



Resilient Environment Department

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DIVISION**

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May 13, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Herbert Yardley  
Village of Sea Ranch Lakes  
1 Gatehouse Road  
Sea Ranch Lakes, Florida 33308-2906

**Re: Request for Municipal Certification of Tree Preservation Code**

Dear Mayor Yardley,

We are in receipt of the request from the Village of Sea Ranch Lakes for Municipal Certification. Section 27-407(e)(3)(a) of the Broward County Code of Ordinances (BCC) requires that the municipal tree ordinance be as stringent as the County Tree Preservation and Abuse Ordinance in the seven different categories. We have reviewed the submitted ordinances and offer the following for each category:

**1. Tree Preservation:**

- The Village Ordinance permit eligibility standards appear to be consistent with the removal criteria in the County Ordinance, with one exception. Section 4.01.06(b)(6)(g) lists as a standard “other circumstances as may be determined by the Village Council from time to time.” Please indicate under what circumstances the Village Council would approve permit eligibility.
- Section 4.01.06(b)(7)(d) of the Village Ordinance allows the removal of swale trees due to leaf staining. The County Ordinance does not allow the removal of swale trees, or any trees, due to leaf staining as this is considered a maintenance issue. To be as stringent as the County Ordinance, this language should be removed from the Village Ordinance.
- Please confirm that Section 4.01.06(b)(1)(a) regarding the approval of the removal of Black Olive trees was deleted in the 2019 ordinance amendment.

**2. Tree Relocation:**

- Section 27-408(d)(1)(a), BCC, requires that trees be relocated, if relocation is a viable option. This language does not appear in the Village Ordinance. To be as stringent as the County Ordinance this language should be added to the Village Ordinance.

**3. Tree Replacement:**

- The Village Ordinance references canopy tree replacement, as does the County Ordinance. The Village Ordinance does include Section 4.01.06(A)(5), Tree Replacement Requirements, “Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Village Council may issue a tree removal permit with a reduction to the canopy replacement or without replacement(s), provided the tree removal permit applicant’s property meets or exceeds the minimum tree requirements of this Article, after the proposed removal.” Please explain how this section would apply and in what situations there would be reduced or no tree replacement.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

- The Recommended Tree List for Canopy Replacement contains a few trees that are considered invasive according to the Florida Invasive Species Council. The tree and palms species are Bottlebrush, Alexander Palm, Senegal Date Palm, Chinese Fan Palm, Queen Palm and Washington Palm. The invasive species should be removed from the list.
4. **Tree Protection From Construction:**
- The Village Ordinance tree protection standards and requirements are similar to the County Ordinance.
5. **Specimen Tree/ Natural Forest Protection:**
- There is no definition of a Specimen tree and no Specimen tree relocation bond (Section 27-408(g), BCC) or replacement requirements (Section 27-408(i)(2), BCC) in the proposed municipal ordinance. To be as stringent as the County Ordinance, the Specimen tree definition, bond requirements, and replacement requirements should be added to the Village Ordinance.
6. **Tree Abuse:**
- The Village Ordinance tree abuse standards and requirements are similar to the County Ordinance.
7. **Enforcement Standards, including Stop Work Authorizations, to the Extent Permitted by Law:**
- The Village Ordinance provides for a fine of \$500.00 per tree for tree abuse violations. The fine for tree removal was not observed in the Village Ordinance. Is this fine also \$500.00 per tree, and is it the maximum fine amount that the Village can assess?
  - The Village Ordinance does not contain any reference to stop work orders. The County Ordinance provides for the capability to issue stop work orders (Section 27-414, BCC). To be as stringent as the County Ordinance this should be added to the Village Ordinance.
  - The Village of Sea Ranch Lakes Resolution 25-03 that was provided with the Municipal Certification Request indicates that the Village has the capability to enforce its tree preservation ordinance. Please indicate what staff will be enforcing the ordinance and any arboricultural training they may have.

The bullet items contain either questions regarding the Village Ordinance or are related to ordinance changes that would make the Village Ordinance as stringent as the County Ordinance. Please provide a response to the questions as well as draft language for review to address the other bullet items. If you have any questions or would like to have staff meet virtually or in person regarding the content of this letter, please let me know. I can be reached at [pburke@broward.org](mailto:pburke@broward.org) or at 954-519-1224.

Sincerely,

Peter Burke  
Tree Preservation Program Manager