

How your HOA manages trees on open space

During hurricane season, residents often ask the Sabal Point HOA to remove trees in the association-managed open space behind their yards out of fear that the tree might land on their property in a storm.

In considering these requests for Sabal's 85 acres of open space, the Open Space Committee follows Seminole County's Arbor Policy on the removal and replacement of trees. The association will not remove a live tree that does not pose an imminent threat to property as defined by that policy.

At \$1,500 each, taking down trees is expensive, so budget is a concern, too. The committee's maintenance budget includes \$13,900 this year for tree expenses, and with so many aging oaks on the property, the need to deal with dead and diseased trees is constant.

The budget also needs to cover the replacement of trees. In 2023, the committee planted almost the same number of trees that were removed (though the replacements were much smaller, of course).

With prior approval from the committee, residents may clear open-space brush that obstructs their view or plant ornamental shrubs. If you have questions, please email committee Chairman Joe St. Pierre at jstpete01@gmail.com.