

Miami-Dade County's Natural Forest Community Permit Application Package

The Benefits of Natural Forest Communities

Plants native to Miami-Dade County's Natural Forest Communities are biologically adapted to our climate, soil, and weather patterns.

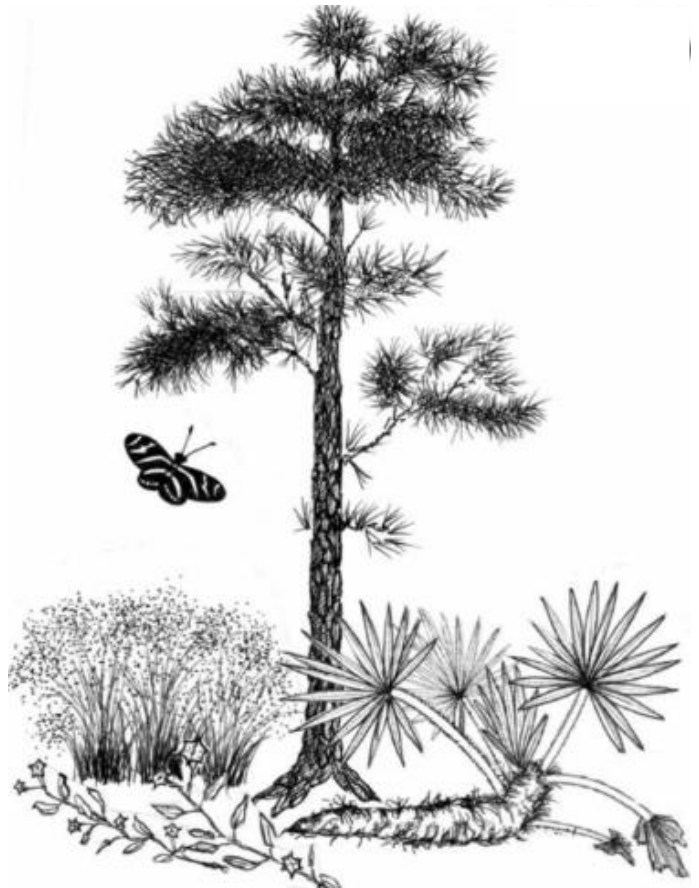
A yard with native landscape will reduce your water consumption, therefore saving you money on your water bill.

A well-forested community can reduce storm water runoff by up to 15%.

Miami-Dade's trees and understory plants remove 5,425 tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year, improving air quality and combating global warming.

Trees and understory plants provide food, nesting sites and protection for a wide variety of wildlife including migratory birds, thus promoting biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem.

Native plants present property owners with a variety of benefits, whether your interest is beautification, water conservation, reduction of harmful chemicals in the landscape, wildlife habitat, or the preservation of our natural heritage.



Miami-Dade County
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Environmental Resources Management
701 NW 1st Court, 6th floor, Miami, Florida 33136
Phone: (305) 372-6574 Fax: (305) 372-6479
Email: TFRS@miamidade.gov
On the web at: www.miamidade.gov/environment

NFC General Information

Section 24-49 of the Miami-Dade County Code mandates the protection of the County's trees and forest resources. The following information should assist you in understanding Miami-Dade County's tree and forest protection requirements.

Please take the time to read this information carefully before filling out the attached application.

What is a Natural Forest Community (NFC)?

A Natural Forest Community is a stand of trees (**including their associated understory**) designated by the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Resolution Nos. R-1764-84 and R-1279-97 and shown on the official Natural Forest Community maps that are maintained by Miami-Dade County.

How do I know if my property contains a designated Natural Forest Community?

The DERM Forest Resources Program maintains all the Natural Forest Community Maps and information. Resolution Nos. R-1764-84 and R-1279-97, which list all county designated NFCs, are also kept in the Clerk's Office. To determine if any portion of a property has been designated a Natural Forest Community, please contact the DERM Forest Resources Program at (305) 372-6864 for a verbal determination at no cost to you. No work is to be done within the NFC until a permit is issued.

Why are Natural Forest Communities (NFC's) protected?

The pine rockland and rockland hammock forests of Miami-Dade County are considered unique, rare and globally imperiled ecosystems. They provide habitat for many rare and endemic plant and animal species. Pine rocklands contain the highest plant diversity of any other habitat in Florida. As of 1984, less than 3% of this habitat remained outside of Everglades National Park in Miami-Dade County. The protection afforded to these Natural Forest Communities (NFC) by Chapter 24 of the Miami-Dade County Code is an attempt to preserve the last remaining fragments of Natural Forest Communities (NFC) in Miami-Dade County.

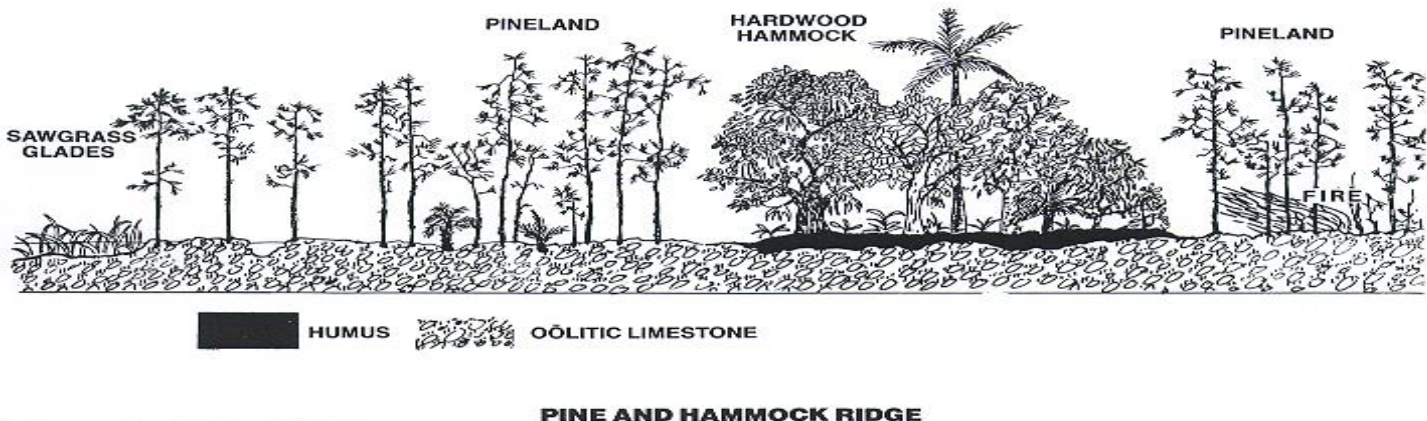
Why is an NFC permit required?

The permitting process is necessary to eliminate avoidable impacts and minimize unavoidable impacts to trees and associated understory plant communities within Natural Forest Communities (NFC). The goal of the program is to maintain the benefits of a healthy forest community. We aim to maximize, to the greatest extent, the preservation and management of all County-designated NFCs.

How do I care for and maintain my Natural Forest Community?

One of the major threats to Natural Forest Communities is invasive exotic plants. The control and elimination of these plants is necessary in order to maintain the health and biodiversity of Natural Forest Communities. For tips on management techniques please contact the DERM Forest Resources Program at (305) 372-6574 or e-mail us at TFRS@miamidade.gov.

If you have NFC on your property you may qualify for an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Covenant. The EEL Covenant is a voluntary program that provides property owners with an economic incentive in the form of a reduction in property taxes in exchange for preserving and maintaining environmentally-sensitive forested lands under a DERM-approved management plan. Contact the NFC Program for more details.



Natural Forest Community Permitting Information

When is the Natural Forest Community permit required?

A Natural Forest Community permit is required County-wide for **any work**, including removal of exotic species, in any designated Natural Forest Community (i.e. pinelands, hardwood hammocks). Through the permitting process, DERM verifies that the proposed work meets code requirements and may require the property owner to modify a site plan to preserve tree and forest resources.

Who may apply for a Natural Forest Community permit?

According to Chapter 24-49.1 of the Miami-Dade County Code, an owner, agent of the owner, or lessee of the property may apply for a permit. If the permit applicant is a lessee or agent of the owner, a statement from the owner of the property indicating that the owner has no objection to the proposed work shall be submitted along with the application.

What are the different NFC permit types?

1. **NFC Removal Permit** -is a permit that allows for the clearing of NFC, constituting a permanent impact. This permit is for property owners who wish to develop their property, with limitations outlined in Chapter 24-49 of the Miami-Dade County Code. A certain percentage of the NFC may be approved for removal if the property owner justifies that reasonable use of the property is otherwise not possible.
2. **NFC Exotic Removal Permit** -is a no-fee permit that allows for exotic vegetation removal work and other management activities to be conducted within the NFC.

Permit applications for work in a Natural Forest Community must include the following items:

1. A signed and completed Natural Forest Community permit application form. Upon receipt of an application to do work within a Natural Forest Community (NFC), DERM biologists will inspect the site to verify that it meets the definition of a NFC.
2. All required application and initial assessment fees.
3. For NFC removal permits, a copy of a site plan. Site plans submitted for development actions on properties containing NFC shall graphically show the extent of the current NFC boundaries and shall also contain a tabulation of the total acreage of NFC, NFC acreage proposed for removal and the acreage of NFC to be preserved. The site plan must also show proposed structures including accessory buildings and proposed site improvements, such as: setbacks, driveways, septic tanks, pools, sports courts, utility lines, sewer lines, new landscaping, etc. The Department may require that said plans be prepared by either a landscape architect, architect or an engineer registered in the State of Florida.

Where may I submit an application for a Natural Forest Community permit?

You can submit your application electronically through the customer portal at <https://www.miamidade.gov/Apps/RER/EPSPortal>.

If you have any questions or issues uploading your application please email us at TFRS@miamidade.gov or by calling 305-372-6574.

What fees do I have to pay for a Natural Forest Community permit?

Non-refundable initial fee is required upon permit application submission. Additional fees may be charged prior to permit issuance based on the specifics of the application. **A 7.5% surcharge will be added to your total NFC permit fees.**

What other permits and/or approvals are needed before I start work?

In addition to NFC permits, work in an NFC may require approval from other County agencies, local municipalities or the federal government. It is the property owner's responsibility to verify whether or not additional permits or approvals are needed. If a Building Permit is required, **NO site clearing work shall occur prior** to the issuance of the Building Permit, either by Miami-Dade County's Building Department for properties located in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, or by the local building official for properties located within municipalities.

How can I find out where the boundaries are for the NFC within my property without applying for a permit?

You may request a formal delineation of the NFC within your property. This delineation will include an environmental assessment of the NFC on-site, a map of the NFC boundaries, a plant list, and the NFC Quantitative Scorecard for your property. The cost of the delineation is dependent on the zoning of your property and the size. In order to request a formal delineation, please submit a letter signed by the property owner requesting the NFC within the property to be delineated. The request must include the property's address and folio number. Please contact us for

What happens if I remove or effectively destroy trees or understory within a Natural Forest Community OR do not comply with the conditions and requirements of my Natural Forest Community permit ?

You may be issued a "Notice of Violation" and ordered to stop all land clearing and construction until you have complied with Chapter 24-49. Furthermore, you may be required to pay penalties for each violation and replace Natural Forest Community trees and associated understory plants.

Natural Forest Community Permit Application



Tree & Forest Resources Section
701 N.W. 1 Court, 6th Floor
Miami, Florida 33136
T (305) 372-6574 F (305) 372-6479

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Updated 11/16

Date Received:

Application Number:

Received By:

Natural Forest Community (NFC) #:

Application Fee (other fees may be applicable):

Application Type: ☐ NFC Removal ☐ Exotic Removal

After-the-Fact: ☐ No ☐ Yes COM #: _____

Application must be filled out in its entirety. Please indicate N/A for non-applicable fields.

1. Property Owner's Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email: _____

* This should be the applicant/owner's information for contact purposes.

2. Property Owner's Authorized Permit Agent:

The name and contact information for the Agent that is authorized by the owner to process the application, furnish information relating to the application and bind the applicant to all requirements of the application/permit document.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email: _____

3. Site Location and Description where the proposed activity exists or will occur:

Folio #(s): _____

Site Address: _____

City or Town: _____ Total acreage of property: _____

Total acreage of property designated as Natural Forest Community: _____

Has property been recently delineated: ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, please include a copy of most recent delineation letter.)

Does intended use of the property require re-zoning or plat? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Current Zoning (check all that apply):

☐ Single Family ☐ Multi-Family ☐ Commercial ☐ Business ☐ Agricultural ☐ Swale/Right-of-Way ☐ Other

4. Work Description:

Building permit process number (if applicable): _____

Acreage or percentage of proposed clearing of property: _____

Location of work: _____

Reason for clearing or work: _____

Attachments (check all that apply): (e.g. site sketch, plans etc.):

☐ Site Sketch ☐ Plans ☐ Photographs ☐ Environmental Assessment ☐ Tree Survey ☐ Boundary Survey ☐ Other: _____

How would you like to receive your permit information: ☐ Email ☐ Certified Mail ☐ Pick it up in person

6. IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS:

The written consent of the Property Owner is required for all applications to be considered complete. Your application WILL NOT BE PROCESSED unless the Property Owner consent portion of the application is completed below. You have the obligation to notify the Department in writing of any changes to information provided in this application.

Application is hereby made for a Miami-Dade County tree permit to authorize the activities described herein. I agree to or affirm the following:

- I possess the authority to authorize the proposed activities at the subject property, and
- I am familiar with the information, data and plans contained in this application, and
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information, data and plans submitted are true, complete and accurate, and
- I am authorizing the permit agent listed in Section 2 of this application to process the application, furnish supplemental information relating to this application and bind the property owner(s) to all requirements of this application/permit document, and
- I agree to provide access and allow entry to the project site to inspectors and authorized representatives of Miami-Dade County for the purpose of making the preliminary analyses of the site and to monitor permitted activities and adherence to all permit conditions.

A. IF PROPERTY OWNER IS AN INDIVIDUAL

Signature of Property Owner	Print Property Owner's Name	Date
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B. IF PROPERTY OWNER IS OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL OR NATURAL PERSON

(Examples: Corporation, Partnership, Trust, LLC, LLP, etc.)

Print Name of Property Owner (Enter the complete name as registered)	Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration/Incorporation
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Under the penalty of perjury, I certify that I have the authority to sign this application/permit document on behalf of the Property Owner, to bind the Property Owner, and if so required to authorize the issuance of a bond on behalf of the Property Owner. (If asked, you must provide proof of such authority to the Department). *Please Note: If additional signatures are required, pursuant to your governing documents, operating agreements, or other applicable agreements or laws, you must attach additional signature pages. *****

Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Name	Title	Date
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C. IF THE APPLICANT IS A JOINT VENTURE Each party must sign below (If more than two members, list on attached page)

Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete name as registered)	Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration/Incorporation
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Print Name of Applicant (Enter the complete name as registered)	Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration/Incorporation
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Under the penalty of perjury, I certify that I have the authority to sign this application/permit document on behalf of the Property Owner, to bind the Property Owner, and if so required to authorize the issuance of a bond on behalf of the Property Owner. (If asked, you must provide proof of such authority to the Department). *Please Note: If additional signatures are required, pursuant to your governing documents, operating agreements, or other applicable agreements or laws, you must attach additional signature pages. *****

Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Name	Title	Date
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Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Name	Title	Date
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I/We are the fee simple owner(s) of the real property located at _____
Miami-Dade County, Florida, otherwise identified in the public records of Miami-Dade County as Folio
No(s)._____. I/We am/are aware and familiar with the contents of this application for a
Miami-Dade County tree permit to perform the work on the subject property, as described in this application. I/We hereby consent to
the work identified in this tree permit application.

Signature of Property Owner _____ Print Property Owner's Name _____ Date _____

Signature of Property Owner _____ Print Property Owner's Name _____ Date _____

(Examples: Corporation, Partnership, Joint Venture, Trust, LLC, LLP, etc.)

Print Name of Property Owner (Enter the complete name as registered)	Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)	State of Registration/Incorporation
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Address of Property Owner

Under the penalty of perjury, I certify that I have the authority to sign this application/permit document on behalf of the Property Owner, to bind the Property Owner, and if so required to authorize the issuance of a bond on behalf of the Property Owner. (If asked, you must provide proof of such authority to the Department). ***Please Note: If additional signatures are required, pursuant to your governing documents, operating agreements, or other applicable agreements or laws, you must attach additional signature pages. ***

Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Name	Title	Date
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Signature of Authorized Representative	Print Authorized Representative's Name	Title	Date
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Appropriate signature(s) must be included in:

Box 6: either A, B **or** C

AND

Box 7: either A **or** B

Tree Permit Application Additional Signatures Page

(Please attach to Tree Permit Application if needed)

Folio #(s): _____

Site Address: _____

1. IF THE PROPERTY OWNER IS AN INDIVIDUAL

Signature of Property Owner

Print Name of Property Owner

Date

Signature of Property Owner

Print Name of Property Owner

Date

2. IF THE PROPERTY OWNER IS OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL OR NATURAL PERSON

(Examples: Corporation, Partnership, Trust, LLC, LLP, etc.)

Print Name of Property Owner (Enter the complete name as registered)

Type (Corp, LLC, LLP, etc.)

State of Registration/Incorporation

Under the penalty of perjury, we certify that we have the collective authority to sign this application/permit document on behalf of the Property Owner, to bind the Property Owner, and if so required to authorize the issuance of a bond on behalf of the Property Owner. (If asked, you must provide proof of such authority to the Department). *Please Note: If additional signatures are required, pursuant to your governing documents, operating agreements, or other applicable agreements or laws, you must attach additional signature pages.*****

Signature

Print Name

Title

Date

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