

How many trees are required on residential lots?

Square Footage	Number of Trees
0 - 9,999	5
10,000 - 15,999	7
16,000 - 19,999	12
20,000 - 29,999	15
30,000 - 39,999	18
40,000 or more	20

The number of trees required is based on the square footage of the property.

1/4 Acre = 10,890 ft²



What about the existing trees on the property?

The City of Sebastian encourages residents and developers to retain their existing canopy trees.

As an incentive, we do take into consideration the size of the existing trees on your property, or the trees retained after clearing for new construction.

Larger trees may be credited as more than one tree.

Exceptions:

- ⊗ Palm Trees are only credited on a one-for-one basis.
- ⊗ Scrub Oaks, with a minimum of 1 1/4 inch diameter at the base is credited on a one-for-one basis.

Size (DBH)	Number of Trees
2" - 5"	1
Over 5" - 10"	2
Over 10" - 20"	3
Over 20"	4



What trees should I be planting?

If trees must be added, in order to meet the ordinance, the following standards apply at planting:

- ⊗ Minimum overall height of 8 feet & a minimum trunk diameter of 1 1/2 inches measured **at 54 inches above finished grade. (replacement of "Protected Trees")**
- ⊗ Citrus must be a minimum overall height of 4 feet above grade, and shall not exceed 3, or 25% (whichever is greater) of the required minimum number of trees.
- ⊗ Trees must be Florida grade 1 or better.
- ⊗ If palm are used, they shall constitute no more than 35% of the total tree requirement, **and shall have a minimum of 6 feet clear wood (from grade to first frond).**

Do I need a Tree Removal Permit?

Permits are required for the removal of all protected, specimen, & historical trees.

Protected Tree is any tree of four (4) inches diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above grade, and any Scrub Oak measured at the base with 1 1/4" diameter (4" circumference) or greater.

Specimen Tree is any tree twenty (10) inches DBH or more, all red and black mangroves, and excluding all palm trees, except Sabal Palms.

Sabal Palms having a clear trunk 6 feet, or greater

Historical Tree is any tree so noted by resolution of City Council.

Prohibited Tree a permit may not be required for the removal of Earpod, Chinaberry, Australian Pine, Punk or Cajeput, and Brazilian Pepper. Contact the City for approval.

Please see the back of brochure for information on further "Special Permit Exemptions"

How do I get a Permit?

Tree Removal and Land Clearing Permits may be obtained online, through the Building Department's Permitting System or in person, at City Hall.

The cost for a Tree Removal Permit is \$25. After you submit your application, City Staff will come to your property and conduct an inspection. Following approval, your permit will be issued.

Once the permitted tree has been removed, please be sure to call (772) 589-5537 **to arrange for a final inspection**, so the permit can be closed.

Below is a short list of Native Canopy Trees, recommended by Sebastian's Natural Resources Board:

- ⌘ Bald Cypress
- ⌘ Cabbage Palm
- ⌘ Live Oak
- ⌘ Laurel Oak
- ⌘ Red Maple
- ⌘ Slash Pine
- ⌘ Southern Magnolia
- ⌘ Southern Red Cedar
- ⌘ Dahoon Holly



TREE CITY USA®

The [Tree City USA](#) program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program recognizes communities that have taken steps to develop comprehensive tree management programs.

In 2021, The City of Sebastian was renewed as a [Tree City USA](#) by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is Sebastian's 19th consecutive year receiving this honor and our 2nd year receiving the Growth Award!

SPECIAL PERMIT EXEMPTIONS: *On April 25th, 2019, the State of Florida passed bill CS/HB 1159, which "prohibits local governments from requiring a permit, application, notice, fee, approval, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a dangerous tree on residential property upon documentation by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect, and prohibits local governments from requiring a property owner to replant a tree that is maintained under the specified conditions."*

The information contained in this brochure is a summary of Article XIV "TREE PROTECTION."

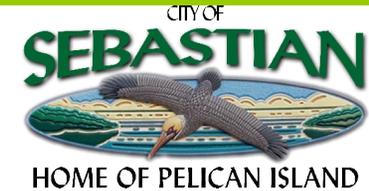
If you would like to obtain a complete copy of the Ordinance, or if you have any questions regarding the information in this brochure or other local landscaping concerns, please visit our website:



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4/7/23



Residential Guide to Sebastian's Tree Protection Ordinance

