



ST. LUCIE COUNTY NOTICE OF VEGETATION REMOVAL APPLICATION

1. Please complete the requested information and submit to the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department or Building & Zoning Department. For additional information, please contact the Environmental Resources Department at (772) 462-2526. **Filing this application does not result in an authorization to commence any vegetation removal or alteration. A Site Plan/Construction Plan must be provided (in addition to the site plan provided to the Building Department)** the plans must accurately depict the location of all proposed buildings, structures, driveways, septic tanks, and other improvements.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted in accordance with section 11.05.06 (c) of the St. Lucie County Land Development Code. Within twenty (20) days after an application has been determined to be complete, the Environmental Resources Department shall review the application and approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application, based on the standards set forth in Section 6.00.05 of this Code. Applications requiring a concurrent building permit will be processed within the same twenty (20) day timeframe, however will not be released until the building permit is also approved.

Per Section 11.05.06 b. 6. of the St. Lucie County Land Development Code, the filing of an application shall be deemed to extend permission to the Environmental Resources Director, or designee, to inspect the subject site for purposes of evaluating the application. Please list any specific information such as a gate code or the necessity of 24 hour notice due to cattle grazing, controlled burns, outside pets, etc.

In the event that it is determined that any federal or state protected species is resident on or dependent upon the subject parcel, all development work which might adversely affect that individual species shall cease and stop work. The applicant shall immediately notify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the County. Appropriate protection to the satisfaction of all parties shall be provided by the applicant prior to resuming development.

PROJECT INFORMATION

OWNERS NAME: _____

OWNERS ADDRESS _____

PROJECT LOCATION/ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

CONTACT PHONE(S) #: _____

PARCEL SIZE: _____ **PROPERTY TAX ID #:** _____

GATE CODE (IF APPLICABLE): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER FOR PERMIT PICK UP: _____

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

St. Lucie County Code and Compiled Laws requires that this type of work be done by a licensed contractor. If applying for this permit under the owner/builder exemption, see Disclosure Statement on page 4.

LAND CLEARING CONTRACTOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE NUMBER:** _____

FLORIDA REG/CERT # _____ **ST LUCIE CO. CERT. #** _____

BUILDING CONTRACTOR _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE NUMBER:** _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED VEGETATION REMOVAL, INCLUDE LOCATION, TYPE, AND QUANTITY OF VEGETATION TO BE REMOVED. PROVIDE A SKETCH OR SITE PLAN IF APPLICABLE DEPICTING WHERE PROPOSED REMOVAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENT WILL OCCUR.

COMPLETE EITHER PART I OR II BELOW:

PART I - EXEMPTION

Any person who intends to remove or cause the death of any vegetation pursuant to any of the following exemptions must first fill out Part I of this form. The burden of proving entitlement to any particular exemption shall lie, at all times, with the person or persons claiming the exemption.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- _____ 1. The minimal removal of vegetation necessary for the clearing of a path not to exceed 4' in width, to provide physical access or view necessary to conduct a survey or site examination OR 10' in width to provide vehicular access necessary to conduct soil tests, for the preparation of bona fide site development plans or vegetation inventories; provided such clearing or removal is conducted under the direction of a Florida registered surveyor or engineer. **Fee: \$55**
- _____ 2. The removal of vegetation in a utility easement, drainage easement, storm water management tract or facility, or right-of-way provided such work is done by or under the control of the operating utility company and that company has obtained all necessary licenses or permits to provide utility service through the easement. **Fee: \$55**
- _____ 3. The removal of vegetation which has been determined to be a safety hazard, destroyed or damaged beyond saving by natural causes or causes not covered by other sections of this chapter, is infected with disease or is infested with insects, or which constitutes immediate peril to life property or other trees. **Fee: \$55**
- _____ 4. The removal of native vegetation, upon any detached single family residential lot or parcel of land having an area of one (1) acre or less. This exemption is, however, subject to the following conditions: **Fee: \$55**
 - A) Nothing in this exemption shall exempt any person from the landscaping requirements set forth in Section 7.09.00 of the St. Lucie County Land Development Code;
 - B) This exemption shall not be construed to allow the removal or alteration of any protected vegetation without a Vegetation Removal Permit on any lot or parcel of land *by its subdivider* unless the subdivider intends to construct a residential unit or units upon the lot or parcel of land prior to its sale.
 - C) No native vegetation twenty-four inches (24"), or greater, dbh shall be removed from any residential parcel (including those in the AG-5, AG-2.5, AG-1, AR-1, RE-1, and R/C zoning districts), regardless of parcel size, without an approved Vegetation Removal Permit and an approved mitigation plan.
- _____ 5. The removal of any non-native vegetation. **Fee: \$55 which will be waived for removal of invasive exotics only for single family homeowner or property owner's association removing exotics.**
- _____ 6. No vegetation to be removed. **Fee: \$55**
- _____ 7. The following activities do not require the application of a Notice of Vegetation Removal, however may require Building Permit approval or other such authorization: **Fee: None**
 - A) Preserve and Parks Management Activities. Vegetation removal activities associated with an adopted management plan for government maintained parks, recreation areas, wildlife management areas, conservation areas and preserves. The purpose of the vegetation removal activity shall be to protect and preserve the natural values and functions of the ecological communities present, such as, clearing for firebreaks, conducting prescribed burns, or construction of fences.
 - B) Existing Agricultural Operations. Vegetation removal associated with subsequent harvesting activities, except within required preserve areas or deeded conservation easements, which are part of the on-going activities of the existing operation shall not require a permit. Initial clearing of a site is not an exempt activity. Bona fide agricultural activities include commercial nursery, tree farm, aquaculture, ranch, or similar operation.
 - C) Routine Landscape Maintenance. Trimming or pruning of vegetation which is not intended to result in the eventual death of the vegetation, mowing of yards or lawns, or any other landscaping or gardening activity which is commonly recognized as routine maintenance, replacement or re-landscaping.

PART II - VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT

Fee Schedule:	\$100 per Single Family Home Lot/Building
	\$100 per Multifamily Home Lot/Building
	\$200 per Non-Residential Building

Please complete ALL of the requested information. A Vegetation Removal Permit shall only be issued if sufficient evidence demonstrating that at least one of the following criteria has been satisfied:

- ___1. The applicant for vegetation removal permit shall demonstrate why preservation of the existing native vegetation is not practically feasible and prevents the reasonable development of the site.
- ___2. The removal of the native vegetation is the *minimum* necessary in order to implement a Final Development Order (i.e.; approved site plan or approved building permit).
- ___3. A Final Development Order has not been issued, or is not required by this Code for the intended non-agricultural use of the land and vegetation removal is the minimum necessary to allow for the construction of the intended use or improvement.

ADDITIONAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMITS:

2. **Site Plan/Construction Plan** (in addition to the site plan provided to the Building Department)

The plans must accurately depict the location of all proposed buildings, structures, driveways, septic tanks, and other improvements.

3. **Tree Survey**

The survey must accurately depict the individual locations, species name and common name, and sizes of all County-protected trees to be removed and, if applicable, the individual locations, species name and common name, and sizes to be preserved or relocated.

4. **Vegetation Removal Plan**

The vegetation removal plan must illustrate the existing vegetative conditions on the project site, including an identification of what areas will be impacted by the proposed development activity and what areas are proposed for preservation or replanting.

5. **Mitigation**

All native vegetation shall be protected on site to the greatest extent possible. If impact is unavoidable, mitigation shall be provided through one of the mitigation methodologies outlined in Land Development Code Section 6.00.05.D.

Provide mitigation calculations per Land Development Code Section 6.00.05.D and include a mitigation plan outlining proposed mitigation method on the tree survey and/or site plan.

If sufficient mitigation cannot be accommodated on-site and additional inches of credit are required based on calculation, an off-site mitigation plan shall be attached for review and approval of ERD Director (Land Development Code Section 6.00.05.D).

Prior to the issuance of any authorization for commencement of permitted development activity, the replacement vegetation shall be preserved, relocated or planted, or the appropriate mitigation fees shall be paid to the County. As part of the issuance of any permit requiring mitigation, the property owner shall submit to an inspection of the planted/relocated/preserved materials 18 months after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or other use authorization.

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS NOTARIZED:

I CERTIFY THAT: (CHECK ONE)

A. () I AM THE OWNER OF RECORD OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND WILL BE CONDUCTING THE WORK AS OWNER/BUILDER.

Disclosure Statement: State law requires construction to be done by licensed contractors. You have applied for a permit under an exemption to that law. The exemption allows you, as the owner of your property, to act as your own contractor with certain restrictions even though you do not have a license. You must provide direct, onsite supervision of the construction yourself. You may build or improve a one-family or two-family residence or a farm outbuilding. You may also build or improve a commercial building, provided your costs do not exceed \$75,000. The building or residence must be for your own use or occupancy. It may not be built or substantially improved for sale or lease. If you sell or lease a building you have built or substantially improved yourself within 1 year after the construction is complete, the law will presume that you built or substantially improved it for sale or lease, which is a violation of this exemption. You may not hire an unlicensed person to act as your contractor or to supervise people working on your building. It is your responsibility to make sure that people employed by you have licenses required by state law and by county or municipal licensing ordinances. You may not delegate the responsibility for supervising work to a licensed contractor who is not licensed to perform the work being done. Any person working on your building who is not licensed must work under your direct supervision and must be employed by you, which means that you must deduct F.I.C.A. and withholding tax and provide workers' compensation for that employee, all as prescribed by law. Your construction must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, building codes, and zoning regulations.

B. () I AM NOT THE OWNER OF RECORD OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY; HOWEVER, I HAVE AUTHORITY TO ACT AS AGENT FOR THE OWNER OF RECORD. (St. Lucie County Code and Compiled Laws requires that this type of work be done by a licensed contractor. **PLEASE PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION**).

I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

OWNER/ AGENT SIGNATURE

CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF ST. LUCIE
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged
before me this ____ day of _____, 20__,
by _____, who is
personally know to me or has produced
_____ as identification.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF ST. LUCIE
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged
before me this ____ day of _____, 20__,
by _____, who is
personally know to me or has produced
_____ as identification.

Signature of Notary

Signature of Notary

Type or Print Name of Notary

Type or Print Name of Notary

Notary Public _____ Title _____
_____ Commission Number

Notary Public _____ Title _____
_____ Commission Number

(SEAL):

(SEAL):

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED ____ DENIED ____

REVIEWED/ APPROVED BY:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT / DATE