



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Environmental Resources Management
Resources Protection ~ Native Vegetation
(561) 233-2400

Projects Requiring a Permit from PBC ERM to Remove Native Vegetation

The following types of projects that will cause alteration or removal of native vegetation must obtain an approval from ERM to do so prior to vegetation clearing activities:

- Development of a school
- New construction of a utility
- Road Right of Way
- Agriculture on parcels greater than 10 acres
- Projects required to go through the [DRO Process](#) (commercial, industrial, planned unit developments, multi unit planned developments)

The ultimate goal is to limit the amount of native vegetation removed, implement preserve set-asides if applicable, facilitate the maintenance of tree canopy in Palm Beach County, and ensure the removal of prohibited invasive non-native vegetation.

When native vegetation must be removed to according to an approved site development plan, the following actions shall apply:

1. Relocate on site.
2. Donate offsite.
3. Mitigate. (replace)

Mitigation shall be native species ranked Florida Number One or better according to industry standards and shall be planted as follows:

1. Onsite incorporated in the landscape plan.
2. Offsite on public lands in Palm Beach County (parks, schools, libraries, etc) **◇**
3. Through voluntary contribution to the Palm Beach County Natural Areas Fund. **†**

◇ Requires acceptance and a clear understanding of vegetation maintenance responsibilities for both parties until the mitigated vegetation is self sustaining.

† Utilized for purchasing, enhancement, and maintenance of large tracts of natural areas throughout Palm Beach County. The cost per mitigation tree is determined annually by an average cost for purchase, installation and maintenance of the tree for one year. Prices are adjusted annually to reflect market conditions.

Since 2008, all newly constructed single family residential parcels will receive standard conditions for protecting native vegetation as part of the building permit process from Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building (PZB). For more information, click [here](#).