

# City of Safety Harbor: GRAND TREE QUALIFYING FORM

Date:	
Permit Number:	
Site Address:	

In order for a tree to be evaluated for grand tree status it must first meet a minimum 26" DBH, a condition rating of at least 3.5, and be of the following species type: live oak, sand live oak, southern magnolia, sweetbay magnolia, bald cypress, pignut hickory, southern red cedar, American elm, longleaf pine or slash pine. Upon evaluation by a Certified Arborist a tree will qualify for grand tree status when it meets the minimum total points per species based on Table 1.0 below, established per Section 153.13 in the City of Safety Harbor Comprehensive Zoning and Land Development Code.

**Table 1.0**  
(Per Section 153.13 of Land Development Code)

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>MINIMUM TOTAL POINTS TO QUALIFY FOR GRAND TREE STATUS</b>
Live Oak ( <i>Quercus virginiana</i> )	145
Sand Live Oak ( <i>Quercus geminata</i> )	145
Southern Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> )	120
Sweetbay Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> )	120
Bald Cypress ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> )	115
Pignut Hickory ( <i>Carya glabra</i> )	130
Southern Red Cedar ( <i>Juniperus silicicola</i> )	115
American Elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )	130
Longleaf Pine ( <i>Pinus palustris</i> )	115
Slash Pine ( <i>Pinus elliottii</i> ) (including variety 'densa')	115

<b>Tree Number on Site Plan (if applicable):</b>		
<b>Tree Species:</b> Common/Botanical name		
<b>Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):</b> (Minimum 26" DBH for Grand Tree Evaluation) (Circumference $\div$ 3.14 = Diameter)		
<b>Crown Height:</b> Use a clinometer or altimeter to measure highest point of the crown		
<b>Average Crown Spread:</b> (Widest Crown Spread: ) + (Narrowest Crown Spread: ) $\div$ 2		
<b>Condition Rating:</b> (From Appendix 'A': Tree Condition Rating Guidelines)		
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b> (DBH + Crown Height + Avg. Crown Spread + Condition Rating)		
<b>DOES THE TREE QUALIFY FOR GRAND TREE STATUS?</b>	Yes	No

## GRAND TREE DETERMINATION

**Additional Comments:**

**Date:**

**Approved Arborist Signature:**

**ISA or ASCA Certification #:**

## APPENDIX 'A' - TREE CONDITION RATING GUIDELINES

### CONDITION RATING- 0.0 IS A DEAD TREE

#### CONDITION RATING - 1.0

- A severely declining tree with more than 30% dieback in the crown.
- A tree with low live crown ratio and crown density.
- A tree with one or more of the large leaders that is dead.
- A tree that has lost more than 30% of its root system.
- A tree designated by the State of Florida's Exotic Pest Plant Council as a category #1 ecological pest i.e., Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)
- A tree with cavities or wounds on the trunk, scaffold branches or structural roots that comprise greater than 30% of the circumference of the trunk, branch, or root.
- A tree harboring a communicable disease (Ex., *Sphaeropsis* gall), or insect (Ex., *Ips* pine bark beetle) that can spread and cause the decline or death of other trees.
- A tree with cracks or splits in the trunk or major scaffold branches.
- A tree with a split in the crotch of a co dominant trunk.
- A tree with a rating of 1.0 should be removed as it is beyond treatment and may have health or structural issues that could predispose it to failure resulting in personal injury or property damage.

#### CONDITION RATING - 2.0

- A tree with more than 10% crown dieback.
- A tree with below average live crown ratio and crown density.
- A tree with chlorotic foliage or other nutritional deficiencies.
- A tree with serious damage from disease or insect attack.
- A tree with poor form such as a severely restricted crown.
- A tree with large deadwood.
- A shade tree species with multiple trunks with codominant basal attachments.
- A tree with a trunk that splits forming a codominant trunk within 12' of the existing grade and where the crotch has included bark.
- A tree with cavities (less than 4" in diameter) in the trunk or scaffold branches.
- A tree with leaves that are smaller than the typical leaf size for the species.
- A tree with an asymmetrical trunk.
- A tree with large diameter (over 4" diameter) flush cuts.
- A tree that has been previously topped as indicated by epicormic growth.
- A tree with large trunk cankers.
- A completely one-sided tree.
- A tree without a visible root flare.
- A tree with a root barrier preventing support roots from growing in one direction.
- A tree having only one of the above problems may be able to be salvaged through treatment. However, if the tree is experiencing more than one of the problems noted above it is likely a candidate for removal. The rater will have to determine the cumulative effects of multiple stresses. A tree with an overall condition rating of 2.0 should typically be removed. A tree with a rating of 2.5 indicates a tree with conditions that are less severe than a tree with a 2.0 rating. A tree with an overall condition rating of 2.5 may be able to be improved through arboricultural procedures such as structural pruning, fertilization, aeration, removing impervious surfaces, cabling and bracing, etc. In such cases the condition rating will not be upgraded until the procedures are performed in accordance with specification based on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 standards and the Best Management Practices publications.

#### CONDITION RATING - 3.0

- A tree with average live crown ratio and crown density.
- A tree with normal leaf size and color.
- A tree with a visible root flare.
- A tree with average structure (codominant scaffold branches w/o included bark).
- A tree with a balanced crown.

- A tree with no debilitating disease or insect problems or progressive decay.
- A tree with a 3.0 rating is a tree with average health, structure and form and typically warrants preservation as the problems are minimal and correctible. However, an overall condition rating of 3.0 does not qualify a tree for grand tree status.

#### **CONDITION RATING - 3.5**

- A tree with an above average live crown ratio and crown density.
- A tree with above average leaf size and color.
- A tree with a visible root flare.
- A tree with an above average structure (codominant scaffold branches w/o included bark) and above average branch spacing.
- A tree with a balanced crown.
- A tree with access to adequate rooting area.
- A tree with no debilitating disease, insect problems, or progressive decay.
- A tree with a 3.5 rating is a tree with above average health, structure, and form and warrants preservation as the problems are very minimal and non-structural. These trees are worthy of site plan modifications to preserve. **NOTE:** A rating of 3.5 qualifies a tree for grand tree status if the tree meets the species type, trunk diameter, and total point requirements for a grand tree.

#### **CONDITION RATING - 4.0**

- A tree with very good health as evidenced by moderately high live crown ratio, crown density and good shoot growth with normal leaf size and color.
- A tree with an attractive form (symmetrical branching that grows in all directions).
- A tree with good structure evidenced by strong branch attachments without codominant scaffold branches and included bark and no serious cavities or wounds present on the root flare, trunk, or scaffold branches.
- A tree without physical root barriers within 20' of the trunk.
- A tree with a 4.0 rating is a healthy attractive tree with good structure and is worthy of site plan modifications to preserve. Mature trees exhibiting scars, old wounds, small cavities, or other problems that are not debilitating can be included in this group. **NOTE:** A rating of 4.0 qualifies a tree for grand tree status if the tree meets the species type, trunk diameter, and total point requirements for a grand tree.

#### **CONDITION RATING - 5.0**

- A tree with exceptional health evidenced by very high live crown ratio and crown density throughout the crown.
- A tree with a dominant central leader trunk with well-spaced scaffold branches with strong attachments.
- A tree with good uniform growth at the shoot tips.
- A tree with exceptional form exceeding the form typical of trees of the species.
- A tree with an unimpeded root system adequate to support the large crown.
- A tree with a 5.0 rating combines health, structure, and form, and warrants major site plan modification for preservation as it lends considerable value to the site and the surrounding community.

#### **CONDITION RATING - 6.0**

- A tree with outstanding health and structure and a truly unique appearance that distinguishes it from other trees of its species. A tree with a 6.0 rating is considered a specimen tree as it is rare for a tree to possess a combination of superior qualities. A specimen tree is typically mature as size is one of the factors that make it a unique tree. Every effort should be made to preserve a specimen tree as it is a show piece in the city.
- A specimen tree should have an undisturbed rooting area equal to the greater area of its dripline or an area equal to one foot radius for each inch of trunk DBH. Tree maintenance performed on a specimen tree should only be conducted by an experienced and competent International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A.) Certified Arborist or a registered Consulting Arborist with the ASCA.