

The goal of the City's arbor program is to provide our residents with education on proper tree care and to maintain our City's urban forest. Below are some tips to follow for maintaining the health of your tree.

- When planting a new tree, examine the root ball. When a tree is grown in a container, it may develop circling roots. As the tree grows, circling roots can strangle or girdle the tree, thereby shortening its lifespan. Cut any circling roots before planting the tree.
- Structural pruning is key in developing a tree that will resist storm damage. Trees should be pruned at an early age to begin developing good structure. Contact the City Arborist to discuss structural pruning and how you can properly maintain your tree.
- Improper pruning can greatly damage a tree. The City has regulations regarding the type of pruning that can be conducted. A minimum fine of \$250 can be issued for improper pruning practices. If you are unsure if the pruning work you wish to conduct follows City regulations, please contact the City Arborist to schedule an appointment to discuss your goals.



Stephanie Monica

City Arborist

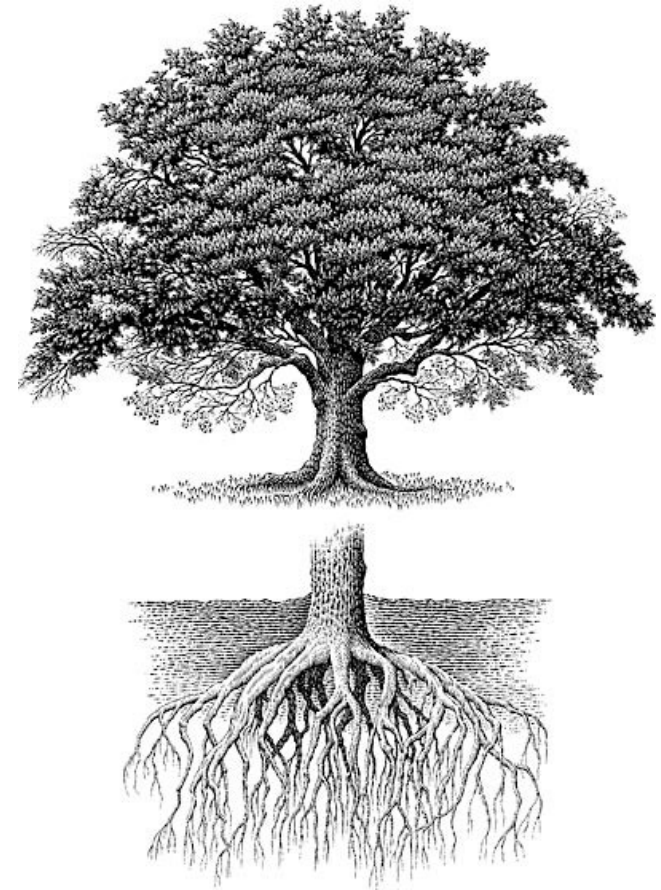
1126 East SR 434

Winter Springs, FL 32708

Telephone: 407-327-6584

Email: smonica@winterspringsfl.org

City of Winter Springs Arbor Regulations



The information contained herein will guide you in following the City of Winter Springs Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance.

Commonly Asked Questions:

- Do I need a permit to remove a tree?

Yes. A permit is required for the removal of any tree, dead or alive, that is over 4" in diameter (about the diameter of a 1 liter soda bottle). The permit must be posted in a visible location prior to commencing work

- How much does the permit cost?

There is no permit fee for trees that are dead or listed as invasive species, such as camphor trees. All other trees have a removal fee of \$25 for the first tree and \$10 for each additional tree.

- Do I have to replace the tree I remove?

You are not required to replace trees that are dead or listed as invasive species. If you remove a living tree, you are required to replace the tree within 60 days of tree removal. There is a list of acceptable replacement trees on the City website. You can also contact the City Arborist to request a copy of the list.

- What if I don't have enough room in my yard to replace the tree?

The City has a donor program. To participate in the donor program, you would contract with a landscape company to have the replacement tree installed at a

location elsewhere in the City, such as a park, median, right-of-way, etc.

- Do I need a permit to trim my trees?

No. However, if you hire a tree company to perform the work, said company must have a valid City of Winter Springs arbor license.

- What is an arbor license and why are tree companies working in Winter Springs required to have one?

The City requires that residents use a tree company that has a City of Winter Springs arbor license. As part of the licensing process, we verify that the tree company has current general liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance or that they are registered as work comp exempt, and that they have a current business tax receipt. There is a list of licensed companies on the City website. You can also contact the City Arborist to request a copy of the list. It is a violation of City code to hire a tree company to perform any tree work, including tree trimming, if they do not have a valid arbor license. Using an unlicensed company can result in a minimum fine of \$250.

- What is a certified arborist?

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certifies arborists. If the tree company has a certified arborist on their staff, that person has taken a test to ensure basic knowledge of proper tree pruning, tree removal, tree care, etc. They are required to attend

continuing education training throughout the life of their certification. If they are certified, they should be able to provide you with a certification number. You can then verify their credentials on the ISA website using their certification number or company name. You can also contact the City Arborist for verification.

- What do I look for when hiring a professional tree company?

The tree company must have a valid City arbor license.

If you are having your trees trimmed, it is important to choose a tree company that has adequate knowledge of proper tree pruning. Improper pruning practices, such as topping, promote weak regrowth and decay and make the tree more susceptible to failure. Typically, a company that has a certified arborist on staff is more inclined to be proficient at proper tree pruning.

Do some research on the company before hiring them. Use the internet to research the company name, the name of the company's contact person, check the Better Business Bureau website, etc.

