



Dear Residents,

It has come to our attention that members of the community are considering removing Oak "Street" Trees (those that may be on homeowner property along the street). Please be advised that both the HOA and the City of Palm Beach Gardens have authority over those trees.

Any intended removal requires a Permit from the City and approval of both the Association's ACC Committee and the Board of Directors. Approval of a removal by both the City and the HOA will only be considered where certain circumstances apply, such as:

- **A diseased tree**
- **A significantly damaged tree**
- **A significant safety hazard**
- **A disruption of public utilities**

Removal without proper approval can lead to significant penalties to the homeowner from both the City and the HOA. Without HOA approval, the HOA can fine the homeowner up to \$1000 (\$100 per day for 10 days) and require a replacement tree of an approved species that is at least 4" in diameter with root barriers. The HOA also has authority to plant a replacement tree with root barriers when the homeowner doesn't follow through with replacement. All costs associated with the Association's work of replacement will be billed to the homeowner. Even with a permit, the city requires replacement with another tree, of an approved species, within 30 days of removal along with root barriers to protect from future utility disruptions.

We have recently confirmed these policies through communications with both the city's forester as well as our Association attorney.

The Oaks trees in our community provide an aesthetic in the neighborhood that can not be duplicated without their presence. These trees have also been approved by and are required by the city. Also, any HOA repercussions from the city caused by a homeowner removing said trees will be passed along to the homeowner.

The HOA has multiple agreements with the city that require us to maintain these trees. Several of those documents will be posted on the HOA website in the coming days/weeks. They will be found under the "resources" link then the "Tree Documentation" link.

There is also significant language in our HOA Documents concerning this issue. We encourage every homeowner to familiarize themselves with those documents, not only as it applies to trees, but all the "Declaration of Restrictions" contained in our docs that apply to all of us.

Thank you