

An increased tree canopy has been a key goal in the City of Fort Lauderdale for more than a quarter century for environmental reasons and the natural beauty that results. In fact, Fort Lauderdale has been awarded the Tree City USA award 39 years in a row for its continued dedication and commitment to increasing our tree canopy.



TREE CITY USA®

As the number of trees continues to grow in Fort Lauderdale, it becomes even more vital that we take responsibility for our own trees and ensure that branches do not touch utility lines. Tree care is the obligation of every homeowner and this important responsibility cannot be left to others.

When branches touch utility lines, power interruption is often the result. More importantly, people and pets can be hurt, seriously injured or even killed when trees and power lines make contact.

Traditionally, in Fort Lauderdale, utility companies have pruned trees and plants away from utility lines with a professional technique called directional pruning, which removes entire limbs from the main tree trunk. With safety and uninterrupted

service as their first priority, the result has often not been visually appealing.

Now, residents of Fort Lauderdale are encouraged to take responsibility for their own property — to take back their trees. Doing so will ensure a more aesthetically pleasing landscape and utility lines that are free of all plants and trees. This includes swale areas, utility easements between properties and behind homes, as well as yards.

While it may surprise some, it is not the responsibility of the City, county or utility to maintain these trees or areas.

When carefully followed, all of these steps work together to result in an increased tree canopy and reliable utility service. It's a formula that makes Fort Lauderdale's homeowners and trees a winning combination.

Take Care!
Do not attempt to remove vegetation from power lines on your own. It takes less than a second for electricity to flow from a tree limb, a palm frond, or through vegetation to electrocute a nearby person. For trees that may be touching or are very close to power lines, use a licensed arborist or tree service company.*

	<i>Do Not Plant Under Utility Lines</i>	<i>Do Plant Under Utility Lines</i>
Follow these "plant the right tree, in the right place" guidelines for species in Fort Lauderdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Pine Brazilian Pepper Camphor Chinese Tallow Ficus Melaleuca Tree Bamboo Schefflera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Thatch Palm Slow growing native palm. Geiger Tree Slow growing with orange blossoms in spring. Silver Buttonwood Grows moderately with silver to blue-green leaves. Spanish Stopper Slow growing with a slender canopy.

Take ownership! Plant the right tree in the right place!