

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY  
LAND CLEARING APPLICATION**

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT NAME & NUMBER ASSIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **Applicant/Agent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Location where the proposed activity will occur:**

Tax Parcel I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Reason(s) for clearing [check appropriate reason(s)]:**

\_\_\_\_\_ The land clearing or grubbing is necessary in order to make site improvements authorized by an approved site plan, subdivision approval, or land development permit and the area to be cleared is the minimum necessary for such work.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event the aforementioned approvals are not required bylaw, the proposed clearing is the necessary for the proposed use or improvement.

Specify proposed use: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Erosion Control Plan:**

Please describe briefly the method(s) to be used in controlling erosion that may be expected to occur as a result of the proposed clearing or grubbing.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Person or Company to be responsible for land clearing:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Method of debris disposal (check appropriate method):**

- ☐ Debris to be removed to an approved disposal facility.  
☐ Debris to be burned with an air curtain incinerator in accordance with Indian River Environmental Health Department permit.

**7. Date the clearing is proposed to begin:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date the clearing is proposed to be complete:** \_\_\_\_\_

THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PERSON WHO DESIRES TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, THE APPLICATION MAY BE SIGNED BY A DULY AUTHORIZED AGENT IF ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT BY THAT PERSON DESIGNATING THE AGENT AND AGREEING TO FURNISH UPON REQUEST, SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am familiar with Chapter 927 (Tree Protection and Land Clearing) of the Land Development Regulations of Indian River County and that the information contained within this application, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true complete and accurate. I agree to provide any additional information/data that may be necessary to fully process this application. I also agree to provide entry to the project site for inspectors from the Indian River County Planning and Development Division of an authorized agent for Indian River County Planning and Development Division for the purposed of allowing preliminary analysis of the site and for any subsequent monitoring of the project as may be required. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The following information is required for application completeness. Please check that the attachments are submitted to ensure prompt processing of your application.

- ☐ Location Map  
☐ Tree Survey and/or Aerial  
☐ Deed of Ownership

**LAND CLEARING PERMIT FEE (cash, or check payable to "Indian River County"):**

- INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-FAMILY LOT OR PARCEL: \$50.00
- SITE PLAN, SUBDIVISION (INCLUDING AFFIDAVITS OF EXEMPTION),  
OR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: \$120.00

**\*\*\* PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS A 3-4 WEEK PROCESSING TIME ON  
ALL LAND CLEARING APPLICATIONS\*\*\***

**OFFICE USE**

Application Complete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

## **WHEN IS A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY?**

A tree removal permit *is not* required if any of the following conditions are met:

- The lot is one acre (43,560 sq. ft.) or less in size
- No tree(s) will be removed
- Tree(s) to be removed are less than 4" in diameter at breast height (*dbh*)
- Tree(s) to be removed are within 10 feet of a house (and attached structures)
- Tree(s) to be removed are dead, diseased or damaged beyond saving
- Tree(s) to be removed are nuisance invasive species (e.g., Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, Melaleuca)
- Tree(s) to be removed are citrus trees

## **WHEN IS A LAND CLEARING PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY?**

A land clearing permit *is not* required if:

- The lot is less than or equal to one acre in size (43,560 sq. ft.) **or**
- Development of the lot does not require the removal of any living rooted vegetation (i.e. trees, shrubs, grass, brush)

### **DO YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY PERMITS FOR YOUR PROPERTY?**

If not, you could experience costly delays. Avoid this by starting out right and checking with the St. Johns River Water Management District to determine what permits you may need. If a permit is required for your project, you must obtain it before you start clearing the land.

The St. Johns River Water Management District regulates construction of drainage systems, stormwater treatment ponds, large uses of water and other types of projects in order to protect the state's resources and the rights of existing water users.

### **WHO NEEDS A PERMIT?**

Most probably you do if:

- \* You are building any commercial development, including additions.
- \* Your project is a residential/subdivision development, including additions.
- \* The project involves any dredging, drainage, or filling of wetlands.
- \* Your project includes any ditches, dikes, or other major drainage improvements.
- \* You have any agricultural or industrial discharges into surface waters.
- \* Your project includes any bridge construction or roads.
- \* You are building a public supply well.

This is only a general overview of projects that may require District permits. Our Applicant's Handbooks and Rules further define these thresholds and are available by calling the district.

**REMEMBER** - you need to find out about what permits you are going to need before you start **CLEARING THE LAND**.

You may call any of the following District field office to determine if a permit is needed: **St. Johns River Water Management District (321) 984-4940 or (800) 295-3264 – Palm Bay Office**

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**ATTENTION: STATE PERMITS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.** This fact sheet has been developed to assist property owners by providing information on permit requirements and the agencies to contact for further information.

Many properties in Indian River County include areas of wetlands. Before proceeding with any work in or near a wetland or waterbody, it is advised that you check with the agencies listed below. You may be required to obtain permits from local, state and federal agencies. Unauthorized wetland alterations may result in agency enforcement actions requiring site restoration and payment of civil penalties.

Wetlands are a valuable resource that are protected by federal, state and in some cases, local regulation. Wetlands provide important economic and recreational values that are damaged by uncontrolled development and alteration. Wetlands filter pollutants from stormwater runoff. They protect shorelines from erosion and provide flood storage. Wetlands are nurseries for fish and shellfish and provide critical habitat to wildlife.

Vegetation, soils and hydrology are the major factors in determining if an area is considered a wetland. The following may be an indication of the presence of wetlands:

- \* Standing water after rain.
- \* Adjacent waterbodies such as creeks, rivers, lakes and bays.
- \* Ditches which connect to any waterbodies.
- \* Dark mucky soils.
- \* Plants such as cypress, mangrove, red maple, loblolly bay, willow, sweet bay, water oak, ash, dahoon holly, tupelo, ferns, rushes, sedges, and many types of grasses.
- \* Swollen tree bases.
- \* Floodplains.

These indicators are only a guide. You may still have wetlands even though you do not have any of the conditions listed above. Wetlands generally do not include longleaf or slash pine flatwoods with an understory of saw palmetto.

Activities in or near wetlands that may require a permit or site evaluation include:

- \* Clearing or grading.
- \* Dredging or excavating.
- \* Filling, the placement of sand, soil, debris or structures.
- \* Septic system installations.
- \* Boat docks or ramps.
- \* Boardwalks.
- \* Seawalls or revetments.
- \* Mangrove trimming.

The following agencies regulate activities within wetlands in Indian River County and should be contacted for further information:



**Indian River County 226-1240 or 226-1258**

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection – DEP  
(561) 681-6600 – Southeast District Office**

**St. Johns River Water Management District  
(321) 984-4940 or (800) 295-3264 – Palm Bay  
Office**

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – ACOE Regulatory  
(321) 504-3771**

# Single Family Parcel Land Clearing Permit Approval Process

<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>Applicant Submits</b> Fully completed Land Clearing permit application, including proof of ownership (warrantee deed, tax bill etc), copy of the property survey and \$50.00 application fee. If the lot is undeveloped, please also indicate location of proposed residence and driveway so planning staff can assign an appropriate address.		
			
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Application is logged-in, assigned a project/application number, given to environmental planner for review.</b>		
			
<b>Day 2-5</b>	<b>Environmental Planner reviews application and survey</b>		
<b>Day 6</b>	<b>If Denied</b> A denial letter is generated and sent to applicant		<b>If Approved</b> Permit is generated and sent to applicant

A land clearing permit is required if the single-family lot is greater than 1 acre in size and if development of the lot requires the removal of any living rooted vegetation (i.e., shrubs, grass or brush).

*Cabbage palms (Sable palmetto) and citrus trees are not protected trees, although the County encourages their preservation for landscaping. However, a land clearing permit may be necessary for their removal.*

# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT NAME & NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Applicant/Agent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Location where the proposed activity will occur:

Tax Parcel ID #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION

A. Criteria for removal [check appropriate reason(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located within the net buildable area of a given site; as identified on the tree survey site plan by the applicant;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located within an existing or proposed right-of-way;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located within an existing or proposed easements, stormwater tract or facility provided that only the minimum area reasonably necessary for the contemplated service or use shall be considered under this criteria;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located where continued existence would unreasonably interfere with the physical construction of the improvements on a particular site as may result from interference with access to the site by construction equipment on the site in the immediate vicinity of the proposed structure or improvements;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located where it creates or will create a safety or health hazard, or a nuisance with respect to existing or proposed structures or vehicle or pedestrian routes;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are located where there is interference with the installation, delivery, or maintenance of proposed or existing utility services to the site;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree(s) is/are diseased, injured, or in danger of falling;

\_\_\_\_\_ The tree is located on a portion of the site outside of the net buildable area but within that portion of the site to be used for construction of required parking areas or vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress areas; provided that, when this criteria is used to justify removal of a tree or trees located outside of the gross buildable area, the applicant shall replace any such tree or trees with an equal number of trees of similar ecological or aesthetic value, as can be demonstrated by the applicant that the remaining site cannot be designed to accommodate and sustain the substituted tree or trees. All replacement trees shall be of a minimum two (2) inches DBH.

B. Number of trees which are to be directly affected by removal, including type of species and size measured in diameter at breast height (dbh):

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE (dbh)</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TREES</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

**C. Person or Company to be responsible for tree removal:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Method of debris removal [check appropriate method]**

\_\_\_\_\_ Debris to be removed to approved disposal facility.

\_\_\_\_\_ Debris to be burned with an air curtain incinerator in accordance with an Indian River Environmental Health Department permit.

**E.** Date the removal is proposed to begin: \_\_\_\_\_

Date the removal is proposed to be complete: \_\_\_\_\_

THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PERSON WHO DESIRES TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, THE APPLICATION MAY BE SIGNED BY A DULY AUTHORIZED AGENT IF ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT BY THAT PERSON DESIGNATING THE AGENT AND AGREEING TO FURNISH UPON REQUEST, SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The following information is **required** for application completeness. Please check that the attachments are submitted to ensure prompt processing of your application.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Location Map**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Tree Survey and/or Aerial**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Deed of Ownership**

**TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FEE (cash, or check payable to "Indian River County"):**

- INDIVIDUAL SINGLE-FAMILY LOT OR PARCEL: \$50.00
- SITE PLAN, SUBDIVISION (INCLUDING AFFIDAVIT OF EXEMPTION),  
OR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: \$200.00

**\*\*\* PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS A 3-4 WEEK PROCESSING TIME  
ON ALL TREE REMOVAL PERMITS\*\*\***

**OFFICE USE**

Application Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

## **WHEN IS A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY?**

**A tree removal permit is not required if any of the following conditions are met:**

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### **DO YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY PERMITS FOR YOUR PROPERTY?**

If not, you could experience costly delays. Avoid this by starting out right and checking with the St. Johns River Water Management District to determine what permits you may need. If a permit is required for your project, you must obtain it before you start clearing the land.

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- \* Ditches which connect to any waterbodies.
- \* Dark mucky soils.
- \* Plants such as cypress, mangrove, red maple, loblolly bay, willow, sweet bay, water oak, ash, dahoon holly, tupelo, ferns, rushes, sedges, and many types of grasses.
- \* Swollen tree bases.
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These indicators are only a guide. You may still have wetlands even though you do not have any of the conditions listed above. Wetlands generally do not include longleaf or slash pine flatwoods with an understory of saw palmetto.

Activities in or near wetlands that may require a permit or site evaluation include:

- \* Clearing or grading.
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## Single Family Tree Removal Permit Approval Process

<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>Applicant Submits</b> Fully completed Tree Removal permit application, including proof of ownership (warrantee deed, tax bill etc), copy of property survey & \$50.00 application fee. If lot is undeveloped, please also indicate location of proposed residence and driveway on the survey so planning staff can assign an appropriate property address.		
			
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Application is logged-in, assigned a project/application number, given to environmental planner for review.</b>		
			
<b>Day 2-5</b>	<b>Environmental Planner reviews application and survey</b>		
<b>Day 6</b>	<b>If Denied</b> A denial letter is generated and sent to applicant		<b>If Approved</b> Permit is generated and sent to applicant

A tree removal permit is required for any single-family lot greater than 1 acre in size and if a protected tree is to be damaged or removed. This only applies to lots within Indian River County and not lots within any City limits.

**Protected Trees:** Any tree having a diameter at breast height (DBH) of four (4") inches or more, and all mangroves regardless of size. Protected trees do not include. Australian Pine (*Casuarina* sp.), Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), or Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*).

*Cabbage palms (Sable palmetto) and citrus trees are not protected trees, although the County encourages their preservation for landscaping. However a land clearing permit may be necessary for their removal.*



## SINGLE-FAMILY LOT TREE REMOVAL EXEMPTION FORM

**THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED IF IT IS THE APPLICANT'S POSITION THAT NO TREE REMOVAL PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR SINGLE-FAMILY LOT CONSTRUCTION (IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY), IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 927.06, EXEMPTIONS, OF THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY TREE PROTECTION AND LAND CLEARING ORDINANCE.**

Please mark the following appropriate reason(s) as to why a tree removal permit is not required:

### **SINGLE-FAMILY LOT TREE REMOVAL EXEMPTION**

- ☐ The lot is one acre (43,560 square feet) or less in size; **OR**
- ☐ No tree(s) will be removed.
- ☐ Tree(s) to be removed are less than 4 inches in diameter-at-breast-height (dbh).
- ☐ Tree(s) to be removed are within 10 feet of a house (and attached structures).
- ☐ Tree(s) to be removed are dead, diseased or damaged beyond saving.
- ☐ Tree(s) to be removed are nuisance invasive species (e.g., Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, Melaleuca).
- ☐ Tree(s) to be removed are citrus trees.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I hereby proclaim to the best of my knowledge that the proposed single-family lot construction project will not result in the need for a county tree removal permit, based on the reason(s) noted above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Agent or Owner Signature

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot/Parcel Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Last revision March 9, 2017

## WHEN IS A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY?

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## DO YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY PERMITS FOR YOUR PROPERTY?

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