

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### NATURAL DISASTER TREE AND PLANT MATERIAL REPLACEMENT

**1. Do I have to replace trees that were damaged or killed as a result of a natural disaster?**

- Yes, all required trees must be replaced in accordance with the Palm Beach County Landscape Code and any approved Zoning Development Order if applicable.

**2. Who should I contact initially to discuss the replacement of damaged trees?**

- You should contact your Homeowners Association (HOA) or Property Manager to discuss their overall approach in dealing with your community. This will assist County staff by ensuring consistent information is relayed to all property owners. In addition, you can email us at Zoning Hurricane Questions <[pzbstorm@pbcgov.org](mailto:pzbstorm@pbcgov.org)>

**3. Can I attempt to save my trees by reducing the size of the canopy in order to stand them up?**

- Yes, up to 50% of the canopy can be pruned or removed. Pruning shall comply with the guidelines indicated in the Palm Beach County Landscape Code to ensure the viability of the trees. For information regarding pruning click on the following link for [Palm Beach County Pruning Guidelines](#). It is recommended that you contact a certified arborist for assistance.

#### **4. What size should the replacement trees be?**

- All replacement trees must be a minimum of 10 feet in height. All Palm species must have a minimum of 8 feet of clear trunk.

#### **5. What is the minimum number of trees required for my property?**

- The number of required trees depends on whether it has a residential or non-residential zoning designation. In general, for single-family residential properties, 1 tree for every 1,250 square feet of area not covered by your house is required.

#### **6. What type of tree needs to be replaced?**

- All native canopy trees (oaks, slash pines, geiger, etc.) and palms (sable, royal, etc.) must be replaced.

#### **7. What type of tree can be utilized as a replacement?**

- The Palm Beach County [Preferred Plant Interactive Guide](#) List provides options and information regarding specific tree types. This information will assist you with your selection. In addition, Florida Power and Light's publication [Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place](#) will provide information regarding the planting of trees and their proximity to their above ground lines.

#### **8. Do I need a permit to remove or relocate a downed tree?**

- No, however trees that are removed must be replaced, and damaged trees must be properly pruned in accordance with [Palm Beach County Pruning Guidelines](#).