of the removed tree]

Section 4-1204. - Replant Tree Conditions and specifications.

- A. *Characteristics.* The replant trees shall have at least equal shade potential, screening properties and other characteristics comparable to those of the trees for which a removal request has been submitted. The specific locations and design of required replacement trees shall be in accordance with proper urban forestry practices and as approved by the city manager.
- B. *Size.* Replant trees shall be in compliance with the size and quality standards set forth in Section 3-1202.B.1.
- C. *Species.* The city may require that the species of the replacement trees be the same as those for which removal is being requested, or may require such replacement trees to be of a species native to the West Central Florida area. Exotic, "naturalized" trees or palms may be used to meet replacement requirements only with the consent of the city manager.
- D. Replants for a tree removal permit not associated with a building permit should be planted within six months of the issuance of the tree removal permit.
[arborist team to discuss further]

- E. Replants for tree removals associated with a building permit are required to be planted prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

Section ~~4-1203~~ 4-1205. - Appeal from denial of removal permit.

A denial of a tree removal permit may be appealed in the manner provided in Article 4 Division 5 depending on whether the application seeks a Level One or Level Two approval.

Section ~~4-1204~~ 4-1206. - Removal permit—Term, expiration.

Any removal permit issued by the city shall expire if the work authorized by the permit is not completed within six months of the date the permit is issued. The holder of such an expired permit may apply for re-issuance of the permit within 30 days of such expiration, and the community development coordinator may cause the permit to be re-issued, waiving the fee therefore. Alternatively, application for a new permit shall be made.

Section ~~4-1205~~ 4-1207 - "No tree" statement; "no tree removal permit required" statement.

- A. If there are no protected trees or palms on a site proposed for development, an applicant for a building permit shall submit a "no tree" statement.
- B. If protected trees or palms exist on a site proposed for development but are not required to be removed for construction purposes, an applicant for a building permit shall submit a "no tree removal permit required" statement.
- C. No building permit shall be issued unless a tree removal permit, a "no tree" statement, or a "no tree removal permit required" statement is approved.

DIVISION 13. LAND CLEARING AND GRUBBING

Section 4-1301. - Permit required.

A land clearing and grubbing permit is required in order to clear or grub any land in the city. No land clearing and grubbing permit shall be granted prior to issuance of a Level One or Level Two approval in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Divisions 3 and 4. If no Level One or Level Two approval is required a land clearing and grubbing permit shall be granted if the permit request is in conformance with the provisions of this division or the terms of a prior approval.

Section 4-1302. - Application/appeal.

- A. An application for a clearing and grubbing permit shall be submitted to the community development coordinator applications forms to be provided, accompanied by the fee required by Section 4-202(E), and including the following information:
 - 1. A legible scaled drawing or scaled aerial photograph and a tree survey showing property boundaries, physical or natural features, and limits of the proposed work.
 - 2. Purpose of clearing and/or grubbing.
 - 3. Types of equipment to be used.
 - 4. General description of existing vegetation, topography, and any surface waters present.

5. Method of debris disposal.
 6. Anticipated date of commencement and completion of work.
 7. Methods of soil erosion and sedimentation control to be undertaken during earthwork activities and the means and timing of soil stabilization subsequent to the completion of the clearing and grubbing activities.
 8. No tree statement, no tree removal permit required or tree removal permit required.
- B. A denial of a clearing and grubbing permit may be appealed in the manner provided in Article 4 Division 5.

Section 4-1303. - Criteria for issuance.

In determining whether or not to issue a permit to clear or grub land, the community development coordinator shall consider:

- A. The need for vegetation removal on the property for purposes of land surveying or land preparation for development or other economic uses.
- B. Whether visual access is necessary to comply with the tree survey requirements in Section 4-1302.
- C. Whether the applicant has filed a "no tree verification" form or "no tree removal permit required verification" form stating that there are no protected trees on the site or that protected trees exist but do not need to be removed for construction purposes.
- D. The applicant has provided protective barriers around all protected trees or palms on the site.
- E. Whether the applicant has provided soil erosion and sedimentation control as required in Article 3, Division 7.

Ordinance Section 3.

NOTE: THE ARTIFICIAL TURF SECTION IS BEING EDITED TO COMPLY WITH NEW DEP RULES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS REVIEW, STRIKETHROUGH/UNDERLINE FORMATTING IS PROVIDED. FUTURE DRAFTS WILL BE ALL UNDERLINED SINCE THE SECTION WAS MOVED.

DIVISION 27. - ARTIFICIAL TURF

Section ~~3-1203~~, Section 3-2701. - Purpose and Intent

It is the intent and purpose of this division to establish appropriate standards for the use of artificial turf, mitigating any associated undesirable impacts. The intent is to allow artificial turf while minimizing adverse impacts to water quality, vegetation, and stormwater systems. The standards contained herein are consistent with Section 125.572, Florida Statutes and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rule 62-308.100.

Section 3-2702 - General Standards.

- ~~1.A.~~ The use of artificial turf is permitted on all properties upon approval of a building permit and must meet and maintain compliance with the provisions of this section.
- ~~2.B.~~ For properties in residential zoning districts, artificial turf shall not be counted towards the minimum required landscaped areas and shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 125.572, Florida Statutes.
- ~~3.~~ The use of indoor or outdoor plastic or nylon carpeting as a replacement for artificial turf or natural turf on the ground shall be prohibited.
- ~~4.C.~~ Artificial turf may be used in lieu of plant materials required in Section 3-1202.B for parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields.

~~B.~~ Section 3-2703 - Location standards.

- ~~1.A.~~ Artificial turf may be installed on approved concrete patios, porches, and rooftop patios or decks without a permit.
- ~~2.B.~~ Artificial turf may not be installed in a right-of-way unless otherwise approved by the city engineer. If such artificial turf is approved to be installed, a city right-of-way permit must be obtained prior to commencing work.
- ~~3.C.~~ Artificial turf may not be installed in permanent drainage features such as drainage swales, ditches, or ponds or a pond's littoral zone unless otherwise approved by the city engineer.
- ~~4.D.~~ Artificial turf ~~shall not be installed~~ must comply with in perimeter buffers ~~required by requirements found in~~ Section 3-1202.D. Artificial turf shall not be installed in or vegetative buffers adjacent to the Preservation District, natural or man-made waterbodies, or jurisdictional wetlands required by Section 3-907.A.
- ~~5.E.~~ Artificial turf shall not be installed as required trees/plants in interior or central landscape islands consistent with Section 3-1202.E.
- ~~6.F.~~ Artificial turf is prohibited in any area that is used for the parking or driving of motor vehicles.
- ~~G.~~ If installed, artificial turf shall be installed landward of any dune system and shall not be used to replace any existing dune vegetation.
- ~~H.~~ Subgrade shall be composed of natural materials, such as crushed rock, or crushed concrete that meets the permeability requirements in 3-2701.E. Subgrade materials shall be washed prior to installation to prevent fines from binding.

~~C.~~ Section 3-2704 - Minimum design standards.

- ~~A.~~ Artificial turf must be green in color
- ~~1.B.~~ Artificial turf must be consistent with the following minimum standards for all properties except single-family residential properties that are 1 acre or less:
 - ~~1.~~ Artificial turf shall consist of ~~green~~ lifelike individual blades of grass that emulate natural turf in look and color except where artificial turf is used in parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields.
 - ~~2.~~ Artificial turf shall have a pile height of:
 - a. A minimum of 1.5 inches for residential installations except for specialty artificial turf installations such as K-9 grass or putting greens located in the side or rear yards, which may be approved with a shorter pile height as determined to be deemed practicable by the Community Development Coordinator.
 - b. A minimum of 0.5 inches for nonresidential and attached dwelling installations.

3. Artificial turf shall have a minimum face weight of 50 ounces per square yard.
 4. A minimum eight-year manufacturer's warranty that protects against color fading and a decrease in pile height is required for all artificial turf.
 5. Artificial turf shall be flame retardant ~~and free of lead and PFAS.~~
- C. Artificial turf, including backing material and infill, must not contain heavy metals or intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- D. Infill
1. Infill material shall consist of clean silica sand or sand-based product, rock, shell, or other natural material.
 2. Coated silica sand may be used provided that any coating used is non-toxic and meets the requirements of DEP Rule 62-308.100.
 3. Rubber or any other synthetic infill material is allowed only within the footprint of playground equipment and must also meet the requirements described in DEP Rule 62-308.100.
 4. City parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields may use crumb rubber.
- ~~D.E.~~ Permitting.
1. Installation requires a building permit, and such supporting documentation as required the Community Development Coordinator.
 2. A building permit will not be required for installation of 100 square feet or less of artificial turf installed in the side or rear yard of private property if the requirements of this section are met. One installation of 100 square feet or less is allowed on a property and will be counted toward the property's total impervious surface ratio (ISR).
- ~~E.F.~~ Installation.
1. All artificial turf shall, at a minimum, be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
 2. Artificial turf installations shall meet tree preservation and protection requirements pursuant to Section ~~3-1206~~ 3-1205, Florida Statutes except when those trees are identified as noxious weeds as defined in Chapter 581, F.S.
 3. Installation around existing trees may be restricted to ensure tree roots are not damaged with the installation of the base material or artificial turf and that the overall health of the tree will not be compromised. Artificial turf shall not be installed within tree drip lines, whether on the property or adjacent properties, unless the tree is a noxious weed as defined by Chapter 581, Florida Statutes, or unless a ISA or ASCA certified arborist, using site specific information and best professional judgment, certifies that installation within that drip line would not be harmful to the tree.
 4. Drainage shall be designed so that stormwater is discharged in a manner that does not adversely affect adjacent properties including prevention of pooling or an increase in the stormwater runoff volume, direction, or rates to adjacent properties and, where possible, runoff shall be directed to on-site pervious areas ~~lots, rights of way (ROW), and/or other downstream or upstream properties and shall follow historic flow paths in the watershed.~~

- ~~5. An appropriate barrier device (e.g. concrete mow strip, bender board, brick pavers), installed consistent with manufacturer's specifications, is required to separate artificial turf from live plant materials.~~
- 5.6. All edges and seams shall be anchored to withstand the effects of wind or flooding. Artificial turf seams shall be installed using a combination of seaming tape and glue with the grain of each piece of artificial turf running in the same direction. ~~7. All edges shall be secured with staples or nails, trimmed to fit against all regular and irregular edges to resemble a natural look and tucked in and anchored consistent with the manufacturer's specifications.~~
- ~~6.8. If installed immediately adjacent to a seawall, artificial turf shall be pinned or staked behind the seawall. No artificial turf or installation mechanism shall be attached directly to or placed on a seawall or seawall cap.~~
- ~~9. After installation, artificial turf shall be visually smooth with the grain pointing in a single direction.~~
- ~~10. If infill is recommended by the manufacturer, it shall consist of clean silica sand or sand-based product with no plastic pellets or crumb rubber with the exception of parks and recreation facilities and athletic fields which may use crumb rubber.~~
- 7.11. Artificial turf installed by residential property owners shall be treated as impervious and count towards the property's impervious surface ratio (ISR), except for single-family residential properties of 1 acre or less in size.
- ~~8.12. Artificial turf installed by a licensed general contractor or professional with experience in installation of artificial turf will be treated as pervious if the following installation standards are met~~ is required to meet the following conditions:
 - a. Artificial turf shall be affixed to permeable backing with a pervious subgrade, such as ~~backing must be~~ dual flow or hole punched to allow for drainage.
 - b. For nonresidential installations, a leveling layer shall be provided consisting of one inch of decomposed limestone or granite.
 - c. A subbase layer shall be provided consisting of four inches or more of clean stone, which consists of washed granite or limestone that meets FDOT #4, #57, or #89 stone specifications.
 - d. To ensure adequate retention volume in the subbase layer, a minimum size of $\frac{3}{8}$ - to one-inch stone is required.
 - e. ~~The underlying soils must remain uncompacted.~~ Soil beneath installed subgrade is not compacted to the extent that it adversely impacts percolation through the soil
9. Installation shall be designed to prevent washing away of any infill material off the residential property.
10. If installed, artificial turf must provide for access to the septic tank for routine pumpout.
11. Artificial turf shall not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards.

12. In-ground irrigation systems cannot be used to irrigate artificial turf areas. If any in-ground system is already installed, irrigation heads shall be removed and pipe capped.

F.G. Inspection. The Community Development Coordinator shall inspect the property to verify that the artificial turf was installed in accordance with all provisions of the Development Code.

G.H. Maintenance.

1. Artificial turf shall be maintained by the property owner in a green fadeless condition and free of dirt, mud, sand, stains, odors, weeds, debris, tears, holes, seam separations, excessive wear, and impressions.
2. Maintenance shall include but is not limited to regular rinsing with water to wash away pollen and seeds, brushing to keep the blades upright and protect against damage, debris removal, repair of depressions and ruts to maintain a visually smooth surface, elimination of odors or weeds, and ensuring edges are tucked and staked.
3. Artificial turf must be maintained in a manner so that stormwater drainage does not adversely affect adjacent ~~lots, ROWs, and/or other downstream or upstream properties and allows historical flow paths in the watershed to continue and function~~ properties including prevention of pooling or an increase in the stormwater runoff volume, direction, or rates to adjacent properties and, where possible, runoff shall be directed to on-site pervious areas.
4. Artificial turf must be replaced if it falls into disrepair with fading/discoloration, excessive wear, holes, seam separations, heat degradation, or surfaces that are no longer level due to depressions, ruts, air pockets, or loose areas.
 - a. Repair of artificial turf areas shall be performed with like for like materials from the same manufacturer and done in a manner that results in a repair that blends in with the existing artificial turf.
 - b. In the event a like material cannot be obtained, then the most similar material which still meets installation standards may be used; however, evidence that supports the unavailability of a like material from the same manufacturer must be provided.
 - c. Repair or replacement of artificial turf requires a building permit as described in this section.
 - d. Repair or replacement of artificial turf that is not in compliance with the regulations of this section must bring the property into conformance to the greatest extent practicable as determined by Community Development Coordinator.

H.I. Existing artificial turf.

1. Artificial turf installed before April 17, 2025 (the "enactment date") is permitted to remain on a property if the below conditions are met:
 - a. Evidence is provided to the Community Development Coordinator demonstrating the artificial turf was installed before the enactment date. Such evidence may be provided in the form of a dated invoice identifying the

purchase of the artificial turf before the enactment date or other compelling evidence deemed acceptable by the Community Development Coordinator.

- b. If artificial turf was installed in a right-of-way before the enactment date, an after the fact right-of-way permit must be applied for. The city engineer will determine if the artificial turf may remain and issue the right-of-way permit or deny the permit and require the artificial turf to be removed from the right-of-way.
- c. All existing artificial turf must comply with maintenance standards in Section 3-2701.G.

[consider section for existing turf prior to FDEP Rule 62-308.100.]

2. Artificial turf permitted to remain on a property will count toward the calculation of stormwater fees and the property's ISR for purposes of future development and permitting and could impact future improvements to the property.
3. Notwithstanding this section, properties meeting one of the conditions provided under Section 3-1202.A.3 shall be brought into conformance with this Code.

Ordinance Section 4.

Section 7-103. - Remedies; penalties.

* * * * *

D. *Restoration of landscaping/trees.* In addition to the penalties provided in Chapter 1, Section 1.12 of the City of Clearwater's Code of Ordinances, any person who violates any provision of Article 3 Division 12 shall be required, as applicable, to:

1. Restore the vegetative buffer to its natural state; or
2. Pay to the city a fine equal to the total value of each protected tree or palm illegally removed or damaged. The fine shall be \$48.00 per inch of DBH (or diameter of remaining stump), up to \$5,000.00 per protected tree or palm where it is found that the violation is irreparable or irreversible in nature. The illegal removal of a Specimen tree is deemed to be an irreparable and irreversible violation, subject to a fine of up to \$15,000.00. Such sum so collected shall be placed in a fund for the tree bank and shall be expended for the purchase of trees for replacement in public properties within the city; When the DBH inches are unknown, the community development coordinator shall use the following information to determine the DBH inches to be replaced:
 - a. The quantity and diameter of vertical stems pruned;
 - b. Typical crown characteristics of the affected tree species;
 - c. Aerial photographs or other recent photographs that would indicate the tree's appearance prior to removal;
 - d. Testimonials from eyewitnesses as to the tree's former appearance;
 - e. Remains of foliage debris on the site.

3. Replace illegally removed trees at the owner's expense. Such replacement will be computed on an inch-for-inch basis according to the total inches of DBH (or diameter of remaining stump) of all illegally removed trees.
4. Remove any prohibited trees installed in violation of this or any hazardous trees within 15 days of receipt of notice from the city that such trees are in violation of this Code. In the event such trees are not removed within the 15 day period, the city shall have the trees removed and shall charge the costs of removal to the property owner.

Ordinance Section 5.

ARTICLE 8. - DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

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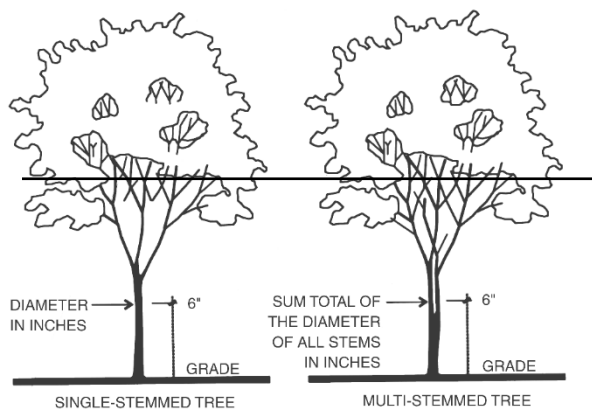
Section 8-102. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this Development Code, the following words and terms have the meanings specified herein:

* * * * *

Caliper means the measurement of young or nursery trees and is measured at a height six inches above the ground or soil level for trees up to and including four inches in caliper and 12 inches above the ground for larger trees.

Caliper



* * * * *

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ means the quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is based on the principles of the University of Florida's Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program. The terms Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and

xeriscape may be used interchangeably in this Code. For purposes of administering and enforcing this Code, Florida-Friendly LandscapingTM shall have the meaning provided in Section 373.185(1)(b), Florida Statutes, as amended.