



# GRAND OAK REGULATIONS



**GRAND OAK ORDINANCE STANDARDS**

1. The developer shall preserve all trees identified as a grand oak unless authorized for removal by the Administrator. This provision shall not apply for a grand oak located in road site distances, recovery and maintenance areas as shown in the Transportation Technical Manual unless the County Engineer, otherwise, renders a determination that a grand oak may be preserved in these areas.
2. The developer shall be required to replace 50 percent of the total DBH of any tree having a DBH of 24 inches or greater or any clump of trees, as defined in this Code, that is to be removed from the site. Irreparably unhealthy or damaged trees, as determined by the Administrator, shall not require replacement. If the tree removed is a species which either has undesirable growth habits or is susceptible to freeze damage, as determined by the Administrator, replacement shall not be required. A grand oak, however, shall be replaced as indicated below if authorized for removal by the Administrator.

<u>Grand oak trunk measurement</u>	<u>Replacement Ratio (in DBH)</u>
34" ---- < 48" DBH	1:1
48" ---- < 60" DBH	1.5:1
60" DBH and greater	2:1

This replacement requirement, however, shall not apply when the Administrator has determined that Section 4.01.14.A.4.b of this Code is applicable. Replacement of a grand oak for these situations shall not exceed 20% of the DBH trunk diameter unless a lesser amount is appropriate as determined by the Administrator.

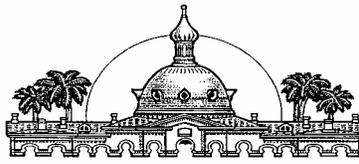
3. Pruning of a grand oak, with the exception of minor pruning, is prohibited unless conducted in accordance with the ANSI A 300 Pruning Standards as performed by an Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). A notarized affidavit affirming an ISA Certified Arborist or an ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist will conduct or onsite supervise the pruning shall be submitted to the County prior to the pruning of a grand oak. An ISA Certified Arborist or an ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist contracted by a property owner to prune a grand oak shall assume full responsibility for all pruning activities determined in noncompliance with standards specified within the Land Development Code.

**DEFINITIONS**

Grand Oak: A Grand Oak is a tree of the genus Quercus with a trunk measuring 34" DBH and greater, a condition rating of good or better in accordance to the Tree Condition Evaluation Form referenced as Exhibit 4.1.6.1.a of the Development Review Manual, and whose trunk circumference, height and crown measurements are of the size and character to total a minimum 175 points in accordance to the Tree Point System methodology defined by this Code.

Tree Point System: The tree point system classifies the significance of a tree species through three measurements of a tree's anatomy and asserts a point value for each measurement. One (1) point per inch is allotted for the tree trunk circumference to the nearest inch measured at 4.5 feet above grade, one (1) point per foot is allotted for the tree's overall height to the nearest foot measured vertically from a point level with the base of the highest twig and one (1) point per four (4) feet is allotted for the crown spread to the nearest foot averaging a measurement of the longest and shortest diameters of the tree canopy.

Minor Pruning: The pruning of a tree by removing branches measured no greater than 3 inches in diameter at the point of connection to a supporting branch and in accordance to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A 300 Pruning Standards.



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**GRAND OAK POINT SYSTEM AND CONDITION EVALUATION FORM**

**POINT SYSTEM**

**Grand Oak:** A Grand Oak is a tree of a genus *Quercus* with a trunk measuring 34" DBH (tree trunk diameter measurement at 4.5 feet above grade) and greater with a tree condition rating of good or better and with trunk circumference, height and crown measurements totaling a minimum of 175 points in accordance to the Tree Point System methodology.

**Tree Point System:** The Tree Point System classifies the significance of a tree through three measurements of the tree's anatomy and asserts a point value for each measurement. One (1) point per inch is allotted for the tree trunk circumference to the nearest inch measured at 4.5 feet above grade, one (1) point per foot is allotted for the tree's overall height and one (1) point per four (4) feet is allotted for the crown spread to the nearest foot averaging a measurement of the longest and shortest dimension of the tree's canopy.

**Circumference:** Using a standard measure, tape measure the distance around the tree trunk and this will provide the circumference. If the tree has co-dominant trunks, measure each trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground surface and add them together unless the piths of each trunk merge at a point above the root collar. In this circumstance, measure the narrowest point of the supporting trunk below the point of pith mergence to obtain the tree trunk circumference. This inch measurement is the total circumference point score for the tree. If it is equal to or over 175 inches, the Tree Point Score for the definition of a Grand Oak is met and no other measurements are required. (Measuring the tree trunk diameter will require multiplying this measurement by 3.14 to obtain the tree trunk circumference).

	Feet	Inches	Circumference Points
Circumference	_____	_____	_____
(14'7" will equal 175 points)			

**Height:** Equipment that could be used is a 100' plus reel tape, ground spike and a clinometer. First place the ground spike at the base of the tree and attach the tape. Measure 100' away from the tree. Using a clinometer view the top of the tree. Read the right side scale on the rotating wheel. This is your measurement in feet. If you are on level ground, no other measurement is needed. If the ground is not level, view the base of the trunk after determining the height. Notice if the scale reads positive or negative. If the number is negative, add that to your height measurement. If it's positive subtract it from your height score. Where obstacles obstruct measurements or for very tall trees measure out from the tree 50 or 200 feet.

Measurement taken at		Adjustment	Height Points
100'	Top in feet _____		
	Base in feet _____		_____
50' (divide measurement by 2)	Top in feet _____	_____	
	Base in feet _____	_____	_____
200' (multiply measurement by 2)	Top in feet _____	_____	
	Base in feet _____	_____	_____

**Crown Spread:** Observe the tree's canopy and locate its widest and narrowest points. Measure, in feet, both from dripline to dripline. Average the two figures and divide by 4 to get the spread score.

Widest	Narrowest	Average	Spread Points
_____	_____	_____	_____

Grand Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

## TREE CONDITION EVALUATION FORM

A tree's condition is determined from the sum of the condition points established from the rating of a tree's roots, trunk, limb/branch structure, twigs and foliage. The condition ratings range from excellent to poor and are determined by a condition point system that weights problems identified on each component of the tree. The condition point system is structured as follows: **no apparent problems (4 points), minor problems (3 points), major problems (2 points) and extreme problems (1 point).**

### ROOTS

- Root anchorage
- Restricted root system relative to canopy
- Mechanical injury
- Girdling roots
- Compaction or water-logged roots
- Presence of insects or diseases

Condition points \_\_\_\_\_

### TRUNK

- Sound bark and wood, no cavities
- Upright trunk (well tapered)
- Included bark between co-dominant stems
- Mechanical or fire injury
- Cracks
- Swollen or sunken area
- Presence of insects and diseases

Condition points \_\_\_\_\_

### LIMB AND BRANCH STRUCTURE

- Strong attachments, no included bark
- Free of decay and cavities
- Well proportioned, good form
- Wound closure
- Dead limbs/epicormic sprouting
- Presence of decay, insects and diseases

Condition points \_\_\_\_\_

### TWIGS

- Shoot vigor compared to past 3-year growth
- Presence of weak or dead twigs
- Presence of insects and diseases

Condition points \_\_\_\_\_

### FOLIAGE

- Normal appearance (size, color, density)
- Nutrient deficiencies
- Herbicidal, chemical injury symptoms
- Wilted or dead leaves
- Presence of insect or disease

Condition points \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Condition Points** \_\_\_\_\_

**TREE CONDITION RANKING** The ranking does not incorporate a wood density evaluation of the root collar and includes an evaluation of the tree's canopy from the ground surface only.

Total Points  
18-20  
15-17  
12-14  
11 or less

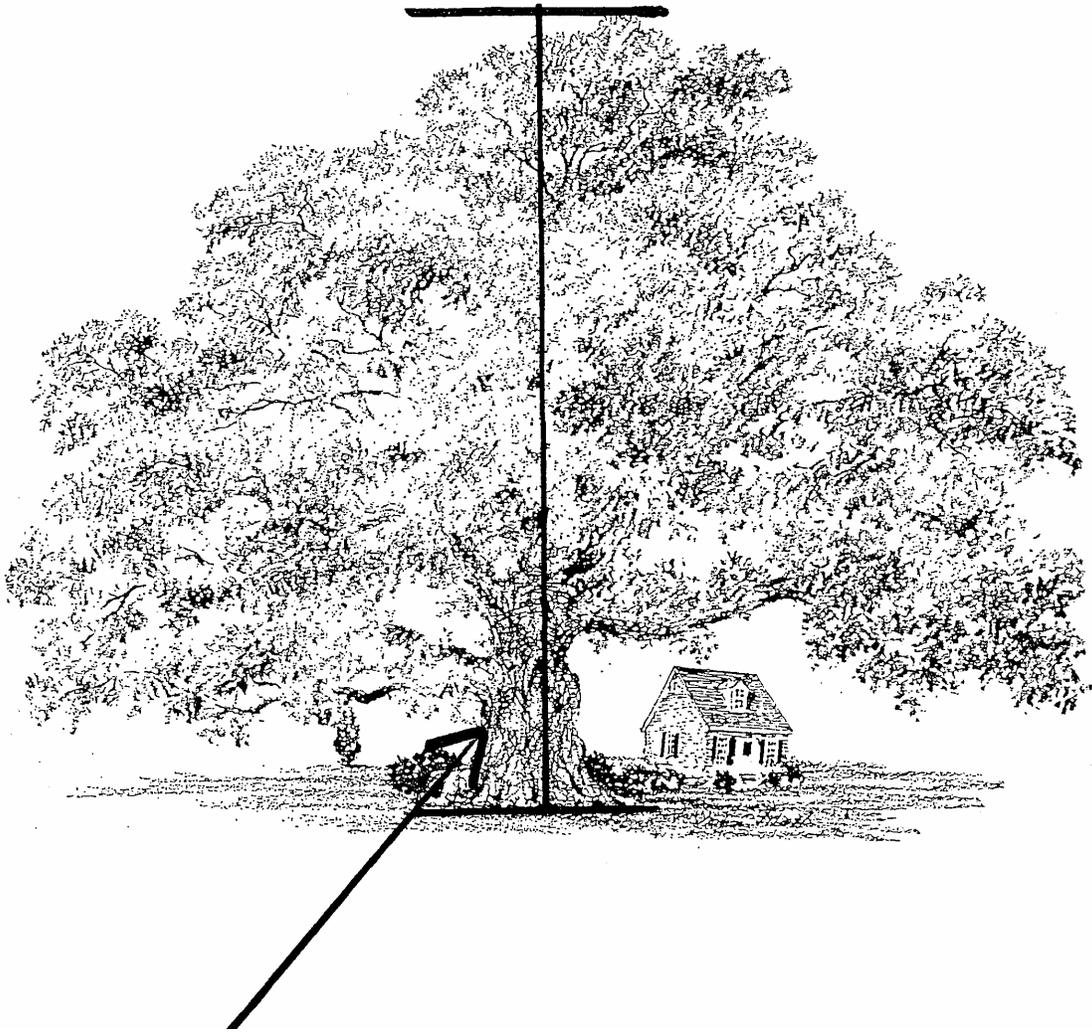
Condition  
Excellent  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

Evaluated by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

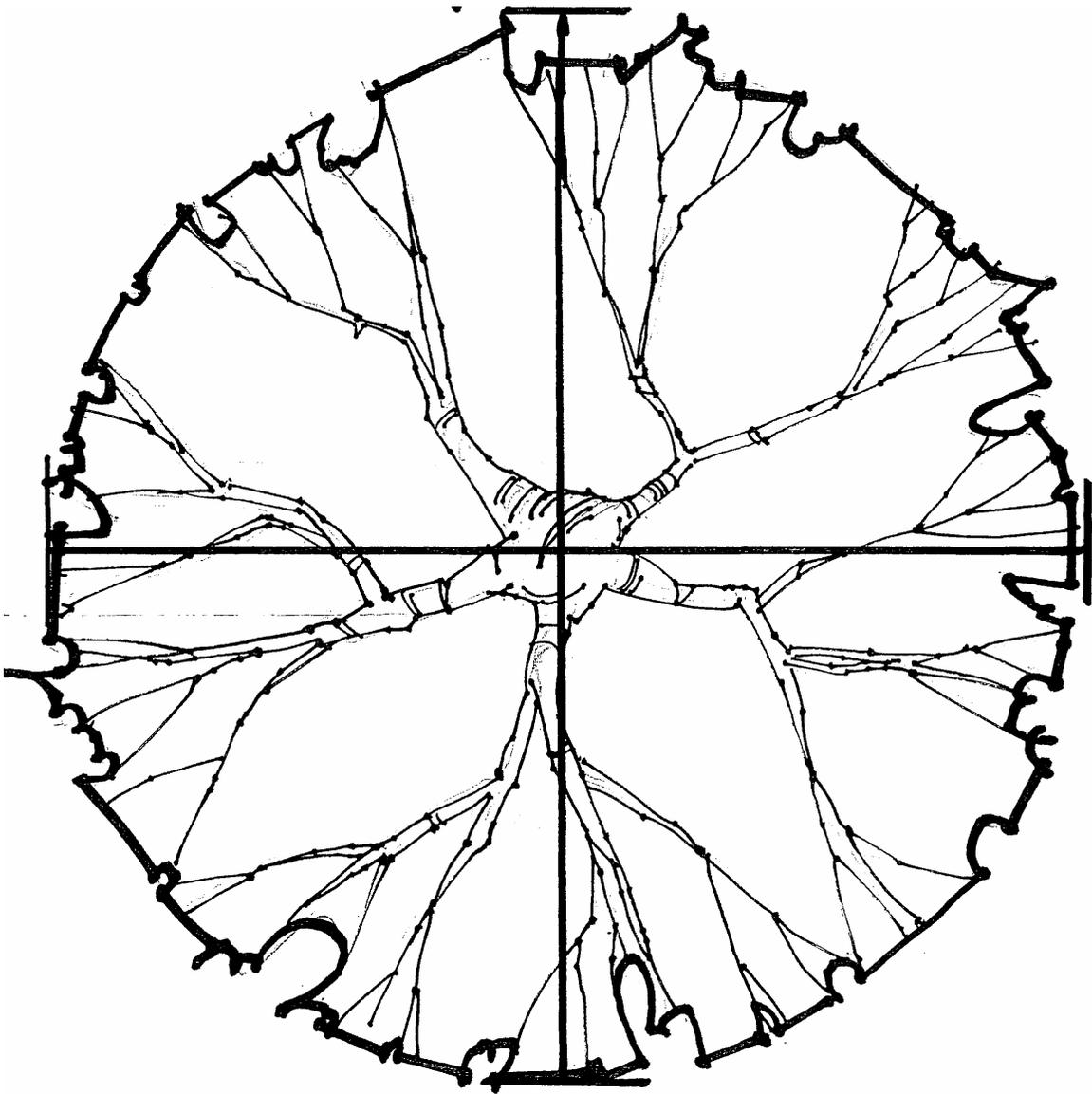
Tree Species: \_\_\_\_\_

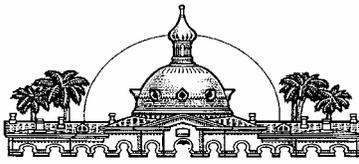
# Vertical Height



Trunk Circumference  
at 4.5' above ground

# Canopy X-Section





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**GRAND OAK PRUNING AFFIDAVIT**  
**Hillsborough County**  
**Land Development Code, Natural Resources Regulations**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am Certified as an Arborist by the International Society or Arboriculture or am a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists. I understand the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) A300 Pruning Standards is a standard of Division 4.0, Hillsborough County Land Development Code and this standard is required when pruning a tree defined by the Land Development Code as a Grand Oak.

I understand my responsibility to ensure the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards are administered when pruning or overseeing the pruning activity and that I assume full responsibility for all pruning determined in noncompliance with these Standards.

I also realize my responsibility to submit this notarized Affidavit to the Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management Department's Natural Resource Team (P.O. Box 1110, Tampa 33601) prior to commencing pruning on a Grand Oak.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address for Pruning Activity

\_\_\_\_\_  
# of Grand Oaks

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arborist Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
ISA Certified Arborist or ASCA  
Consulting Arborist #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arborist Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arborist Signature

Notary Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Notary Stamp: