



## Marion County Board of County Commissioners

### Parks & Recreation

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### INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 3, 2026

TO: Ken McCann, Fire Marshal  
Vice Chairman – Development Review Committee

FROM: Jim Couillard, PLA, ASLA  
Director – Landscape Architect

SUBJECT: Tree Mitigation Costs

The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the review of all Tree Protection and Preservation plans for development within Marion County. As part of our role, we oversee the Tree Mitigation Fund and provide developers with an option to pay in-lieu of installing required replacement trees on certain projects. This process includes the solicitation of prices from local landscape contractors for the procurement, installation, irrigation, and management of replacement trees for a two-year period. We conduct this solicitation on an annual basis.

This year we obtained three bids for replacement trees and averaged those prices to create the formal Tree Mitigation price, per caliper inch, using a 3 ½" caliper, Florida No. 1 Live Oak as the sample tree.

The Tree Mitigation cost for 2026 will be set at \$357.52 per caliper inch. This number is up from 2025 when the price was set at \$294.90 per caliper inch.

As always, any applicant wishing to mitigate replacement trees in-lieu of planting them should be referred to Susan Heyen, our Project Assistant/Arborist. She will help navigate them through the approval process.

Thank you.