

Baby Grand Tree Classification Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the County considering the Baby Grand classification?

The County is considering the Baby Grand Tree classification in order to plan for more Grand Trees and tree canopy in the future. Grand Trees are older native trees that are relatively rare in our community and have reached a size that provides optimal environmental and community benefits. The County established the standards for Grand Trees in 2002.

Creating standards for Baby Grand Trees will promote tree canopy development and provide the many environmental, economic and community benefits associated with mature trees.

What trees would qualify as a Baby Grand Tree?

The County is considering those tree species currently on the Grand Tree list in the Tree Protection Ordinance with the addition of Gumbo Limbo. See below list:

- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)
- Hickory (*Carya spp.*)
- Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)
- Pine (*Pinus spp.*)
- Redbay (*Persea borbonia*)
- Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*)
- Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)
- Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
- Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Baby Grand Trees must be at least 18 inches at Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and have at least a 70% or greater condition classification (e.g. healthy trees).

Will the Baby Grand Tree classification be applicable to my property?

Yes, the Baby Grand classification is being considered for all types of properties, including single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, office-professional, etc.

Will I be able to remove a Baby Grand Tree on my property?

Yes, if certain criteria are met. The following reasons for removal of a Baby Grand Tree are being considered:

- Safety reasons
- The tree unreasonably prevents development
- The root system is causing damage to property
- The tree prohibits expansion of a residential dwelling and any essential appurtenances
- Impacts are unavoidable and minimized to the maximum extent through alternative site designs

Will the requirements for tree protection change during development?

Yes. The County is considering a tiered system for tree evaluation and protection. This approach would put the highest protection priority on Grand Trees and trees within protected native habitats first, Baby Grand Trees second, and then other trees.

Will there be new protection standards during construction?

The County is considering applying the existing Best Management Practices (e.g. tree barricades) requirements within the Tree Protection Ordinance to Baby Grand Trees. The only additional standard being considered is the installation of a sign at the dripline stating that no activities are allowed within the barricaded area unless approved by the County.

Will there be replacement standards for Baby Grand Trees?

Yes. The standards being considered would require three trees to be planted for each Baby Grand Tree removed. If after the removal of the Baby Grand Tree, there is at least one tree identified on the Baby Grand Tree list for every 2,000 square feet of property, no replacement trees would be required. This scheme provides credit for those properties with existing canopy areas. If space is an issue for planting, \$250 per each tree that cannot be planted would be paid to the County's Reforestation Fund. This fund is used to plant trees in public spaces.

Comments:

If you would like to provide us with comments on the Baby Grand Tree classification, please submit your comments to:



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