Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

The Council Quarterly

This Issue:

2026
Issue
Three

Frequent Flyer Miles

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Veg Mgt Spc, FUFC Board member, ISA Arborist

Frequent flyer miles are a good thing, be it from the airline industry, or within urban forestry. Inside aviation, "frequent flyer miles" are credit miles earned by an airline and linked to other activities like hotel stays, car rentals, or other specific airline programs. Inside urban forestry, "frequent flyer miles" are all about the canopy miles routinely pruned by tree crews "flying" arial lifts. Here, it's not about the airlines, or the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration); but rather utility arboriculture and other entities as the UAA (Utility Arborist Association) and ISA (International Society of Arboriculture).

A utility's cycle-based, line clearance schedule is the core of frequent flyer miles. It is a routine preventative maintenance/risk assessment measure performed before a tree-related, utility conflict or catastrophic incident occurs. Frequent prescribed pruning, or cycle-based line clearance, is a proactive approach addressing service interruptions and outages that, once the pruning is complete, will never happen.

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Frequent Flyer Miles, continued from page 1

Frequent flyer miles of a cycle-base line clearance schedule answers two top, primary pruning questions,

1. What is the pruning objective(s)?
2. When are you coming back?

Line clearance objectives are to maintain an acceptable level of safety for the public, for workers maintaining trees near lines, for trees in close proximity of utilities, for service reliability, and the co-existence of trees and utilities over time.

Scheduled cycles will determine when you are coming back and when the pruning maintenance will be repeated. Frequent flyer miles exist under the assumption that "once is never enough." Periodic pruning is essential. Base-line intervals (cycles) may be established for an entire system, or service territory. However, lengths may vary locally depending on several variables – to include, canopy conditions, species, growth rates, community norms, weather patterns and events, regulatory requirements, funding, circuit history, performance, and reliability. Cycles should be scheduled at intervals that minimize the need for unscheduled, reactive response to service disruptions, but not so frequently to have cost exceed benefits.

Dynamic trees and infrastructure. Trees are designed and engineered to grow and get big – to take up space. Urbanization is dynamic. The space requirements will change throughout the life span of each. This alone is why flyer miles must be systematic, or frequent.

The stewardship and maintenance of an urban tree canopy is an absolute necessity if the objective is to reduce risks and increase benefits. Frequent flyer miles are a proactive approach to pruning and assessing potential hazards and tree health. At best, utilities strive to keep routine pruning

on a predetermined schedule. Deferring maintenance will incur higher costs and risks and will reduce the benefits of trees. Systematic cycle pruning will require periodic inspections, and mid-cycle pruning to strengthen the resiliency of utility trees and structures. Relatively short inspections and pruning cycles are effective when achieving reliability and safety objectives; enhancing a system's resilience against storms; reducing the biological impact on trees; and enhancing the compatibility of trees and utilities. Urban trees that are "trained" or pruned to promote compatible structure, will function and remain beneficial, with less potential for failure, than trees that were never pruned. Once the cycle is on schedule, trees within reach of the utility easement are less of a threat. Trees or branches that fail from outside of utility easements are a greater liability and can have a greater impact on service reliability.

Transmission corridors need not apply. Frequent flyer miles are devoted to line clearance of electrical "distribution"

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systems and not "transmission" of bulk electricity. "Transmission" includes the network of large-scale power plants, high-voltage transmission lines (over 69,000 volts), tall towers, substations, utility corridors, and other infrastructure that make up the bulk and backbone of the electrical grid. Transmission connects, and moves mass amounts of electricity, over long distances, from where it is generated to our smaller "distribution" centers, communities, and service territories.

Transmission corridors will carry federal regulations, hardline industry standards, and integrated vegetative management practices. The North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC) requires utilities to have a transmission vegetation management program (VMP). VMP's will restrict, or eliminate the risks, liabilities, hazards, conflicts, and woody vegetation within transmission corridors. VMP's will require routine inspections and vegetative management thresholds. They will require the skills, talent, and watchful eyes of foresters, arborists, and vegetation specialists; but they won't require frequent flyer miles.

Though the "wire-zone" within transmission corridors may be void of trees, they do play a role toward the integrity, function, and wholistic view of an urban forest ecosystem. They are not void of vegetation, biological attributes, or environmental contributions.

The electrical substation is the boundary between "transmission" and "distribution" circuits. Frequent flyer miles start at the substation housing the transformers, switching equipment, controls, and protection devices, necessary to step down the high "transmission" voltage to a level (under 69kv) safely "distributed" to the end user – our homes, businesses, industrial centers, rights-of-way, and public spaces. It's here, at the substation, where overhead distribution circuits first meet the tree line of the urban, utility forest. The utility forest is a segment of the urban forest that extends within a utility easement. It embraces a bold form of urban forestry known as utility arboriculture. It involves trees, or tree parts, that have the potential to affect the operation of utility facilities and services. It involves the shared space between trees, utilities, and hazards. Tree-care professionals (flyers) cannot enter this space without a *Line Clearance* certification obtained by frequent flyers - the employment of insulated equipment, training, and experience.

It is here, within the utility easement of electrical "distribution" that frequent flyer miles begin. It's here that science and professional expertise mitigate risks and optimize the benefits of both trees and utilities. Pruning objectives account for a tree's natural properties, tendencies, and biological function. They do not, however, prioritize an "aesthetically pleasing appearance."

Misunderstandings and controversy often follow in the wake of frequent flyer miles. Line clearance and preventative maintenance efforts are often met with alarm and misinterpretation on the part of the public. At first glance, some can't always see the forest for the trees. The benefits and value of a vegetation management program is seldom understood by all stakeholders – even within sectors of the utility itself.

Line clearance requirements may fall outside the scope of traditional and familiar landscape pruning objectives and guidelines. This does not imply that they are void of proper pruning methods and industry standards. Many of the misunderstandings are carried by those unfamiliar with the application of thinning, reduction, heading, and directional pruning.

Most frequent flyer miles go unnoticed; but not always. In nature, tree abnormalities often go unnoticed. Trees will grow to lean, yield, stretch, bend, bow, gap, and branch away from prevailing winds, the dominance of an adjacent tree canopy, and unfavorable site conditions to include urbanization. Alas, trees can't detect and wittingly avoid utility hazards. Frequent flyer miles can bolster a target's biological impulses to train and direct tree growth to yield, stretch, bend, bow, gap, and branch away from overhead utility lines (communication cables and electrical power lines).

What is often overlooked is that line clearance contracts can often extend beyond one cycle. Its not uncommon to have the same "flyer" working on the same tree(s) in consecutive cycles. These are not fly-by-night pruners. They are familiar with specific trees and may have been tending to the balance between canopy and the specific utility for years.

Another error is assuming the physical properties of utilities are not natural. Electricity is no less natural than the biological properties of trees and other vegetation. Lightning, in free-fall, strikes trees. The results can be catastrophic. The electrical current traveling along an overhead wire is lightning. It's tethered to a conductive wire, but it is no less natural, or dangerous than the current carried by lightning when in free-fall.

The natural appearance of an unpruned tree can be an illusion. The appearance is not synonymous to good health, satisfactory form, and the absence structural defects, disease, ruinous decay, malfunctions, and other hazardous conditions. Trees are often planted with no extended maintenance, care, or pruning timetable. Urban trees especially are left to their own device, misbehaviors, and bad habits. It would be "tree abuse" to knowingly allow a tree canopy to explore the "wire zone" of the utility forest, as it would be abusive to knowingly allow a child to explore an electrical outlet with a fork, or conductive prong.

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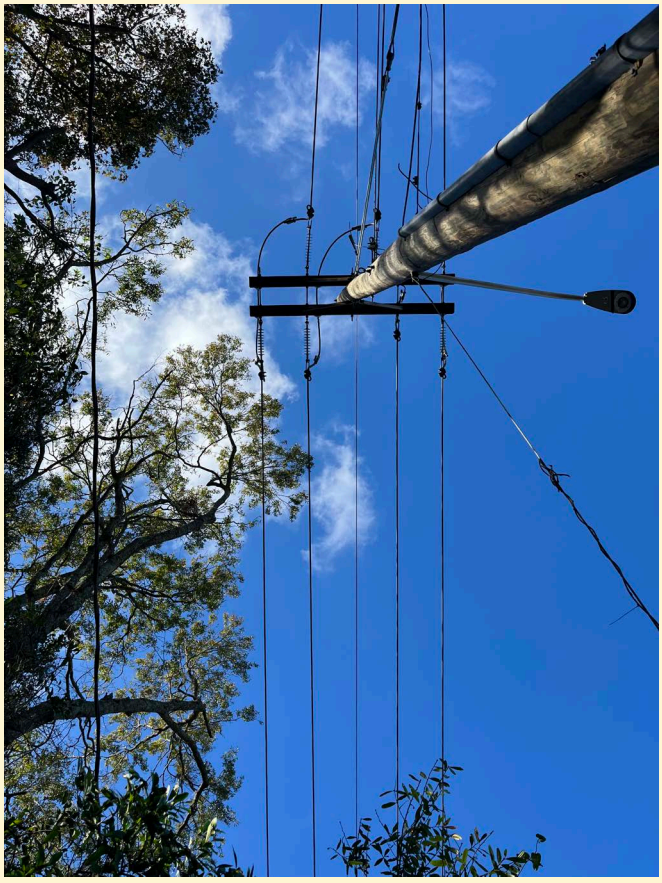
Unnatural sites can lead to unnatural sights. Utility easements are part of our built environment. They deviate far from the intrinsic, natural environment that would allow for a more presumed, evolutionary appearance of trees. Frequent flyer miles often include only a portion of an individual tree. Utility arborists are not obligated to inspect or prescribe pruning beyond the scope of their work assignment of a utility hazard. When there is little or no likelihood of failure or impact to utility facilities, the remaining portion of the tree, outside of the utility easement, is the responsibility of the tree owner – not the utility's frequent flyer.

Trail maintenance of backcountry hiking trails was once a big part of my previous career. Frequent Tread miles were an integral part of routine scheduled work by trail crews when providing for a continuous open corridor for safe, recreational passage through trees and forests. Risk assessments and action thresholds are not limited to trails, but include buildings, parking lots, remote campsites, trailheads, junctions, and other support facilities. Utility line clearance is simply maintaining an aerial trail through an upper urban canopy for safe passage of utilities. Risk assessments and clearance thresholds are not limited to wire, but include pole access, transformers, fuses, switch mechanisms, and other support facilities. Utility line clearance is "trail maintenance."

Directional utility pruning selects and removes the correct stems and branches for trail/utility clearance. Scaffold branches are chosen for good attachment, appropriate size, and direction of growth. Temporary branching may remain and be removed in later cycles.

A tree's primary growth is diverted away from the established trail of the utility corridor. Shoot growth will resprout, but the tree will be less dependent on the small interim shoots attempting to reclaim the open space following each cycle. During repeated cycles, pruning specifications won't include the big wood of primary branches that support the overall biological functions of the tree. Cycle cuts target subordinate shoots of interim growth that often camouflage the previously established trail. The visual impact is most striking immediately following a scheduled pruning. Each cycle will re-open and exposed the pre-existing trail. This can create an illusion and false alarm that more canopy was removed than what was truly removed. With each completed cycle, shoot growth will resprout. Misunderstandings and controversy on the part of the public will resprout too.

Underground utilities are not independent of frequent flyer miles.



Underground utilities are not a silver bullet for utility conflicts. To complete a circuit in most urban settings, underground utilities are installed in conjunction with overhead lines.

Utility arboriculture is not limited to overhead canopies and utilities. Trees and utilities grow underground too. Trees must overstep, or trip over, buried pipes and wire of communication cables; power, water, sewer, and gas lines; storm drain systems; and other built infrastructure. When utilities are cramped underground, planters and planners must be careful not to "bury their head in the sand" along with the utilities. Just because they can't be seen, doesn't mean that the physical properties, risks, hazards, conflicts, maintenance, and special prerequisites don't exist. We've built a world where the distribution of safe and reliable utility service is not an option. We've built a world where the absence of urban trees and forests is not an option. Frequent flyer miles will be needed where undergrounding is not possible, practical, feasible, or affordable.

Upon final approach, frequent flyer miles are proactive, preventative measures in sync with other pruning needs to include capital projects, system restoration following storms or tree failures, assisting private tree workers, mutual aid requests, and other interim utility vegetative management needs. Urban forestry will find it difficult to achieve canopy objectives without frequent flyer miles. The routine pruning cycles contribute to both the safe delivery of reliable utility service and a resilient urban tree canopy. As with the field of aviation, frequent flyer miles enable the utility to fly high with confidence and precision.

President's Message

CONNECTING PEOPLE.
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

When people ask me what makes the Florida Urban Forestry Council different, my answer is surprisingly simple, **"We connect people."**

Yes, we continue to provide education. We host conferences, webinars, and professional development opportunities. Our greatest strength has never been the programs themselves. It's the relationships those programs create and the people they bring together.

As I look back on the first half of 2026, I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together. We've continued to expand highly successful Foundational Friday webinars, completed an important modernization of the FUFC bylaws, and continued streamlining the Council's operations to improve our value to members. Our educational programs remain among the strongest in our profession, membership continues to grow, and we're expanding partnerships throughout Florida's green industry.

Perhaps the most exciting development has been the growth of our Municipal Roundtable initiative and the Regional Forestry Work Groups that are forming throughout the state. These groups are creating opportunities for municipal arborists, planners, foresters, and other professionals to connect with peers who understand the unique challenges they face every day.

For many professionals working in local government, those connections simply haven't existed before. Now they do. Instead of facing challenges in isolation, professionals are sharing ideas, asking questions, learning from one another, and building relationships that strengthen urban forestry throughout Florida. That's exactly the kind of collaboration our profession needs.

Looking ahead, I see tremendous opportunities to continue building connections. Whether it's expanding the Municipal Roundtables, developing utility-focused working groups, growing our partnership with Florida's Project Learning Tree (FL-PLT), exploring future scholarship opportunities, or continuing to strengthen S.O.A.P. initiatives, our focus remains the same. We're investing in people.

This year has been a reminder that many organizations are facing financial pressures. Budget reductions at every level have affected travel, training, and professional development opportunities for many of our members.

But I believe something strongly: **Budget cuts don't have to become knowledge cuts.** As leaders, we have a responsibility to find new ways to share knowledge, connect with professionals, and make education more accessible. That's exactly why the Council continues to invest in programs like Foundational Friday webinars, regional Municipal Roundtables, the Urban Forestry Institute (UFI), the Urban Forestry Summit, Impact Awards, and *The Council Quarterly*. When we continue learning from one another, our communities benefit.

Serving as your President has given me a deeper appreciation for what makes this organization successful. Leadership isn't about one person making decisions. It's about listening. Some of the most important work we've done this year has come from conversations with our officers, Executive Committee, committee volunteers, and members throughout the Council. Modernizing an organization requires difficult decisions. Our decisions are always better when they reflect the perspectives and experience of the people who care about our future.

On a personal note, this has also been one of the most difficult seasons of my life following the recent passing of my wife, Karen. She believed deeply in the importance of community and was one of my greatest supporters in my work within urban forestry. Throughout this time, I have been grateful for the kindness, encouragement, and support shown by so many members of the FUFC family. It has been a reminder that organizations are ultimately about people, and I will always be thankful for this community.

As we move into the second half of the year, I encourage every member to become involved. Attend a webinar. Join a committee. Participate in a Municipal Roundtable. Volunteer your expertise. Help mentor the next generation. The Florida Urban Forestry Council is strongest when its members are actively engaged, sharing knowledge, and supporting one another.

I hope people think of the Florida Urban Forestry Council as **the organization that brings Florida's green industry together to advance urban forestry through education, collaboration, and leadership.**

In the end, strong urban forests don't happen by accident. They happen when people decide urban forests matter—and work together to manage them well.

John Snow
President, Florida Urban Forestry Council

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For more than 25 consecutive years, OUC—The *Reliable* One has earned the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Line USA© designation for its ongoing commitment to effective vegetation management within the communities it serves. This makes OUC the longest-running recipient of the award in the state of Florida.

Tree Line USA© is a national program that encourages utilities to adopt practices that protect and enhance urban forests. It promotes the dual goals of delivering reliable electricity while preserving community trees, allowing the power grid and urban forest to co-exist.

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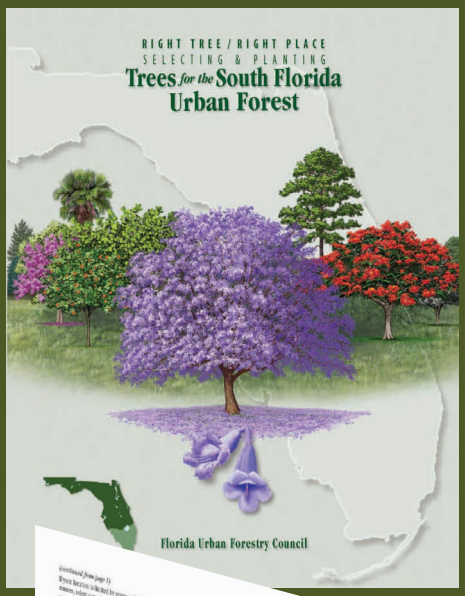

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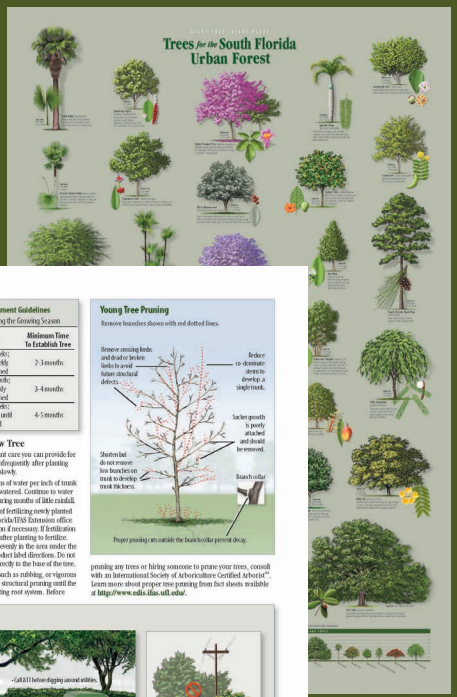

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Issue 2 – March 15 (April 15)
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The Tree Due Diligence Brief

A TREE CHECK UP, LLC NEWSLETTER

Submitted by John Snow - BCMA, SAF Certified Urban and Community Forester, FUFC Board President

PASCO COUNTY JUST RAISED THE PRICE OF REMOVING TREES. HERE'S WHAT CHANGED AND WHAT'S STILL UNSETTLED.

On March 24, 2026, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 26-182, raising the rates developers pay into the Tree Mitigation Fund when a site can't accommodate required replacement trees. Standard trees now run $75 per inch of replacement caliper. Heritage Trees run $150 per inch, with no per-acre cap. If you're underwriting a Pasco County site using last cycle's numbers, the math has changed.

That's the headline. The more useful story is what's underneath it: a code with real interpretive gaps, a definition most developers don't know exists, and a methodology question that can swing a single tree's cost by thousands of dollars depending on who's holding the clipboard. I spent the past several weeks working through the code in detail, including a direct conversation with the County Arborist, to sort out what's settled and what isn't.

ONE TREE, TWO NUMBERS

Picture a 36-inch live oak on a Pasco County parcel slated for clearing. One arborist rates it just below "good" condition. Standard tree, 1:3 replacement ratio, $75 per inch. Roughly $900 in mitigation exposure.

A second arborist rates the same tree at good condition or better. Under the code's definition, that single rating flips it into Heritage Tree status: 1:1 replacement, $150 per inch, no per-acre cap. Roughly $5,400.

Same tree. Same site. Same code. A $4,500 swing between assessments. Multiply that across a dozen trees sitting near the threshold, and the variance becomes a line item your pro forma can't absorb as a surprise. The county's plan reviewers defer to the County Arborist on these calls, and assessments that aren't grounded in recognized methodology get rejected outright, not just questioned. That's a stalled project, not an administrative footnote.

THE DEFINITION MOST DEVELOPERS MISS

Here's the gap: Pasco's Land Development Code (LDC) defines "Heritage Tree" in two ways, and the code deliberately keeps them separate.

Section 802.9 governs formally designated Trees of Special Significance, the kind that undergo a Board of County Commissioners (BCC) resolution and receive a recorded preservation easement. That's a slow, owner-initiated process most development parcels never touch.

But the definitions appendix has a second, automatic definition: any live oak with a DBH of 34 inches or larger, or any southern magnolia with a DBH of 24 inches or larger, rated in good condition or better, is a Heritage Tree the moment it shows up on your survey. No designation, no easement, no BCC vote required. I confirmed directly with the County Arborist that this separation is intentional, not a drafting accident, specifically to keep the two concepts from being conflated.

Translation: You can have Heritage Tree mitigation exposure on a parcel with zero formally designated trees. Most teams scoping a Pasco site don't know to check for this.

THE METHODOLOGY BEHIND THE NUMBER

The code requires an "ISA condition rating" without naming an edition or tool. In practice, as confirmed directly with the County Arborist, Pasco County applies the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) methodology. The county is actively working to formalize that standard in the code language. Until that update is in place, the CTLA is the guideline if you want it to survive plan review intact.

THE 20% YOU HAVE TO PRESERVE

Most development sites must preserve at least 20% of the total upland tree canopy, measured in DBH inches. Smaller commercial sites (5 acres or under) and industrial sites are exempt. Mixed-Use Trip Reduction Measures (MUTRM) and Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) projects get a reduced 5% threshold. Sites where wetlands cover 10% or more of total acreage use a 10% standard instead. One catch: trees rated dead or in poor condition don't count toward your preservation total, which means the same methodology driving your Heritage Tree exposure also determines what you're allowed to claim as preserved canopy.

WHAT THE NEW RATES ACTUALLY COST YOU

The cap matters as much as the rate. Standard tree mitigation contributions are capped at $10,000 per upland developable acre. Heritage Tree contributions are not capped.

On a 14-acre upland site, standard tree exposure tops out at $140,000, no matter how dense the canopy. Heritage tree exposure sits on top of that, uncapped. On one comparable Pasco-area parcel I reviewed (20 acres, mixed upland canopy; figures adjusted for illustration), 14 qualifying Heritage Trees, totaling 545 DBH inches, generated roughly $81,750 in exposure alone. Add the capped standard tree contribution and the ceiling lands, bringing the total to around $221,750.

That number belongs in your acquisition underwriting, not your permitting surprise file.

REPLACEMENT, IN BRIEF

Standard trees: replacement caliper equals one-third of removed DBH, rounded up. A 30-inch tree needs a 10-inch replacement.

Heritage Trees: 1:1. A 34-inch Heritage Tree needs 34 replacement inches.

All replacement trees must be Florida Grade No. 1 or better, minimum 2-inch

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The Tree Due Diligence Brief, continued from page 8

Tree Type	DBH Threshold	Replacement Ratio	Mitigation Rate
Standard	10"+	1:3	$75/inch
Heritage (Live Oak)	34"+ good condition	1:1	$150/inch
Heritage (S. Magnolia)	24"+ good condition	1:1	$150/inch

caliper. Projects requiring 35-plus replacement trees need at least 8 species represented.

THE TWO-VISIT PROBLEM NOBODY'S FIXED YET

When a surveyor counts a codominant stem as one tree, and an arborist counts it as two, the DBH changes, the classification changes, and you may have just crossed the Heritage Tree threshold - on paper, before anyone sets foot on the site a second time. That data conflict lands on the county reviewer's desk and going back to the field after submittal is not acceptable mid-review.

The code requires a tree survey and a separate tree plan prepared by an ISA Certified Arborist or Florida Licensed Landscape Architect. In practice, what reaches the county plan review is a single combined sheet. The county has confirmed that a single qualified professional can produce both components during a single site visit, eliminating the mismatch at the source.

One detail that affects how you scope the field visit: condition ratings are required only for trees being retained to meet canopy preservation requirements and for any tree with a DBH of 24 inches or larger. Slash pines and other trees under 24 inches that are slated for removal need species and DBH on the inventory, but not a full condition assessment.

The county is also working to add more specific methodology language to the code, which will further reduce ambiguity in future submittals. Further code updates are expected.

CREDITS HELP. THEY DON'T ERASE THE BILL.

Preserve more than the required 20% of the canopy, and you earn credits toward your mitigation contribution on a sliding scale, up to 20% off. Combined credits are capped at 75% of your total obligation. That ceiling is intentional. The fund needs a floor. Preserve every viable tree on the site, and you still owe at least a quarter of the calculated contribution if on-site replacement isn't feasible. You can shrink the bill, not zero it out.

THREE YEARS IS TOO LONG A WINDOW

Surveys can't be more than 3 years old at the time of submission. I've seen why that matters in practice: a recent project had a tree survey identify a 28-inch oak for preservation, the survey went stale past the three-year mark without being re-verified, and the tree failed during hurricane season the following year. Nobody had looked at it again in the meantime. No amount of staking fixes that after the fact.

Three years is too long. Tree condition and storm exposure shift meaningfully over that span. A one-year window would force a recheck that actually matches the current ground truth, rather than relying on a paper record that may no longer reflect what's standing on the site. Until the code changes, that's on your project team to track, not the calendar.

The county's position is clear: if site conditions change within the survey window, submitting an updated survey is the applicant's responsibility and **in the applicant's financial interest.**

ONE TRACK ONLY

The single-family exemption under Section 802.3.J is for individual residential property owners with a documented hazard assessment. It does not extend to multifamily, commercial, or development applications. Full stop.

BOTTOM LINE

Heritage Tree status, condition methodology, survey timing, and the new mitigation rates are all connected, and a miss in any one of them ripples through your budget and your schedule. The teams that come out ahead bring in a qualified Urban Forester before the survey gets scoped, not after plan review sends it back.

Trees don't negotiate.

TREE CHECK UP

As Subject Matter Expert for the Florida Urban Forestry Council, John Snow provided technical assistance during the development of this ordinance. This newsletter reflects his professional interpretation, confirmed where noted directly with the Pasco County Arborist, and is not legal advice. Confirm project-specific questions with the county or your land use counsel.

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How the Urban Forest has Grown in Venice, FL

Submitted by Carol Delehanty – Horticulture Consultant and Phil Ellis, Project Supervisor

The purpose of the Urban Forest project is to grow hundreds, ultimately thousands of trees and understory plants to provide food and shelter for wildlife; thermal cooling; carbon sequestration; oxygen generation; storm water filtration and absorption; and other benefits for Venice, Florida. In its initiation, the project received the FUFC "Outstanding Urban Forestry Project" achievement award in 2020. The principles of community, planning, and nature were the foundation for each phase of the project.

Phase 1 - Groundbreaking May 2018; completed in March of 2020.

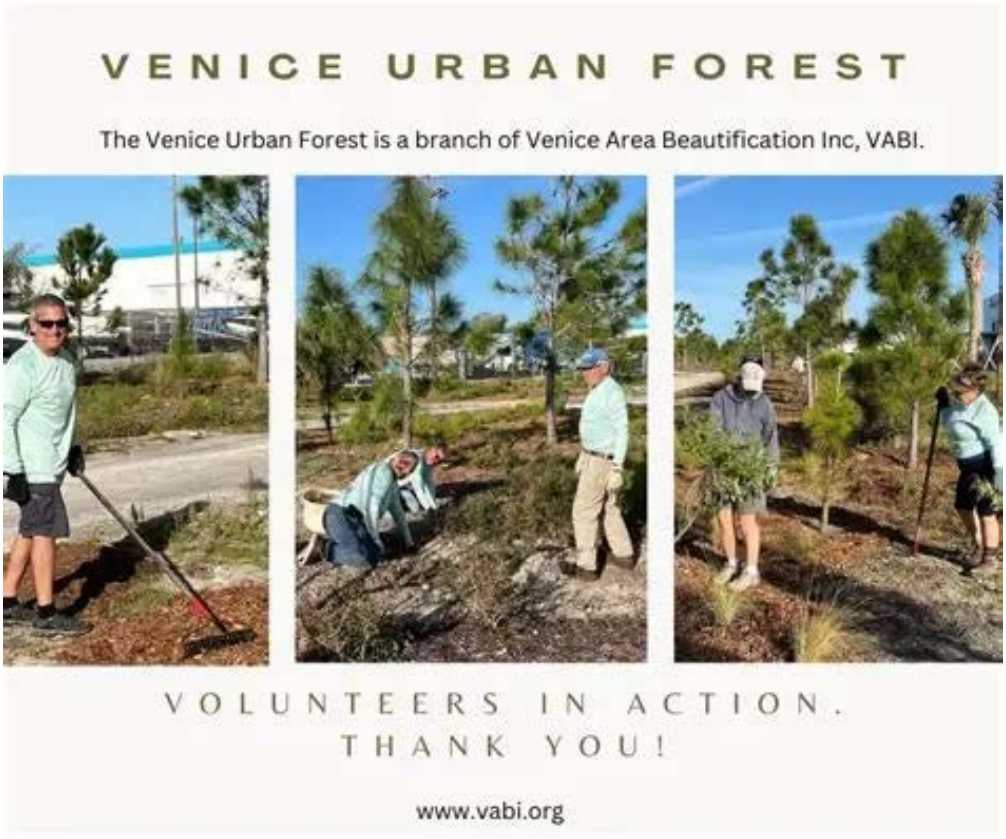
Phase 2 - Major invasive removal, and native plantings; completion March 2021 following Hurricane Ian.

Phase 3 - Major removal of concrete debris and more. Hurricanes- Helene 9/25/24 and Milton 10/10/2024. Replanting restoration completed in November 2026; weed and mulch management progressing.

Grand Opening of the Venice Urban Forest - Fall of 2026.

The Urban Forest is an integral element of the City of Venice's 1926 urban design, introduced by noted American landscape architect, John Nolen. This greenbelt corridor complements Nolen's design principles. The Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) resolves to "create an Urban Forest oasis for all generations to enjoy!" The project area was once an early 1900's railroad trail. Over time, it had become debris-filled and covered with invasive species. Commencement began with environmentally sound planning and design. Reestablishing habitat with only native Florida trees, shrubs, and understory provided a forest habitat specifically designed for our native wildlife and migratory species.

With community support and donations, a handful of inspired volunteers started the eight-year project working with great local vendors who specialized in native species, and with in-depth operations to remove invasive plant and animal species. The VABI project recruited a very talented group of volunteer experts including agronomists, experienced arboriculturists, irrigation specialists, heavy machinery operators, designers, artists, marketing and communication professionals.



As part of the development of the Venice Urban Forest, plant species were chosen relevant to soil, other site conditions, and previously known flora, to provide both food and shelter for variant species, especially birds and ground animals. More than 5,000 trees have been reforested and nearly 20,000 understory plants have been installed. Following severe damage from multiple hurricanes and tropical events, participants have been moving forward raising and righting trees, performing necessary removals, and reinstallations of native plants. The trees within the forest have exhibited their resilient character - reminders of nature's ability to respond to natural events.

The insect population has grown in accordance with the plant installations. Butterflies like the Gulf Fritillary, Southern White, Monarch, Queen have increased. Dragonflies, Florida native honeybees, moth species, wasps, and hornet species are abundant. Predatory bird species hunt frequently for food.

With the reforestation of this abandoned railroad corridor, an "Oasis" as John Nolen described, is enriching the community for generations to come. The forest attracts photographers, birders, both E-bird and Audubon, plein-air painters, entomology fans, gardeners, and community members eager to learn more about the environment. Future forest goals include education, research opportunities, on site science and forestry trips, clinical internships for high school or college students,

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as well as sharing development possibilities with other communities. In addition, research studies with on-site cameras allow for wildlife observations, verification, and data collection. Other opportunities include geo mapping for hikers and foresters, birding events with Audubon guides, and photography walks for visitors. Participation in the iNaturalist Bio Blitz program - evaluating and uploading sighted animals, insects and plants - has produced hundreds of records from our visitors. The urban forest project includes our participation in Florida Greenways and Trails, a boost to eco-tourism, the designation as a Bird hotspot, and the Tree City USA program. Environmentally sound planning and forest design created peace and quiet in an urban environment.

We, at the Venice Urban Forest, are grateful to our Florida Community for their support, their time, energy, sponsorships, funding, and direction that has helped to make this vision come true. Local support has afforded our community the chance to re-establish native species and enhance possibilities for a natural spread of native plants versus the spread of invasive plants.

VABI and Sarasota County established an agreement for "Urban Forest Services" to maintain the Urban Forest as a unique community conservation/ restoration project, a linear forest of more than 34 acres, within a city.

Early community partners and local in-kind donors included the Sarasota County staff, the City of Venice Public Works, and local community businesses. Since its start, additional community businesses have joined as in-kind donors with help in building the forest.

Volunteers working in the urban forest bring together private citizens and community organizations, the Venice Middle and High School students and baseball team, and the Venice Young Marines.

A leading volunteer started a "Pennies for Plants" in-school project. Children collected pennies to purchase plants and trees to be planted in the Venice Urban Forest. They collected $416 in pennies!

The Venice Audubon Society has been very active in the development of the urban forest conducting bird surveys since November 2018, annotating 104 species as of this date, and suggesting various trees to support bird species diversification.

The Venice plein air artists have been painting the urban forest. Their paintings reflect the growth of the forest, one year to the next. A "Giving Challenge" offers opportunities for community donors to support our Urban Forest. It's amazing how the forest has grown.

RECOGNITIONS:

- The Gulf Coast Community Foundation generously provided matching grants.
- William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, a matching grant.
- The Kathleen K. Catlin Estate Charitable Trust.
- Kathleen D. Baylis Fund/ Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc.
- Venice Audubon Society.
- The Patterson Foundation -The Giving Challenge.
- The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast partners with the Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) to promote the urban forest.
- Florida Native Plant Society,
- Florida's fabulous flora has been encouraged by Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sweet Bay Nursery, and Florida Native Plants Nursery.
- Community Support includes, William Jervey, Bill Farnsworth, Strayer Surveyors, JT Holland, Deans Land Clearing, Shipps Excavating, Simply Trees, H&H Signs, McKeithen Growers, Sweet Bay Nursery, Jacob Gilliam Tree Services, All American Purification, Lake Brothers Treatment, Prion Photography, and Lowes.
- Gratitude to the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) for the 2020 Outstanding Project award which recognized our efforts in the creation of the Venice Urban Forest.

Stump The Forester

QUESTION: What's growing on my tree?

ANSWER: I'm lichen it! The red and green circular patches have a striking resemblance to a Christmas wreath, earning the name Christmas lichen, or *Cryptothecia rubrocincta*. The bright, festive colors can make any tree, at any season, a Christmas tree.

Lichens are formed from a complex, symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an algae. The fungus provides structure for the photosynthetic algae. The Christmas lichen is common throughout Florida and the Southeastern United States. It is frequently found on cypress, oaks, and Sabal palms. The lichen typically grows on the rough bark of trees in shaded and moist habitats.

The Christmas lichen is no Scrooge. Yule be happy to know lichens do not harm trees. They are not parasitic like mistletoe. Similar to orchids, ferns, and moss, the lichens are biologically harmless epiphytes. They use the bark surface to grab and grow. The presence is merely cosmetic. If a tree is showing signs of stress, decline, or waning health, the lichen is not the culprit. Reach out to a consulting arborist, or local tree care provider to have the tree's health and site conditions properly assessed. The Christmas lichen's vivid, red and green pigments can be year-round, and can be the spark of curiosity making any walk in the woods a most wonderful time of year.

Answer provided by Joe Anderson – Utility Forester, ISA Certified Arborist, FUFC Board Member

If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 24 for information on submitting your question!

OUR TEAM

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CHARLIE MARCUS, CA, TRAQ
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(352)238-0458

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Tree of the Quarter

Iron Wood
(Krugiodendron ferreum)

Eric Muecke – City of Tampa Urban Forestry Manager; ISA-Arborist; TRAQ; SAF-CUCF; and FUFC Executive Board member.

BRIEF INTRO: I was blog surfing UF/IFAS a while back and found an interesting article by Broward Education/Specialist, Donna Corbelli Castro. It was titled "A Nearly Perfect Tree." Well, if that doesn't attract the attention of an FUFC member, nothing will. It was my first introduction to Black Ironwood *(Krugiodendron ferreum),* (krug-ee-oh-DEN-dron krug-ee-oh-DEN-dron). Literally it means Krug's Tree Iron. It was named for Carl Wilhelm Leopold Krug 1833-1898 German consul in Puerto Rico, businessman, botanist, science patron. Ferreum means iron and refers to the tree's resistance to decay and its density. Black Ironwood is also called Leadwood because when it is cut the aroma given off is nearly identical to the smell of molten lead.

Black ironwood is found throughout the more rural Caribbean where it is still used for tools and for making weapons, such as bows, arrows and lances. Its density gives it a high polish and is favored by turners. Ironwood appears in maritime hammocks, on raised coastal areas, where the climate is strongly moderated by proximity to the ocean. As a result, these hammocks often support vegetation that appears more tropical than that of similar hammocks farther inland. Soils are typically sandy, and fire is rare or absent. The canopy is usually a mixed hardwood forest.

Photo by T. Ann Williams

Black ironwood requires very little structural pruning, is long lived, evergreen and rarely sheds its leaves (even in a cold snap). Ironwood is a strong, tidy and a nearly perfect tree.

HABITAT: Ironwood is suitable for zones 10A, 10B and 11, an area encompassing much of central and south Florida, throughout the Caribbean, and from southern Mexico to Honduras. It is an important canopy or subcanopy tree in hammocks. Black ironwood resists disease and termites. Despite growing in coastal areas, it has a low saltwater tolerance and does not tolerate long-term flooding by salt or brackish water. It is moderately tolerant of salt wind. It is beneficial to protect it from direct salt spray by other vegetation. Try mixing with other coastal hammock species like Gumbo Limbo, Paradise Tree, Lancewood, the Stoppers, Inkwood, Crabwood or any of the other coastal species.

Back ironwood has moderate to high nutritional requirements and grows best with some organic content. It may languish in nutrient-poor soils. Ironwood will grow in almost any area, from occasionally wet to very dry, in full sun to part shade.

FORM: Black ironwood typically grows to 25–35 (30) ft. but sometimes grows as a shrub.

LEAVES: Black ironwood is considered evergreen. Its leathery leaves are always shiny, and provide shelter and food for birds, shade for humans.

BARK: Dark brown to blackish, rough, and scaly. The sapwood is light brown, streaked, with the heartwood orange-brown to dark brown.

FLOWERS: Black ironwood flowers are greenish-white with inconspicuous blooms in spring; but the small flowers secrete copious amounts of nectar.

FRUIT: The fruit is a purplish-red to black oval or nearly round, 1/3" long drupe and ripen fall-winter. The fruit looks similar to dark M&Ms. The fruit is edible, sweet, and provides moderate amounts of food for wildlife. The fruit can be used for jam, jelly, wine, and eaten raw out of hand. Not the greatest and not the worst. They dry before falling, so are not messy.

URBAN FORESTRY: Black ironwood is suited to our increasingly populated urban areas of Florida, and specifically Central and South Florida. Black ironwood is best used as an accent or specimen tree in residential and commercial landscapes. It can be slow growing and sometimes difficult to

continues on page 9

Tree of the Quarter, continued from page 12

Photo and © by Roger Hammer
Wildflowers of the Everglades

establish. Iron Wood will rarely outgrow an area or lift pavement.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

The wood is hard, the densest of all woods native to South Florida. It will sink in water.

CREDITS

- Florida Native Plant Society
- Donna Corbelli Castro, UF/IFAS, A Nearly Perfect Tree
- Natives for your Neighborhood
- Eat the Weeds
- Meadow Beauty Nursery
- Photos – Atlas of Florida Plants – USF Libraries T. Ann Williams Photographer

Photo by John R. Park

Call for Speakers

Submitted by the Communications Committee

The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) is seeking engaging, knowledgeable, and dynamic speakers to contribute to our upcoming educational programming. For information and to be considered, visit *https://fufc.org/call-for-speakers/*.

Arbor Day Foundation Tree Programs

Submitted by the Communications Committee

The Tree USA programs are a suite of nation-wide programs provided by the Arbor Day Foundation to include, but not limited to, Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus, Tree Campus K-12 USA, and Tree Cities of the World. Details about the Arbor Day programs can be found at *https://www.arborday.org/our-work*. Qualifying participants may be operating in your neck of the woods. Participating organizations may have tree-mendous resources, expertise, and incentive to collaborate with local tree-related initiatives when fulfilling respective program requirements. Do you have a local interest in planting and protecting trees? Perhaps you should be reaching out to the participants of these programs? You may find common ground when planting trees in the ground.

TREE CAMPUS

The Tree Campus USASM higher education program helps two and four-year accredited colleges and universities to establish and sustain healthy trees with student involvement. The five core standards include,

(1) An existing campus tree advisory committee,
(2) Campus tree care plan,
(3) Campus tree budget, or dedicated expenditures,
(4) Arbor Day observance,
(5) Service-learning project.

TREE CAMPUS K-12

The Tree Campus K-12 USA program inspires the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life inside and outside the classroom. The program is in collaboration with Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The program encourages schools to create purposeful opportunities for students to interact with trees. The four core standard requirements include,

(1) A tree campus team,
(2) A tree-related education plan,
(3) Hand-on experience,
(4) Arbor Day observance.

TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. The program's four, core, urban forestry management standards include,

(1) an established tree board or department,
(2) an existing tree ordinance,
(3) urban forestry budget, and
(4) Arbor Day observance.

TREE LINE USA

The Tree Line USA recognizes the best practices in public and private utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens. The Arbor Day Foundation collaborates with the National Association of State Foresters on this initiative. The program's five, core, utility arboricultural standards include,

(1) Quality tree care,
(2) Annual worker training,
(3) Tree planting and public education,
(4) Tree-based energy conservation program,
(5) Arbor Day observance.

TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD

The Tree Cities of the World program is an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. The five core requirements include,

(1) Designated tree care responsibilities,
(2) Set of governing rules for the management of tree and forest resources,
(3) Updated tree-related inventory,
(4) Allocated resource for the management of trees,
(5) An annual celebration of trees.

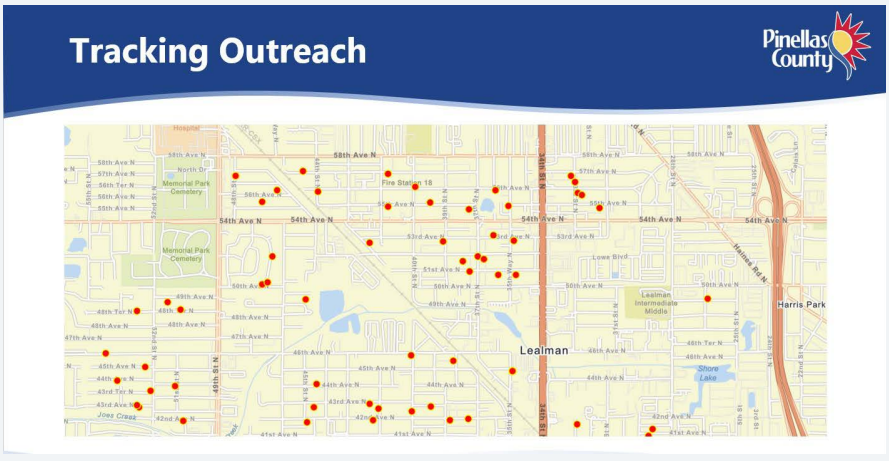
2025 FUFC Urban Forestry Awards

FUFC AWARDS PROGRAM:

In 2026, the Florida Urban Forestry Council's Awards will have turned over a new leaf. The FUFC *Urban Forestry Impact Awards* have evolved from the previous *Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards* program (2009-2025) with additional categories, criteria, and logo. FUFC awards highlight achievements of organizations and individuals committed to managing, promoting, and advocating for vibrant urban forests. Are your people, places, and programs making a significant impact on your urban forest? Are they being recognized, announced, and celebrated? Have you ever submitted a nomination for a FUFC award? Applications are due Monday, December 14, 2026. Nominate your candidate and download an entry form, or apply online, at *https://fufc.org/awards-information/*.

OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT AWARD -LEALMAN COMMUNITY TREE ADOPTION:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is excited to present Lealman Community Street Tree Adoption project with the 2025 Urban Forestry Project Award. The successful program provided trees for planting on private residential properties adjacent to public rights-of-ways. The plantings complimented Pinellas County's ongoing right-of-way tree installations in areas of low tree canopy density. The tree adoption project placed 260 trees in the ground, impacting 140 residents.



OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCACY AWARD – OLD SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is pleased to present Old Southeast Neighborhood Association with the 2025 Tree Advocacy Award. The Tree Advocate award recognizes the variety of neighborhood initiatives to enhance the community tree canopy, to include assembling an Environmental Committee to oversee tree plantings, swaps, give aways, community outreach, and educational programs.

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OUTSTANDING TREE ORDINANCE AWARD – CITY OF WINTER PARK:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is pleased to congratulate the City of Winter Park with the 2025 Tree Ordinance Award. Through new amendments, code criteria, and mitigation requirements, the City of Winter Park remains determined to preserve, protect, and empower its Tree Protection Ordinance when defending its urban forest against the headwinds of developmental pressure, conflicting State Statutes, and opposing self-interests. The trees of Winter Park stand a chance; and they have the ordinance to prove it.

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARD – OMAR LEON:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is pleased to announce Omar Leon for the 2025 Outstanding Professional Award. Omar has been recognized due to his outstanding contributions and professional commitment to urban forestry. Omar currently serves as the City Arborist for the City of Cape Coral (Cape Coral's first City Arborist). Omar's list of accomplishments included the first Urban Forestry Master Plan for the City of Miami Beach; the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA and Tree City of the World status for both Miami Beach and Cape Coral; 2018 FUFC Award for Outstanding Urban Forestry (Junior Forester) Program; and 2019 FUFC Award for Outstanding Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance.

Omar has served on several green industry boards and chaired many committees including the Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida (Miami Dade Chapter), and the Florida Urban Forestry Council. Omar is successfully leading his team through numerous challenges to overcome development pressure, significant tidal/weather events, decrease funding, staffing turnover, program pushback, and other obstacles.

The City of Cape Coral urban forestry program is becoming a shining example for others to follow, a testament to Omar's strong leadership and professionalism.

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OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM – TAMPA URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is pleased to present the Tampa Urban Forestry program the 2025 Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Award. Tampa's Urban Forestry program creates a city-wide, wholistic approach to establishing a healthy, resilient, and managed urban forest. It is a collaborative effort and tapestry of various entities that protects, manages, plans, designs, maintains, and improves Tampa's urban forest resources. As part of the Mayor's Transforming Tampa's Tomorrow initiative, the program unites the Forestry Division; Parks & Recreation; Neighborhood Enhancement Dept; Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful; Office of Sustainability and Resilience Green Team; Mobility; Development & Growth Management; and other stakeholders. The City of Tampa is piecing together its urban forestry puzzle.

OUTSTANDING UTILITY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT – JEA VEG. MGT GROUP:

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is excited to announce JEA's Vegetative Mgt group as the 2025 Outstanding Utility Vegetation Management Award. JEA's Vegetative Management team employs a talented staff of professional foresters, vegetative specialists, certified arborists, and engineers to oversee the arboricultural practices that sustain a resilient tree canopy for Jacksonville, FL. JEA's performance in safety; integrated vegetation management; storm preparedness and response; tree-based solutions with utility conflicts; and communication and public education showcases JEA as outstanding in utility arboriculture.

JEA Vegetative Mgt team has maintained its Tree-Line-USA® status since 2011; and serves as a liaison to an array of tree-related advocacy groups. In 2025, JEA's team sponsored the establishment of 313 trees, for 12 planting projects; participated in Jacksonville's Annual Tree Giveaway and Arbor Day Celebration; and actively supported the FUFC with membership, and 443 volunteer hours to the Executive Board for the completion of committee work. JEA's Vegetative Management team has demonstrated that the power of Jacksonville can be found in the canopy of trees.

Membership

JOIN US

Our members are the lifelines of our mission. Thank you for your continued support.

New and renewed members through June 2026. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name or have it displayed incorrectly.

CORPORATE

A Budget Tree Service Tree Care
- Carolyn Nelson

All About Trees Tree Service
- Pete Capoccia

Earth Advisors, Inc.
- John Harris
- Carol Bailey
- Darlene Harris
- Brandy Kuehne
- James Plowman

NRPS - Legacy Arborist Services
- Charlie Marcus
- Eric Hoyer
- Caitlyn Cherro
- John Vogel
- John Holzaepfel
- Scott Crosby
- Greg Barton
- Stan Rosenthal
- Krystee Van Den Bosch

GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT

City of Cape Coral
- Omar Leon
- Keithon Patterson
- Dustin Davidson
- Paul Rees
- Honey Phillips

City of DeLand
- Kim Grebosz
- Stephanie Cooper
- Mariellen Calabro
- Laureen Kornel

City of Miami
- Quatisha Oguntoyinbo-Rashad
- Etienne Hernandez-Perez
- Dylan Bacon
- Shawn Smith
- Karen Facey
- Craig Henry
- Andres Franco

City of Miami Beach
- Christian Camacho
- Michael Atkin
- Patrick Meus-Caris

City of Mount Dora
- Mark Miller
- Vince Sandersfeld
- Steve Langley
- Mark DeCosta
- Robert Austin

City of Orlando
- Kathy Hall
- Condredge Mallory

City of Tampa - Forestry
- Eric Muecke
- Luis Alcantara
- Miriam Brown
- Sherri Mullis
- Jorge Ysusi
- Toby Loveall

City of Tampa Natural Resources Group 1
- Brian Knox
- Henry Salazar Perez
- Joseph Cermak
- Michael Louisas
- Mary Danielewicz-Bryson
- Dana Hall

City of Tampa Natural Resources Group 2
- Sarah Arnold
- Dan Graham
- Erin Maehr
- Steven Eyster
- James Stephens
- Brian Knox
- Dylan Bacon

Community Greening
- Kenneth Williams
- Adriene Tynes
- Josh Weiner
- Mark Cassini
- Max Haughey
- Ford Derastel

JEA
- Joe Anderson
- Scott Souder
- Sam Dunbar
- Slice Demby
- Greg Preston
- Kara Brooker

Pinellas County - Development Review Services, Environmental
- Staci Tippins

Pinellas County Urban Forestry
- Gregg Moore
- Drew McLean
- Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes
- Matt Hill
- Michael DePappa
- Tim Hellijas

Seminole County Parks & Recreation
- Jeromy Mynes
- William Pandos
- Sarah Hartung
- Kaydie McCormick
- William Abbott

PROFESSIONAL

Adam Mengel
Aida Curtis
Alexis Wells
Alton Ware
Andrew Malmquist
Barrett Cruce
Bob Schankweiler
Brian Dick
Brian Smith
Brian Voelker
Buck Pittman
Carlson Cox
Casey Lee
Casey Lee
Celia Nichols
Chad Bates
Charles Carr
Charles Walker
Christina Stocking
Chuck Lippi
David Crawley
David Neville
Dean Hay
Debra DeMarco
Donald Spence
Donna Castro
Doug Durling
Edward perry Tollman
Eric Muecke
Greg Geissinger
Jeffery Hubbard
Jeffrey Boen
Jeffrey Wells
Jennifer Hitchcock
Jeremy Hinkle
Jeremy Wilhelm
Jerry Upcavage
Jessica Dalisma
Jessica Hong
Joe Samnik
John Allred
John Beaudet
John Cross
John Durden
John Giedraitis
John Rohan
Jonathan Colburn
Jordan Upcavage
Jordon Munizzi
Jorge Rivera
Joseph Brinson
Joseph Ferris
Joshua Nakash
Ken Miller
Kevin Hunt
Larsen McBride
Laura Tooley
Lucinda Utter
Maria Furey
Mark Hughes
Mark Lange
Mark Miller
Mark Williams
Matti Rukholm
Maureen Phillips
Michele Laskowski
Mike Woodard
Mona Neville
Nathan Branch
Nicole Kresse
Omayra Guedes
Oona Johnsen
Patricia Hoot
Patricia Hoot
Peter Fastuca
Phillip Howell
Phillip Smith
Ralph Ariza
Raymond Antwi
Roger Boen
Roger Burda
Russell Garnto
Ruth Hamberg
Scott Crosby
Shannon Brewer
Sherie Burch
Stefan Babjak
Stephanie Cadaval
Stephen Davis
Suzanne Newman
Tiffany Kapner
Todd Kucharski
Walter Bone
William Fowler
William Lester
William Thompson
Yair Goldberg
Yista Urbina

STUDENT

Keri Smith

FUFC Membership, continued from page 18

SUPPORTING

Dark Moss
- Dalton Smith
- Elise Willis

OUC
- Rick Taylor
- Dustin Goodson
- Rich McCoy
- Erin Givens

Tree Works
- Michael Evans
- Andy Cushman
- Ryan Bauer
- Carson Laport
- Bill De Voss

UTILITY

Duke Energy
- Nick Fanelli
- Adam Byer
- Antohny Coody
- Tamron Fernandez
- Andrew Whetten

TREE ADVOCATE

Carla Wells
Carol Delehanty
Cathy Harrelson
David Wing
Dennis Haddix
Derric Tay
Elise Cassie
George N Ackerson
Guy Meilleur
Ingrid McClellan
Jack Messina
Jamielyn Daugherty
Jan Bel Jan
John Foltz
Laura Ureta
Marguerite Beckford
Richard Brown
Teresa Myhre

HONORARY

Andy Kittsley
Anna Dooley
Bill Reese
Celeste White
Darryl Richard
Earline Luhrman
Ed Gilman
Elizabeth Harkay
Erin Givens
Howard Jeffries
Jerry Renick
Joe Anderson
John Harris
John Holzaepfel
John Snow
John Tamsberg
Julie Iooss
Justin Freedman
Ken Lacasse
Linda Seufert
Mary Lou Hildreth
Michael Greenstein
Mike Conner
Mike Robinson
Norm Easey
Steve Graham

FUFC Past Presidents

Darryl Richard	(2024)
Carolyn Cheatham-Rhodes	(2023)
Erin Givens	(2022)
Joe Anderson	(2020-2021)
John Harris	(2018-2019)
Linda Seufert	(2016-2017)
Justin Freedman	(2015)
Ken Lacasse	(2014)
Elizabeth Harkey	(2013)
Mary Lou Hildreth	(2012)
Jerry Renick	(2011)
John Holzaepfel	(2010)
Earline Luhrman	(2008-2009)
Celeste White	(2006-2007)
Mike Robinson	(2004-2005)
Mike Greenstein	(2002-2003)
Howard Jeffries	(2001)
Anna Dooley	(2000)
Julie Iooss	(1999)
Mike Conner	(1998)
John Tamsberg	(1996-1997)
Norm Easey	(1995)
Jeffrey Siegel	(1994)
Andy Kittsley	(1993)
Bill Reese	(1992)
Ed Gilman	(1991)
Steve Graham	(1990)

Become a Member!

Membership roots you into the FUFC mission to promote the value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests through leadership, collaboration, guidance, and education. Your membership unites your voice to hundreds of others working together for a tree-filled future for Florida.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Professional - $150.00 Annually
Professional membership is open to anyone actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or a related professional field. The Professional level is intended for those interested in advancing their careers, along with their professional and personal knowledge in Florida's urban forest industry.

Tree Advocate/Individual - $50.00 Annually
Tree Advocate membership is for non-professional volunteers who demonstrate a vested interest or contribution to urban forestry programs, initiatives, or organizations. These often include volunteers who are members of a tree board, local civic groups, or other Urban Forestry volunteer groups, or interested citizens.

Corporate - $750.00 Annually
Corporate membership is for those individuals, groups, or other agencies expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the FUFC. Membership will be granted for up to five (5) individuals of an organization, business, or enterprise. Corporate membership provides continuing education, marketing, and promotional opportunities that the FUFC provides.

Government/Non-Profit Agency - $600.00 Annually
Government/Non-profit Agency membership is for those individuals, groups, organizations, or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or related profession occupation. Membership level includes up to five (5) individuals with the agency.

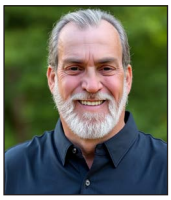
Utility Partner - $750.00 Annually
Utility Partner membership is for utility providers with a vested interest in the support and advancement of utility arboriculture inside urban forestry. Utility Partner membership provides continuing education, marketing, promotional, and "Tree Line USA" requirement opportunities provided by the FUFC.

Student - $25.00 Annually
Student membership is an investment into a future in urban forestry. Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.

Scan the QR code to join
or go to *fufc.org/membership/*

2026 FUFC Executive Board Members

OFFICERS:



John Snow
President
Executive Officer
Tree Check Up, LLC
Homosassa, FL

Mark Williams
President Elect
Executive Officer
Treemendous Consulting Group®, South Florida

John Rohan
Vice President
Executive Officer
Davey Resource Group
Fort Myers, FL

Shannon Brewer
Secretary
Executive Officer
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Tampa, FL

Jeromy Mynes
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Executive Officer
Project Mgr., Seminole County Parks & Recreation, Florida Recreation & Parks Association (FRPA)
Seminole County, FL

Darryl Richard
Immediate Past President
FDOT Landscape Architect

BOARD:

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Seminole County Parks & Recreation

JEN AHEARN-KOCH
Sarasota City Commissioner
Florida League of Cities
Tallahassee, FL

JOE ANDERSON
JEA – Utility Vegetative Management Specialist
Jacksonville, FL

EMILY BLUM
FL-PLT State Coordinator
UF School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences
Gainesville, FL

JAMIELYN DAUGHARTY
Urban Forestry Extension Agent
UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

BRIAN DICK
ASLA/FL Chapter
City of Lakeland, FL

NICK FANELLI
Senior Vegetation Management Program Manager, Duke Energy
Clearwater, FL

LISA GRUBBA
Retired - Exec. Dir. Greenscape of Jacksonville, FL

JOHN HARRIS
Earth Advisors, Inc,
FNGLA
South Florida

DEAN HAY
Urban Forester, St. Petersburg
St. Petersburg, FL

OMAR LEON
City Arborist, Cape Coral
Cape Coral, FL

LARSEN MCBRIDE
Senior Arborist, Resource Environmental Solutions
Gainesville, FL

ERIC MUECKE
Urban Forestry Manager, City of Tampa
Tampa, FL

HEATHER SHEILDS
Urban Forest Manager
Florida ISA
City of Naples, FL

BRIAN VOELKER
Senior Scientist, Chen Moore & Associates
Fort Lauderdale, FL

JOSH WEINER
Community Greening
Boca Raton, FL

TODD LITTLE, Urban Forest Coordinator
Liaison – Florida Forest Service
Tallahassee, FL

MATT KENNARD
Liaison – Florida Forest Service
Tallahassee, FL

FUFC ACCOUNT
Executive Director
Courtney Fegter
Advanced Association Management

WEB & GRAPHIC DESIGN
Sinclair Design Studio

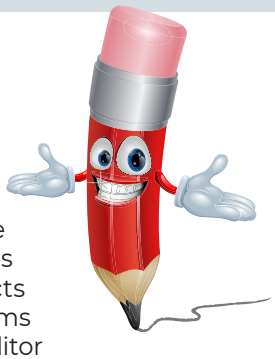
FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
200 2ND AVE. SOUTH #130
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701-4313

For more information, please contact the Florida Urban Forestry Council:
E-Mail: *info@fufc.org*
Website: *www.fufc.org*
Phone: (727) 475-5900
Fax: (727) 565-2981

Request for Articles

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter.



Articles can include:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- City tree programs
- Letters to the Editor
- Questions for "Stump the Forester"

We look forward to hearing from you on these or any other interesting topics related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send articles or ideas to Joe Anderson, FUFC newsletter editor, at *andejs@jea.com*.

Thanks for contributing!