



**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**  
**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT.**  
 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW SERVICES DIVISION

**MEMORANDUM**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS**

Effective 09/17/15, City Council amended the tree protection standards, extending Grand Tree protection to all properties and creating Signature Tree protections (Ordinance 195-H)

**What is a Protected Tree?** Any shade tree 4” or larger diameter at breast height (dbh, as measured 4 ½ feet above ground) and any understory tree which is 8” or larger dbh and not identified as an Unprotected or Prohibited tree, generally included on the following table:

**General List of Protected Trees:**

<b>SHADE</b>	Red Mulberry	<b>UNDERSTORY</b>	Wild Olive
Oaks	Magnolia	Bay (Red, Silk, Swamp)	Plum
Cypress	Sweet Gum	Buttonwood	Holly
Pines	Sycamore	Cedar	Ligustrum
Elms	Sugarberry	Crape Myrtle	Sea Grape
Maples	Loblolly Bay & Willow	Hawthorn	

**What is a Grand Tree?** Any Protected tree which is 30 inches in diameter dbh or larger, with the exception of Laurel Oaks. Typically, only Live Oaks will grow to this size and be affected by this new code provision. Grand Trees are afforded a higher level of protection, and need to be preserved.

**What is a Signature Tree?** This is a new category of non-native trees which because of the size, prevalence and history in our community warrant recognition and protection. Includes Banyan trees, Kapok trees that are 30” or larger dbh and Jacaranda trees and Royal Poinciana trees that are 8” or larger dbh. This affords a level of protection and allows Staff to recognize existing trees as meeting minimum planting requirements for a property. A Tree Removal Permit is now required for these trees.

**How does this affect my proposed development?** For any “over-the-counter” type applications (e.g. pools, additions, patios, driveways, etc.), you will need to verify if there are trees within 15-feet of the proposed construction, on the property or on adjacent property. If there are no protected trees within 15-feet of the proposed construction, you will complete a “Protected Trees – Statement of No Impact” form. If there are trees, then the trees need to be shown on the site plan, by size and species. For new construction, trees are to be shown on the site plan, by size and species, including on adjacent property if within 15-feet of proposed construction. **If Protected, Signature or Grand trees are proposed to be removed, or a Grand tree requires trimming of a branch 8” in diameter or greater, a permit will be required.**

If there are any protected trees 28” or greater, Staff will need to perform a field inspection to verify if any trees are Grand Trees. Once Staff determines if there are Grand Trees, Staff will work with you to preserve the tree, trim the tree (permits are required for limbs 8” or greater) or discuss the additional documentation required for approval to remove the tree.

For more information, contact (727) 893-7471. [DevRev@StPete.org](mailto:DevRev@StPete.org), or visit our webpage, [http://www.stpete.org/development/urban\\_forestry\\_information/index.asp](http://www.stpete.org/development/urban_forestry_information/index.asp)