

ORDINANCE 2025-17 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 23 "LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS", ARTICLE 6 "ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS," SECTION 23.6-1 – LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS, PARAGRAPH (p), RELATED TO PENALTIES FOR TREE ABUSE AND REMOVAL WITHOUT A PERMIT; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 2(b), Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, and Section 166.021(1), Florida Statutes, the City of Lake Worth Beach (the "City"), enjoys all governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers necessary to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes, except as expressly prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 166.021(3), Florida Statutes, the governing body of each municipality in the state has the power to enact legislation concerning any subject matter upon which the state legislature may act, except when expressly prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend Chapter 23, Article 6 "Environmental Regulations," Section 23.6-1 – "Landscape regulations," paragraph (p) to clarify the penalties for tree abuse and removal without a permit; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Board, sitting as the duly constituted Local Planning Agency for the City, recommended approval of the proposed amendments to the Land Development Regulations; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2025, the Historic Resources Preservation Board, sitting as the duly constituted Local Planning Agency for the City, recommended approval of the proposed amendments to the Land Development Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has reviewed the proposed amendments and has determined that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City to adopt this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1: The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are made a specific part of this ordinance as if set forth herein.

Section 2: Chapter 23 "Land Development Regulations, Article 6 "Environmental Regulations," Section 23.6-1 "Landscape Regulations," paragraph (p) is hereby amended by adding the words shown in underline type and deleting the words struck through as follows:

(p) *Penalties for tree abuse and removal without a permit.*

- (1) Any person who violates this section shall pay to the city within days the base rate penalty, calculated pursuant to this section. ~~Penalties are levied in addition to replacement, inch for inch, with trees on site to meet the minimum requirements if the city horticulturist deems the tree unsalvageable. Penalties shall be paid into the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund. If the replacement tree cannot be located on site, the full cost of replacing the tree (specified in subsection p m(7)(c)) shall also be paid into the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund.~~

<i>Residential—Tree DBH</i>	<i>Fine or fee per inch</i>
3" - < 6"	\$60.00
6" - < 9"	\$80.00
9" - < 12"	\$100.00
12" - < 18"	\$200.00
18" or greater	\$400.00
<i>Non-Residential—Tree DBH</i>	<i>Fine or fee per inch</i>
3" - < 6"	\$120.00
6" - < 9"	\$160.00
9" - < 12"	\$200.00
12" - < 18"	\$400.00
18" or greater	\$800.00

- (2) If a historic, specimen or champion tree is removed the ~~fine~~ penalty shall be two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per DBH inch.

- (3) Payment of penalties shall be made to the city within ten (10) days after receipt of written notice by the city of the violation or as provided by order of the city's code compliance magistrate. Notice shall be provided in accordance with Section 2-70 of the city's code of ordinances.

- (34) If the city horticulturist deems the tree salvageable, the city horticulturist shall recommend an arborist be contracted for three (3) to five (5) years by the property owner for corrective pruning for violations under subsection m). A signed contract with an arborist for corrective pruning and restoration over a period of three (3) to five (5) years must be submitted for approval to the city horticulturist within thirty (30) days of written notice from the city of the city horticulturalist's determination that the tree is salvageable ~~or a fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day fine will be imposed.~~

(4) If the city horticulturalist deems the tree unsalvageable, penalties are levied in addition to replacement, inch for inch, with trees on site to meet the minimum requirements. If the replacement tree cannot be located on site, the full cost of replacing the tree (specified in subsection m(7)(c)) shall be paid into the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund, along with the penalties.

(4-5) To enforce compliance with this chapter, Lake Worth Beach city officials may issue a cease and desist order or require that a building permit or certificate of occupancy be withheld.

Section 3: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 4: Repeal of Laws in Conflict. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5: Codification. The sections of the ordinance may be made a part of the City Code of Laws and ordinances and may be re-numbered or re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "division", or any other appropriate word.

Section 6: Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 10 days after passage.

The passage of this ordinance on first reading was moved by _____, seconded by _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Betty Resch
Vice Mayor Sarah Malega
Commissioner Christopher McVoy
Commissioner Mimi May
Commissioner Anthony Segrich

The Mayor thereupon declared this ordinance duly passed on first reading on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

The passage of this ordinance on second reading was moved by _____, seconded by _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Betty Resch
Vice Mayor Sarah Malega
Commissioner Christopher McVoy
Commissioner Mimi May
Commissioner Anthony Segrich

The Mayor thereupon declared this ordinance duly passed on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

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By: _____
Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk