









*Homeowners –  
It's your responsibility!*

-  Design new landscaping by "planting the right tree, in the right place."
-  When planting under or near overhead utility lines, plant only small trees and plants that grow to a height of no more than 20 feet and will not grow into utility lines.
-  Trees that grow from 30 to 49 feet should be planted a minimum of 30 feet from overhead utility lines.
-  Plant trees that will grow to 50 feet or taller at least 50 feet away from overhead utility lines.
-  Participate in programs to replace problem non-native trees like Ficus, Melaleuca and Australian Pine. Check listed websites or contact the City's Urban Forester at 954.828.5785 or [mawilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mawilliams@fortlauderdale.gov).
-  Trim and prune any trees that you cannot replace.
-  Learn how to make the proper cuts for tree pruning or use a licensed arborist\* or tree service company.
-  Remove trees that can't be pruned.

For more information about how to "plant the right tree, in the right place," visit:

- City of Fort Lauderdale  
<http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/natural-resources-preservation/growing-our-green-canopy>
- Florida Urban Forestry Council  
<http://www.fufc.org/>
- Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida  
<http://www.landscapeinspectors.org/>
- Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture  
<http://www.floridaisa.org/>
- University of Florida, Environmental Horticulture Department  
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/>
- University of Florida, IFAS Extension  
[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIc\\_Urban\\_Landscapes](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIc_Urban_Landscapes)
- Florida Power & Light Company  
[www.fpl.com](http://www.fpl.com)

or call the City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forester at 954.828.5785.

\*Make sure you ask to see their Broward County Tree Trimmers License before hiring them to do any tree work in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

This brochure was published by the City of Fort Lauderdale and its Utility Advisory Committee and the Tree Sub-Committee to promote growth in our tree canopy, to inform homeowners of their responsibilities, and to encourage cooperation to help ensure reliable electric, telephone, and cable service.

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If you would like this brochure printed in an alternative format (large print, audio tape), please call 954.828.4746 or e-mail [webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov).



*Fort Lauderdale*  
**HOMEOWNERS**  
&  
**TREES**

*Formula for a  
Winning Combination*



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 41



**TREE CITY USA®**

years in a row for its continued dedication and commitment to increasing our tree canopy.

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"> <li>Australian Pine</li> <li>Brazilian Pepper</li> <li>Camphor</li> <li>Chinese Tallow</li> <li>Ficus</li> <li>Melaleuca</li> <li>Tree Bamboo</li> <li>Schefflera</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Florida Thatch Palm Slow growing native palm.</li> <li>Silver Buttonwood Grows moderately with silver to blue-green leaves.</li> <li>Spanish Stopper Slow growing with a slender canopy.</li> <li>Simpson's Stopper Slow growing with a white flower.</li> </ul>

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