



**CITY HALL, ROOM
118 9101 BONITA BEACH
ROAD BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA 34135**

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
TREE ADVISORY BOARD
OFFICIAL AGENDA
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 4:00P.M.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Approval of Minutes Tree Advisory Board Meeting for August 12, 2024 and October 3, 2024
- V. New Business
 - 1. Discuss/review the tree replacement guidelines
 - 2. Discuss items promoting local awareness
- VI. General – Staff Project/Updates
- VII. General – Board Member Items/Updates
- VIII. Adjournment

ANY PERSON REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AT ANY OF THE MEETINGS BECAUSE OF A DISABILITY OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT SHOULD CONTACT LISA ROBERSON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AT 239-949-6262, AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT AND MAY PARTICIPATE AT THE MEETING. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS MEETING MAY BE AN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION AT A FUTURE BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING.



**CITY HALL, ROOM
118 9101 BONITA BEACH
ROAD BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA 34135**

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
TREE ADVISORY BOARD
OFFICIAL MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024, 4:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Chairman Brown and Board Members Ogle, Dore-Smith, and Buck were all in attendance, along with Clark Ryals from Florida Forest Service and staff members.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Approval of Minutes Tree Advisory Board Meeting for April 29, 2024.

Board Member Dore-Smith motioned to approve the minutes as drafted, motion was seconded by Board Member Ogle and carried unanimously.

V. Site Visit Summary – Dorset Harbor Planned Residential Development June 25, 2024

VI. New Business

- a) Dorset Harbor Planned Residential Development
PD23-106253-BOS – 27400 Arroyal Road

Due to a miscommunication, this applicant will be notified to attend the meeting scheduled for September 9, 2024.

- b) Pennsylvania Avenue-Wisconsin Street Residential Planned Development
PD23-106206-BOS NW Corner of Pennsylvania Ave and Wisconsin St
STRAP 344725B2002590020

Chairman Jack Brown introduced the Pennsylvania project and Cannon Sandora presented and explained their request regarding heritage trees on the property.

After presentation and discussion Member David Dore-Smith made a Motion to accept the plan as submitted to replace the three identified heritage trees that need to be removed for the project with 20' tall bald cypress trees with a 4" caliper diameter at breast height (dbh) around the lake. Other heritage trees will remain on site preserves. Seconded by Phil Buck. Approved unanimously.

c) Discuss Tree Board Meeting Schedule

There was discussion regarding sending a planned schedule/calendar to all members. The scheduled date for the Tree Advisory Board Meeting has always been the second Monday of each month. However, if there are no projects for review, and if there are no pressing items for discussion, the meeting will be cancelled.

VII. General – Staff Project/Updates

There was discussion regarding adding additional applicants to the Tree Advisory Board. City Clerk Mike Sheffield indicated there was at least one application and Laura Gibson indicated she was aware of a second one. Mike stated he would discuss with the City Manager.

VIII. General – Board Member Items/Updates

Chairman Brown stated he was on the Architectural Review Board in his Community, and they are getting requests from residents along with a tree service recommendation letter that is very generic, stating that yes there is a risk and requesting a tree to be removed. Laura advised that with the new law, unless the oak tree is not healthy, the risk is not associated with the damage a tree could make on a surrounding structure, unless the tree is at risk of imminent failure and going to fall on a house. The risk is associated only with the health of the tree. If it is causing damage and mitigating measures can be made to save the tree in place, without a risk of failure of the tree, like a root barrier, then that needs to be done, or a city tree permit needs to be requested. Chairman Brown indicated he may bring a formal request for review to the City.

The photos showing the presentation made by Chairman Jack Brown for Tree of the Season at the City Council Meeting were enjoyed by the Board and all were informed they are displayed on the City's website as well as Facebook.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50pm.

APPROVED BY CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS TREE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE _____
DAY OF _____, 2024

AUTHENTICATED:

Chairman Jack Brown



**CITY HALL,
ROOM 118**

**9101 BONITA BEACH
ROAD BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA 34135**

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
TREE ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024, 4:00P.M.**

- I. Call to Order
Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30pm
- II. Roll Call
Chairman Jack Brown and Board Members David Dore-Smith and Andrew McAuley were present with an exception made by City Manager Arleen Hunter for Member Phil Buck to appear by phone so as to have a quorum to conduct business.
- III. Public Comment
No public present.
- IV. Approval of Minutes Tree Advisory Board Meeting for April 29, 2024
Member Dore-Smith made a motion to approve the minutes with Chairman Brown seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. Site Visit Summary – Dorset Harbor Planned Residential Development June 25, 2024
Member Phil Buck stated the site was pretty wet and dense with lots of exotics. A few of the heritage trees were looked at but the rest were hard to get to. Laura commented there were some nice bigger slash pines. Member Buck's concern was as to how everything would fit on the site and that there was a lot of water.
- VI. New Business
 - a) Dorset Harbor Planned Residential Development
PD23-106253-BOS – 27400 Arroyal Road

The site plan was projected on the big screen in the Conference Room so everyone could see the plans for discussion purposes. The majority of trees in the lots will have to be removed.. There is a small pocket on the western side of the preserve and very few in preserve areas. The water management coincides with where they can put the lots. There was extensive discussion on how many heritage trees will need to be removed and where additional trees could be planted. According to historical aerials, several of the heritage trees were planted in rows and likely left over from a historical nursery operation. The Board agreed these trees did not need to be replaced. Using

smaller trees of better quality was discussed. Chair Brown thought a few years ago rather than replacement we had offered an option of a tree bank. Laura Gibson stated we did not have one and that a replacement plan should be determined as to what is appropriate. Pick a number of trees you want replaced and specify replacement of other strata.

Member Dore-Smith stated if he were to make a motion to remove the necessary heritage trees from the site and replace with the maximum number of possible diverse remediation trees on the site and with improved understory plantings - I make a recommendation to remove the necessary heritage trees from the site and replace with appropriate and diverse trees from our guidelines and at the same time utilize improved understory plantings in the on-site preserve with the understanding that one gallon plant size would be the minimum allowed and to work closely with staff. Seconded by Chair Brown.

After additional discussion, Member Dore-Smith modified/amended the motion to have in place a minimum of 42 trees meeting the heritage tree guidelines on the site with the understanding that the understory provided in the replanting plan for the on-site preserve use a minimum pot size of one gallon. With a note that of the 42 mandatory trees, which is half of the identified heritage trees on the property, 18 of the current trees will stay in place and the applicant will work with staff to replace 24 trees on the property in appropriate locations and with a diversity of species that meet the heritage tree guidelines. Seconded by Chair Brown. Approved unanimously.

It was requested to add discussion for a review of the tree replacement guidelines to a future agenda.

VII. General – Staff Project/Updates
None

VIII. General – Board Member Items/Updates
There was discussion regarding when meetings are scheduled, and it was decided an Outlook calendar invitation with a reminder built in would be beneficial for the members. Andrew McAuley was given a brief opportunity to introduce himself and tell us a little about himself.

IX. Adjournment
The meeting then concluded and adjourned at 5:36pm.

APPROVED BY CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS TREE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE
____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

AUTHENTICATED:

Chairman Jack Brown

2022518er

1
2 An act relating to private property rights to prune,
3 trim, and remove trees; amending s. 163.045, F.S.;
4 defining terms; revising conditions under which a
5 local government may not require a notice,
6 application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for
7 the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on
8 residential property; specifying when a tree poses an
9 unacceptable risk; providing an effective date.

10
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
13 Section 1. Section 163.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to
14 read:

15 163.045 Tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential
16 property.—

17 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

18 (a) "Documentation" means an onsite assessment performed in
19 accordance with the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in
20 Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition
21 (2017) by an arborist certified by the International Society of
22 Arboriculture (ISA) or a Florida licensed landscape architect
23 and signed by the certified arborist or licensed landscape
24 architect.

25 (b) "Residential property" means a single-family, detached
26 building located on a lot that is actively used for single-
27 family residential purposes and that is either a conforming use
28 or a legally recognized nonconforming use in accordance with the
29 local jurisdiction's applicable land development regulations.

2022518er

(2) A local government may not require a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on a residential property if the property owner possesses ~~obtains~~ documentation from an arborist certified by the ISA International Society of Arboriculture or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree poses an unacceptable risk ~~presents a danger~~ to persons or property. A tree poses an unacceptable risk if removal is the only means of practically mitigating its risk below moderate, as determined by the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017).

~~(3)(2)~~ A local government may not require a property owner to replant a tree that was pruned, trimmed, or removed in accordance with this section.

~~(4)(3)~~ This section does not apply to the exercise of specifically delegated authority for mangrove protection pursuant to ss. 403.9321-403.9333.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Hurricane Damaged Landscape

Tree Removal & Replacement Requirements

If a tree on your property was a tree required by the City's Landscape Code and was destroyed/is dead, removal without a permit is authorized. These instances should be documented by the property owner for verification.

Replacement of required trees is mandatory. Each tree removed must be replaced with a new tree which meets the code minimum landscape requirements listed below.

Code Minimum Landscape Requirements:

- Replacement trees must be Florida No. 1 or better, as set out in Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants, Parts I and II, Department of Agriculture, State of Florida (as amended). Root ball sizes on all transplanted plant materials must also meet state standards.
- At the time of installation, code required trees must be a minimum of ten feet in height, have a two-inch trunk caliper 12 inches above the ground, and a four-foot crown spread. Palms must have a minimum of eight feet of clear trunk at planting.
- Trees/palms shall be replaced like for like (e.g., native hardwood for native hardwood). The same species of tree, while generally recommended, is not required. Please see the list *Native Trees & Palms for use in Bonita Springs*.
- A plant's growth habit must be considered in advance of conflicts that might be created (e.g., views, signage, overhead power lines, lighting, site circulation, etc.). Trees should not be placed where they interfere with site drainage, subsurface utilities, overhead utility lines, or where they will require excessive pruning to avoid interference with overhead power lines.
- After watering-in, a two-inch minimum layer of mulch or other recycled materials must be placed and maintained around all newly installed trees, palms. Each tree should have a ring of mulch no less than 24 inches beyond its trunk in all directions. No more than a one-inch layer of mulch should be placed within the first six inches from the trunk. The use of cypress mulch is strongly discouraged.
- Tree and palm staking must be removed within 12 months after installation. Most trees only require a few months of staking to stabilize.
- Pruning - Required vegetation may only be pruned to promote healthy, uniform, natural growth of the vegetation in accordance with "Pruning Standards," as

revised, of the National Arborist Association. Trees must not be severely pruned to permanently maintain growth at a reduced height or spread.

If a required tree has been damaged but is not dead, a *Tree Removal Permit* is required. The application may be found [here](#) or in the Building Permit office at 9220 Bonita Beach Road, Ste. 111.

To determine if a tree is “Required” ask the following questions:

Does the development/site have a Local Development Order (Construction Plans) issued on or after 1983?

- If the answer is yes, most single family lots require two (2) native hardwood trees per lot. Commercial and Multifamily development/sites should refer to their approved Landscape Plans for tree count specifics.

Was the development/site constructed prior to 2008 (under Lee County Review)?

- If yes, you can search for a copy of *County* approved Landscape Plan which may be found online at the [Lee County Community Development Website](#).

Is the tree in a preserve, indigenous area, or protected wetland?

- If so, it is protected, please leave it in place, as its removal may also require state permitting/approval.

Please contact The City of Bonita Springs Community Development - Environmental Sciences Staff at (239-444-6150) prior to removal if any of the following situations exist:

- If you need to locate approved Landscape Plans on or after 2008 to determine if it is a tree/palm that needs to be replaced.
- If the tree height is within 1.5 times the distance of a structure or there are concerns about fire hazards.
- If there are multiple trees in one location requiring heavy machinery to remove.
- If there are any other questions or clarifications needed.

All naturally occurring native trees, palms, and vegetative communities are protected by the City’s Tree Protection Ordinance and Land Development Code. Required landscape trees, palms, and vegetation are also protected. Any violation of these regulations may be subject to enforcement through a restoration planting plan which can include replanting with a greater amount of vegetation than previously required.

Native Trees & Palms For Use In Bonita Springs, Florida

<u>Shade Canopy Trees</u> Suitable for Parking Lots & Vehicle Usage Areas Can Provide a 30'+ Canopy Spread at Maturity	<u>General & Buffer Trees</u> Deciduous Trees May <i>Not</i> be Used in Buffers Can Provide 20'-30'+ Canopy Spread at Maturity	<u>Smaller Semi Tropical Evergreen Trees</u> Suitable Under Power Lines & Compressed Areas Can Provide 15'-20' Canopy Spread at Maturity	<u>Tree Count Conversions</u> Applies to Smaller General & Buffer Trees Creates 20' Canopy Spread Equivalents
Gumbo Limbo E	American Elm D,W	Buttonwood (Green or Silver)	Green 1:1 Silver **2:1
*Jamaica Dogwood	Bald Cypress D,W	Bolly	1:1
Laurel Oak D	Green Buttonwood E	Cats Claw	**3:1
Live Oak E	Gumbo Limbo E	Fiddlewood	**3:1
*Mahogany E	Hackberry D	Ironwood	1:1
Mastic E	*Jamaica Dogwood E	Lancewood	**3:1
Royal Palm E	Laurel Oak D	Paradise Tree	1:1
Sea Grape E	Live Oak E	Pigeon Plum	1:1
Slash Pine E	Long leaf Pine E	Pitch Apple	1:1
Strangler Fig E	*Mahogany E	Torchwood	1:1
Water Oak D	Mastic E	Satin Leaf	1:1
*Wild Tamarind E	Paradise Tree E	Seven Year Apple	**3:1
	Pond Cypress D,W	Simpson's Stopper	1:1
	Swamp Bay E,W	Soapberry	1:1
	Red Maple D,W	Spanish Stopper	**3:1
	Satin Leaf, E	Strongbark	1:1
	Sea Grape E	White Stopper	**3:1
	Strangler Fig E	Willow Busic	1:1
	Southern Red Cedar E	Key Thatch Palm (Silver)	**3:1
	Water Hickory D,W	Florida Thatch Palm (Green)	**3:1
	Water Oak D	Florida Silver Palm	1:1
	Paurotis Palm E	Sargent's/Florida Cherry Palm	1:1
	Sabal Palm E	Geiger*	1:1
	Pond Apple W		
	Sweet-bay Magnolia W		
	Turkey Oak D		

NOTES: **E** – Evergreen, **D** – Deciduous, **W** – Wet

*Susceptible to Wind Damage, use in a Semi Sheltered Location

**Number of Trees Required to Meet the 20' Canopy Minimum for One (1) Required Tree

All hollies and most magnolias were intentionally left off this list because they grow poorly (if at all) in our subtropical environmental conditions.

The city is encouraging semi-tropical evergreen trees to help restore our tropical hammock vegetation and provide a food source for native and migrating birds.

List created by Laura Gibson, CEP, Certified Arborist – Updated October 2022

Sources for Native Trees & Palms in South Florida:

All Native Garden Center

Wholesale, retail and installation services
239-939-9663
300 Center Road Fort Myers
Website: www.nolawn.com
Email: joaquin@nolawn.com

The Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (Coccoloba FNPS)

Retail trees, shrubs, palms, grasses, groundcovers
239-273-8945
9541 Broadway Ave E, Estero
Website: <http://www.fnpscoccoloba.org/>
Email: Coccoloba@fnps.org

Deep South Native Nurseries

Wholesale, some retail and installation services
239-851-1901
2051 N Evalena Ln, North Fort Myers
Website: <http://deepsouthnurseries.squarespace.com/>
Email: deepsouthnurseries@gmail.com

Earth Tech Environmental, LLC.

Wholesale and retail, installation services
Shrubs, mangroves, grasses, and native flowers
239-304-0030
10600 Jolea Avenue Bonita Springs
Website: www.eteflorida.com
Email: mattm@eteflorida.com

Native Tree Nursery

Wholesale trees, shrubs and palms, container sizes
305-247-4499
16000 SW 264 St, Homestead
Website: <http://www.nativetreenursery.com>
Email: sales@nativetreenursery.com

Natives of Corkscrew

Growing Native Trees, Shrubs, Wildflowers, and Grasses
239-206-7441
22961 Corkscrew Road, Estero
Website: <http://www.nativesofcorkscrew.com/>
Email: contactus@corkscrewnatives.com

Sanibel- Captiva Conservation Foundation Native Landscapes & Garden Center

Retail and installation services
239-472-1932
1300 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
Website: www.sccf.org
Email: jevans@sccf.org

From: [Jack Brown](#)
To: [Jane Swanson](#); [Laura Gibson](#)
Subject: Local awareness
Date: Friday, November 1, 2024 9:35:04 AM

We spoke about putting more out there regarding the Tree Advisory Board. In that light, I put this together. Let me know your thoughts:

Bring Your Southwest Florida Garden to Life with Native Trees

Looking to add a splash of natural beauty to your Southwest Florida home without the fuss? Native trees might just be your new best friends. These homegrown heroes are not only easier on your wallet but also kinder to the local ecosystem. They're adapted to our local climate, which means less watering, fewer chemicals, and more time for you to kick back and enjoy the shade.

But it's not just about low maintenance. Planting native trees is like rolling out the red carpet for local wildlife. Birds, butterflies, and other critters have co-evolved with these plants and rely on them for food and shelter. On the flip side, exotic trees can be the equivalent of a five-star restaurant with nothing on the menu they can eat.

Ready to dive in? Let's explore some fantastic native trees that can turn your landscape into a vibrant, sustainable oasis.

Discover Your Perfect Tree

Before you grab your shovel, it's essential to know which trees will thrive in your specific location. Southwest Florida mostly falls within USDA Hardiness Zones 9b to 11. Not sure about your zone? Check out the [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#) to pinpoint your spot.

The Showstoppers: Trees with Vibrant Foliage

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii*)

Who says Florida can't have fall colors? While we might not get the full New England spectrum, the red maple adds a touch of seasonal magic with its reddish hues during cooler months. Loving moist soils and happy in full sun or partial shade, this beauty can reach 40-60 feet tall. It's a fantastic choice for areas that tend to stay damp or near water features. Suitable for zones 8-10, it's a splendid way to bring a hint of autumn to your garden.

The Eye-Catchers: Trees with Unique Bark

Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

Meet the gumbo limbo, affectionately nicknamed the "tourist tree" because its peeling red bark looks a bit like sunburned skin—something we Floridians know all too well! This tree is a conversation starter, fast-growing, and drought-tolerant. Standing at 25-40 feet when fully grown, it thrives in full sun to partial shade and is ideal for zones 9b-11. If you're after a tree that's as tough as it is charming, the gumbo limbo is a winner.

Wildlife Wonders: Trees That Support Local Fauna

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

Nothing says Southern charm quite like a majestic live oak draped in Spanish moss. But this tree is more than just a pretty face. Its sprawling branches provide a playground for squirrels and birds, while its acorns are a buffet for wildlife. Plant it in full sun, and watch it grow to a stately 40-80 feet tall. Hardy in zones 8-10, the live oak is a legacy tree that can be enjoyed for generations.

Scented Sensations: Trees with Fragrant Flowers

Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Imagine stepping into your garden and being greeted by the sweet, lemony scent of magnolia blossoms. The sweetbay magnolia offers creamy-white flowers from spring through summer, attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. This tree is versatile, tolerating full sun to partial shade, and prefers moist soils—perfect for those tricky spots where other trees might struggle. Growing to 20-50 feet tall, it's suitable for zones 5-10 and adds a touch of elegance to any landscape.

Delicious and Nutritious: Trees with Edible Fruits

Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)

Looking for a tree that's as giving as it is good-looking? Simpson's stopper ticks all the boxes. This small tree or large shrub produces fragrant white flowers and bright red berries that birds can't resist. It's drought-tolerant once established and does well in full sun to partial shade. Reaching 15-20 feet tall, it's a delightful addition to gardens in zones 9-11.

Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

If you live near the coast, the sea grape is a must-have. With its large, round leaves that can blush red before they drop, it adds color and texture to your landscape. The clusters of grape-like fruits are not only edible but also a hit with local wildlife. Highly salt-tolerant and growing up to 35 feet tall, it's perfect for zones 10-11.

Privacy Providers: Trees for Shade and Seclusion

Southern Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*)

Need a fast-growing tree to create a natural screen? The southern slash pine is up to the task. Soaring to heights of 60-100 feet, it provides ample shade and serves as a habitat for birds and other wildlife. It thrives in full sun and sandy soils, making it well-suited to our local conditions. Ideal for larger properties in zones 9-11, it's a robust choice for those looking to make a big impact.

Planting Tips for a Flourishing Garden

Now that you've picked out your favorites, here are some handy tips to help your new trees settle in:

- **Location, Location, Location:** Think about the tree's mature size and give it plenty of room to grow without bumping into buildings or power lines.
- **Soil Savvy:** Get to know your soil. Test its pH and drainage, and amend it if needed to match your tree's preferences.
- **Water Wisdom:** Consistent watering during the first year is key. This helps the roots establish themselves and sets the stage for a healthy tree.
- **Mulch Magic:** Spread a layer of mulch around the base to keep the soil moist and cool. Just make sure to keep it a few inches away from the trunk to prevent rot.

Why Go Native?

Choosing native trees is a win-win for you and your native southwest Florida ecosystem. These trees are adapted to our local climate, meaning they're more resilient against pests and diseases. They require less fuss and fewer resources, saving you time and money. Plus, by providing food and shelter for local wildlife, you're helping to preserve the natural ecosystem. It's a small step with a big impact!

Embrace the beauty and benefits of native trees in your Southwest Florida garden. With a little planning and the right choices, you can create a vibrant, sustainable landscape that you'll enjoy for years to come. Happy planting!