



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Agenda

City of Pensacola
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

December 7, 2023, 2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

One or more members of City Council may be in attendance.

The meeting can be watched via live stream at cityofpensacola.com/video.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 23-1052 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the minutes from their September 7 and October 5, 2023, meetings.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

Attachments: EAB Minutes 09.07.2023
EAB Minutes 10.5.2023

PRESENTATIONS

2. 23-1053 PRESENTATION -- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ATP)

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) receive a presentation from Caitlin Cerame regarding the Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

Attachments: None

ACTION ITEMS

3. 23-1054 PROPOSED ORDINANCE 26-23 -- RELATED TO THE REGULATION OF BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN PRUNING AND REMOVING TREES; ADOPTING APPROPRIATE INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Recommendation: That the EAB review proposed Ordinance 26-23 and provide comment.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

Attachments: *Proposed Ordinance 26-23 Creating Chapter 7-13*

4. 23-1055 REQUEST TO USE FUNDS FROM THE TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND FOR PHASE II OF THE TREE CANOPY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Recommendation: That the EAB review the request to use \$50,000 from the Tree Planting Trust Fund for Phase II of the Tree Canopy Revitalization Project.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

Attachments: *Request to use funds from the Tree Planting Trust Fund -23-1015*

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to City services, programs and activities. Please call 850-435-1606 (or TDD 850-435-1666) for further information. Request must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the City time to provide the requested services.



City of Pensacola

222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Memorandum

File #: 23-1052

Environmental Advisory Board

12/7/2023

ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Chair - Kristen Bennet

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the minutes from their September 7 and October 5, 2023, meetings.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

The EAB held a meetings on September 7, and October 5, 2023. This item approves the minutes from those meetings.

PRIOR ACTION:

September 7, 2023 -- EAB Meeting
October 5, 2023 -- EAB Meeting

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive

ATTACHMENTS:

1. EAB Minutes 09.07.2023
2. EAB Minutes 10.5.2023

PRESENTATION: No



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 2:00 PM

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd floor

Members Present: Kristin Bennett, Chair, Katie Dineen, Vice Chair, Neil Richards, Kyle Kopytchak, Kelly Hagen, Jay Massey

Members Absent: Katie Fox, Blasé Butts and one position vacant

Others Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, David Forte, Deputy City Administrator, Kris Stoltz, Arborist, Barbara Albrecht, Chelsea Mahan, Tom Patton, Betty Wilson, Duane Tant

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bennett.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. [23-00039](#) APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2023

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board approve the meeting minutes from the July 6, 2023, Board meeting.

Sponsors: Kristin Bennett

Attachments: [EAB Minutes 07.06.2023 \(002\)](#)

Member Kopytchak moved for approval of the July 6, 2023, minutes, seconded by Member Richards. The motion carried 6 – 0, with two members absent and one position vacant.

Council Executive indicated that there is an add-on item for consideration and explained the process.

Chair Bennett read the title of the item: **Council of Neighborhood Associations Presidents of Pensacola (CNAPP) Tree Planting Trust Fund Grant Application – Project Title, Citizens’ Canopy Restoration Project.**

Member Kopytchak moved for approval to add the item to the agenda, seconded by Member Dineen. The motion carried 6 – 0, with two members absent and one position vacant.

PRESENTATIONS

2. [23-00668](#) PRESENTATION: BARBARA ALBRECHT: “EXPLORING THE INFLUENCES OF LANDSCAPE CHANGES ON SEDIMENTATION IN UPPER NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATERSHEDS”

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) receive a presentation from Barbara Albrecht entitled: Exploring the influences of landscape changes on sedimentation in upper Northwest Florida watersheds.

Sponsors: Kristin Bennett

Chair Bennett welcomed Barbara Albrecht.

Barbara Albrecht, President of the Bream Fishermen Association gave an in-depth presentation on the water quality in the four large water sheds, connecting the rivers, bays and estuaries in our area. Her presentation pointed out the harmful effects to the sediment, fauna and flora caused on the ecosystems of Northwest Florida by the development over the last 40 years. Her presentation can be seen by viewing the video of the September 7th EAB meeting, posted online.

ACTION ITEM

ADD-ON ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Kelly Hagen, Board Member

SUBJECT:

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENTS OF PENSACOLA (CNAPP) TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION – PROJECT TITLE, CITIZENS’ CANOPY RESTORATION PROJECT.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) consider a Tree Planting Trust Fund Grant request from CNAPP for the Citizens' Canopy Restoration Project. Further, that the EAB consider a recommendation to City Council.

Council Executive indicated that a motion and second needs to be made to put the item on the floor. Chair Bennett called for a motion and second to discuss the add-on item.

Member Dineen moved to approve discussion of the add-on item, seconded by Member Richards. The motion carried 6 – 0, with two members absent and one position vacant.

Member Hagen submitted a summary sheet to the Board, on the proposed project.

Chelsea Mahan presented the Citizens' Canopy Restoration Project. The goals of the project are to help the City achieve its tree canopy restoration through constructive and efficient use of the tree trust fund, build partnerships between the city and civic groups, and engage and educate the public on tree canopy maintenance and restoration. This project is similar to the one previously approved for the EPH tree grant. It will partner with neighborhood associations to plant native tree canopy trees, the right tree in the right place, have community buy in to care for trees to minimize rate of failure. One citizen submitted a proposal for 16 trees to be planted in Toledo Square Park, and committed to taking care of them. This could lead to future park stewardship proposals from citizens willing to participate. She reviewed their proposed budget. The grant they are applying for from the tree planting trust fund is \$5,500.

Mr. Tom Patton indicated that this program would present an opportunity for citizens to take responsibility and hopes the program can be expanded to help benefit the city to grow the tree canopy in areas where needed. It would be in partnership with the city, providing people to assist in the planting process.

Member Hagen explained her involvement in working with a group of citizens, the canopy committee, to develop this pilot project, working through CNAPP, with the hopes of expanding the project for other organizations, churches, and civic groups to become involved. They hope to work with the City and not have the \$5,500 limit. However, for the pilot program they are working within the same parameters that the EPH grant was approved. The city has not committed one way or the other. It will be the city's decision in the future. The proposed pilot program also includes an in-kind contribution for the volunteer hours.

Arborist Kris Stultz indicated that he currently can only plant trees on city property or right-of-way. He cannot put trees on private property. This proposed program could be a real boom to put trees where they are needed.

Chair Bennett inquired about the process that will be used moving forward.

Member Hagen explained that the application submitted is one that the Sustainability Coordinator developed and that there were some changes that need to be made. The EAB will not be submitting this project directly to the City Council. It will need to be sponsored by a City Council member to be placed on the agenda.

Member Kopytchak had several questions concerning how the \$20 volunteer hour fee was established, the idea of the potential savings to the city and if consideration had been given to education of the proper pruning of trees during their initial planting.

Arborist Kris Stultz indicated that the \$20 fee is standard, unless a consultant is used, that there is financial benefit to the city to have volunteer assistance and that he would be reviewing the proper pruning practices with each individual participating in the program.

Member Richards inquired about whether any consideration had been given to running soil test samples.

Member Hagen stated that for this pilot project, that was not included.

Chair Bennett had several questions about the number of participants, number of trees included in the budget to be planted, and what happens to funds if there are any left over.

Member Hagen stated that there were 75 trees proposed in the budget, that they would be keeping a line budget. There are several applications for participation that have not been turned in. Currently they have 40 participants and that each planting location will be checked out to ensure that it is the right location for the tree to be planted.

Member Kopytchak moved to approve the program, seconded by Member Dineen. The motion carried 6 – 0 with two members absent and one position vacant.

Member Dineen moved that the EAB recommend the pilot program application with CNAPP be forwarded to the City Council, seconded by Member Richards. The motion carried 6 – 0, with two members absent and one position vacant.

Council Executive reminded the Board that this is a pilot program, with a larger area than the EPH project. The program will be able to ensure that the city is getting the return on their investment. It is the residents/participants responsibility to care for the trees planted.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Executive informed the Board that the tree ordinance will be part of the review process for the Land Development Code and that a majority of the City Council members ask that the EAB take no further action on the tree ordinance at this time.

Council Executive also reminded the Board that they should wait to be recognized by the Chair, prior to interrupting recognized speaker.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no further discussion items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Richards mentioned the Climate Small Floridian zoom meetings in October. There is a \$40 registration fee, for six different presentations. Also, the Sea Grant completed its survey and they could not find any scallops.

Member Dineen mentioned the Pensacola Beach Songwriters Festival and handed out a card with further details.

Chair Bennett reference the various programs and events that the Pensacola Perdido Bays Estuary program will be conducting and encouraged Board members to check their website.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 2:00 PM

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd Floor

Members Present: Kristin Bennett, Chair, Neil Richards, Kyle Kopytchak, Jay Massey, Katie Fox

Members Absent: Katie Dineen, Vice Chair, Kelly Hagen, Blase Butts

Others Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, Molly McDaniel, Volunteer Coordinator, Pensacola/Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Barbara Albrecht, Christian Wagley, Kris Stultz, Arborist

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bennett.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No action was taken.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. [23-00746](#) PRESENTATION: PENSACOLA & PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM (PPBEP) - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) receive a presentation from the PPBEP Environmental Justice Committee.
Sponsors: Kristin Bennett

Ms. Molly McDaniel, Volunteer Coordinator with the Pensacola/Perdido Bay Estuary Program presented information about the PPBEP Environmental Justice Committee. They are looking to grow the committee and focus on getting a more diverse committee, to hear about various environmental issues in neighborhoods. They are interested in things that affect water quality and are looking to build a repository of information and to do community outreach.

Member Massey would like to receive updates on this program as the program moves forward.

Chair Bennett mentioned the recently approved CNAPP grant for tree plantings, and the need for getting the word out to people about the availability of the grant and the importance of getting the word out about the forming of the PPBEP Environmental Justice Committee.

Molly McDaniel stated that she has recently attended several neighborhood associations and that is a challenge they are working on. They are attending various community events, the libraries helped with distribution of surveys.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Executive advised the Board that the November 2, 2023 EAB meeting would need to be canceled because of room availability. Staff may come back to the Board and try to schedule a meeting because there is a possibility the Mayor's office may be bringing an item to City Council at the November meeting to request some funding from the tree planting trust fund. That item has to go to the EAB before it goes to City Council. The Arborist will be making a presentation to City Council on Monday in reference to this request, but no item will go to Council for the upcoming meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. [23-00748](#) CITY CODE SECTION 12-6-10(C)

Sponsors: Kristin Bennett

Chair Bennett explained why she added this item for discussion.

Council Executive gave a brief overview of the discussions held at the recent Council meeting. There was the CNAPP item which was for up to \$5500 for the tree planting grant. Then there was discussion on an upcoming request that has to do with the tree canopy assessment, and then there was discussion on the \$1 million grant that the City just received, to plant trees in underserved communities. That is a federal grant and has to be used very specifically the way the grant was written. There was no match affiliated with that grant. The CNAPP grant was approved 6 – 1 and is moving on. They can get a lot more trees in the ground because they are not having to pay for the maintenance of them.

The Council President requested some information about City Code Section 12-6-10 (C) 1. The last sentence states that any expenditure in excess of \$25,000 must be approved by the City Council, following review by the Environmental Advisory Board. There were three

instances where that didn't take place. The first one was in 2019 and that was the Tree Planting Management Plan, dealing with replacing trees damaged by the tornado in 2016, specifically in the north end of the city for \$100,000. The next was in August 2021 and that was for replacement of trees in specific parks due to hurricane Sally damage. The third is the Market Place stormwater pond green ways project that was \$100,000 that included \$30,000 from Council Member Myers allotment.

In 2017 the City Council put a hold on expenditures coming from the tree planting trust fund until such time as a plan was developed. That's why the fund grew. He believes that it was an oversight in not coming before the EAB because any amount coming from the fund had to come before City Council.

In moving forward, according to the code, the proposed expenditures over \$25,000 will be coming before the EAB prior to City Council. There is no requirement to approve, only that you review.

Chair Bennett reiterated that her purpose in bringing this up was the process and bringing clarity to the process.

Council Executive indicated that he will be working with the arborist and administration to streamline the application process and make it more user friendly to get the information the EAB and City Council need to adequately administer. There is no policy or process, only the City Code and that's why they are developing the process.

Even though the word was getting out about the grant, there was no real driving force for any neighborhood or association to participate. The mindset from administration at the time was that they couldn't take care of the trees that they had and didn't want to plant more. Now there is a different mindset as the City moves forward, with the hiring of expertise.

Arborist explained some of the parameters of the federal grant that was received. The grant requires 70% be spent on tree planting and 30% spent on education and job training. The grant does not provide for long term maintenance of the trees. The grant is for five years.

Council Executive explained that the City had just received the notification of award of the grant and the specifics and guidelines have not been received and reviewed by administration. This grant is for planting trees in specific areas.

Member Kopytchak offered comments on what's transpired with development and the fact that future development is going to expand into the underserved areas where the trees are to be planted because that is where the land is available.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Richards brought up the topic of recycling.

Chair Bennett indicated that the Mayor has had numerous press conferences and public meetings and sent out information on this topic.

Council Executive also stated that the decision was based on facts and the Mayor is still exploring other recycling options. He is hoping to have a manned drop off facility operational in early November. The recycling market has crashed. There is no market for the majority of recyclables.

Member Massey stated that this is just a matter of people being overzealous about recycling and doing it wrong.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

PROPOSED
ORDINANCE NO. 26-23

AN ORDINANCE
TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 7-13 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, RELATED TO THE REGULATION OF BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN PRUNING AND REMOVING TREES; ADOPTING APPROPRIATE INDUSTRY STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR DEVIATION FROM INDUSTRY STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Pensacola seeks to preserve healthy trees within the city limits by establishing penalties for failure to follow industry standards for pruning and for removal of trees; and

WHEREAS the City of Pensacola's permit process promotes public safety by incorporating industry standards on pruning and removal of trees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pensacola has identified public safety hazards resulting from the failure of businesses to follow industry standards concerning tree pruning and removal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pensacola recognizes that the public interest is harmed by the higher risk of injury and economic impact of removing tree hazards caused by business operators, inadvertently or knowingly, proceeding to prune or remove trees without permits or in disregard of industry standards; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pensacola finds that the following ordinance provides standards and requirements that will promote public safety;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. Section 7-13-1 of the Code of the City of Pensacola, Florida, is hereby created to read as follows:

Sec. 7-13-1 – Definitions.

Arborist means an International Society of Arboriculture-Certified Arborist who is qualified to perform prescription pruning;

Business tax receipt has the meaning found in Chapter 7-2, Code of Ordinances for the City of Pensacola;

Commercial tree trimming or removal company means a business entity or individual engaged in the pruning or removal of trees for compensation.

SECTION 2.

Sec. 7-13-2 – Pruning or removing trees – authority

- (a) A commercial tree trimming or removal company is authorized to engage in pruning, trimming, or removal of trees within the city limits only if it possesses a valid business tax receipt pursuant to Chapter 7-2, Code of Ordinances of the City of Pensacola.
- (b) A commercial tree trimming or removal company, before engaging in pruning, trimming, or removal of trees within the city limits, shall verify whether a permit is required and, if required, obtain the permit on behalf of the property owner, and further satisfy all permitting requirements established by the city's designated arborist prior to performing the work.

SECTION 3.

Sec. 7-13-3 – Industry Standards Applicable to Tree Pruning and Removal

All contractors performing tree care within the City of Pensacola be required to follow arboricultural industry standards, both the ANSI A300 & ANSI Z133 Work and Safety Standards, and all subsequently updates to applicable standards as identified by the International Society of Arboriculture, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) the requirement that an arborist perform the pruning and removal in according with a pruning prescription and
- (b) the requirement that an onsite assessment be performed in accordance with the tree risk assessment procedures outlined in Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017) by an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

SECTION 4.

Sec. 7-13-4 – Enforcement

Stop work order. Whenever the city's designated arborist determines that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the following actions shall be initiated:

- (a) Written notice. Immediately issue written notice by personal delivery or certified mail to the commercial tree trimming and removal company as defined herein, with a copy to the property owner, of the nature and location of the violation, specifying what remedial steps are necessary to bring the project into

compliance. The recipient of the notice shall immediately, conditions permitting, commence the recommended remedial action and shall have ten working days after receipt of said notice, or such longer time as may be allowed by the city's designated arborist, to complete the remedial action set forth in said notice.

(b) Remedial work and stop work orders. If a subsequent violation occurs during the ten working days referred to in subsection (a)(1) above, or if remedial work specified in the notice of violation is not completed within the time allowed, or if clearing and development of land is occurring without a permit, then the city's designated arborist shall issue a stop work order immediately. Said stop work order shall contain the grounds for its issuance and shall set forth the nature of the violation. The stop work order shall be directed not only to the person owning the land upon which the clearing and development is occurring, but also a separate stop work order shall be directed to the person or firm actually performing the physical labors of the development activity or the person responsible for the development activity, directing him or her forthwith to cease and desist all or any portion of the work upon all or any geographical portion of the project, except such remedial work as is deemed necessary to bring the project into compliance. If such person fails to complete the recommended remedial action within the time allowed, or fails to take the recommended action after the issuance of such stop work order, then the city's designated arborist may issue a stop work order on all or any portion of the entire project.

(c) Notice of compliance. Upon completion of remedial steps required by notice the city's designated arborist shall issue a notice of compliance and cancellation of said notice or stop work order.

SECTION 5.

Sec. 7-13-5 – Penalties.

(a) The fine for violating this chapter shall be based on the size of limb(s) or the tree(s) removed without a permit. The measurement to establish said fine shall be based on the remaining tree material left intact on the site. If a tree is removed, the trunk caliper shall be measured at DBH and at the point of removal for a limb or each limb. If, in the opinion of the city's designated arborist, the tree has been substantially damaged so that its normal growth character will never return, i.e., a tree is topped and will never recover the original character, then the fine may be based upon the caliper of the tree trunk or each limb removed, whichever is the greater. Each day a violation of a stop work order continues shall constitute a separate offense (see subsection 7-10-6(b), penalty fees, of this Code). Each protected tree removed without a permit or in violation of a permit shall constitute a separate offense. Any person may seek an injunction against any violation of this chapter and recover such damages as he or she may suffer.

(b) Fines for violating this chapter, when paid, shall be deposited into the tree planting trust fund established pursuant to section 12-6-6.

(c) The city's designated arborist, upon a finding of a willful violation of this chapter by a commercial tree trimming or removal company, shall send a notice to the offending party that its business tax receipt is void. The notice shall provide information on how to appeal the determination. A second violation of this chapter by a commercial tree trimming or removal company shall establish a rebuttable presumption that the violation was willful. A third violation of this chapter by a commercial tree trimming or removal company is clear and convincing evidence of a willful violation.

(d) a commercial tree trimming or removal company may appeal the voiding of its business tax receipt or satisfy the remedial requirements set forth by the city's designated arborist to have its business tax receipt restored.

SECTION 6. If any word, phrase, clause, paragraph, section or provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such finding shall not affect the other provision or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall take effect on the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided, pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted:

Approved:

President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk



City of Pensacola

222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Memorandum

File #: 23-1015

Agenda Conference

12/11/2023

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR:

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL TO USE FUNDS FROM THE TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND FOR PHASE II OF THE TREE CANOPY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council authorize the use of \$50,000.00, from the Tree Planting Trust Fund, to plant and establish approximately 50 trees in Phase II of the Tree Canopy Revitalization Project.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

Public Works has requested funds be made available from the Tree Trust Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00. We also request the City Council grant permission to use these funds for the installation and establishment of new trees in the proposed Phase II areas identified in the attached presentation. Proposed locations were determined using the City-Wide Canopy Study and may shift to an alternate location within the City-Wide Canopy Study, if the abutting property owners do not wish to have the trees planted in the adjacent right of way. Live Oak trees will be the focus for this Canopy Revitalization Project planting phase. Plantings of Live Oak trees are limited to the winter months.

PRIOR ACTION:

January 19, 2023 - City Council approved Phase I of the Tree Canopy Revitalization Project.
October 9, 2023 - City Council received a presentation providing an update on Phase I and the preliminary proposal for Phase II of the Tree Canopy Revitalization Project.

FUNDING:

Budget: \$ 250,801.00 Tree Planting Trust Fund Appropriated Balance
Actual: \$ 50,000.00 New Tree Plantings

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

An appropriated balance of \$250,801.00 is currently available in the Tree Planting Trust Fund. The total cost of the new tree planting shall not exceed \$50,000.00, leaving a balance of \$200,801.00 in the Tree Planting Trust Fund. Upon City Council approval, \$50,000.00 will be transferred from the current holding account to an account specifically for this project within the Tree Trust Fund.

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Kerrith Fiddler, City Administrator
David Forte, Deputy City Administrator
Amy Tootle, PE, Director of Public Works & Facilities

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Tree Canopy Revitalization Update Presentation 2023 Tree Trust Fund

PRESENTATION: No



Tree Canopy Revitalization Update

2023 Tree Trust Fund



Urban Forest Management

The City has long desired to track and maintain the City's canopy coverage.

- Canopy Assessment updated in January 2023
 - Shows the most prominent locations of tree loss
 - Tree Loss locations are the focus of planting efforts
- First Right-of-Way Tree Inventory completed in January 2023
 - The Tree Inventory provides the City a comprehensive health assessment of City-owned trees, their location, species and size
 - A management plan was developed to ensure tree health is maintained at high levels

A link to both studies may be found at:

<https://www.cityofpensacola.com/3391/Urban-Forest>



Hurricane Sally Tree Restoration

- 331 trees were planted as restoration after Hurricane Sally
- \$150,000.00 was transferred from the Tree Trust Fund after City Council approval of the Park Refurbishment Plan, Phases I and II, on August 12, 2021
- 90% Survivability rate



Tree Canopy Revitalization Phase I – Tree Removal

- 33 high-risk trees removed within City rights-of-way since April 2023
- Removal and stump grinding operations complete June 2023
- Replacement tree locations selected utilizing 2023 Tree Canopy Assessment



Tree Canopy Revitalization Phase I - Installations

- Completed – 14 Elm Trees
 - 10 at 6th Avenue & East Maxwell Street
 - 4 at West Gregory Street & North G Street
 - Completed August 16, 2023
 - Contractor will provide water and warranty for 12 months
- Completed – 9 Longleaf Pine Trees
 - 9 at Parker Circle Park
 - Awarded August 16, 2023
 - Installation completed 1st week October 2023
- Future – 10 Live Oak Trees in Season (Fall 2023)
 - 10 proposed at Catalonia Square Park



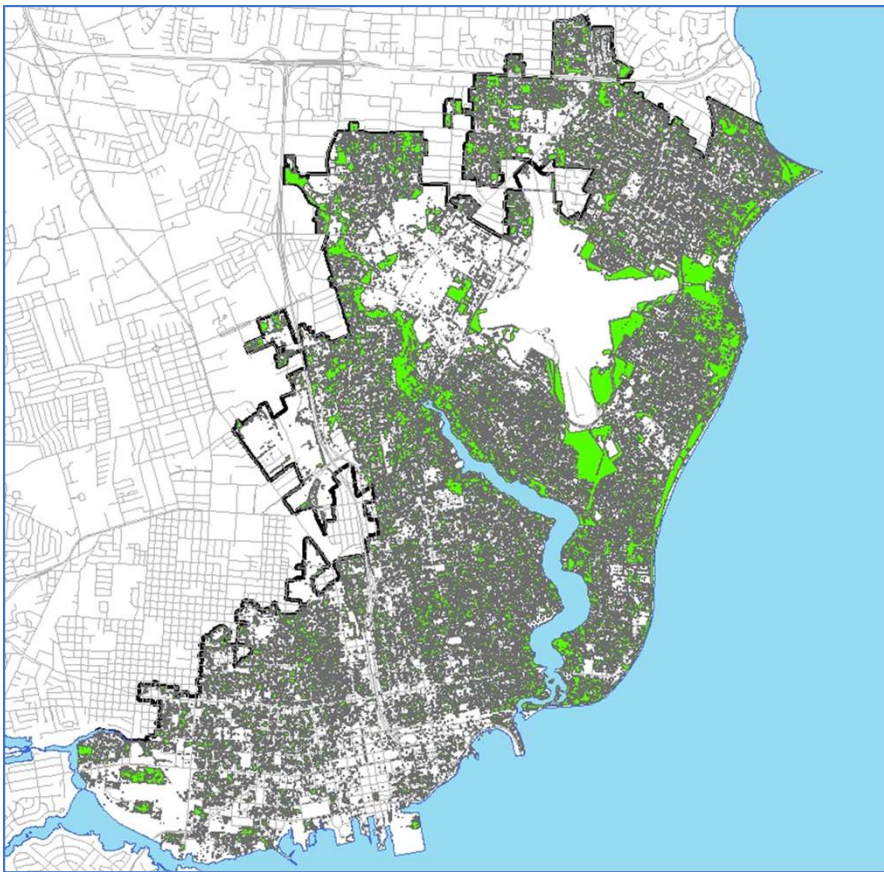
Phase II Selection Process

- Existing Tree Canopy
- Overhead Utilities
- Urban Heat Islands
- High Priority Planning Areas

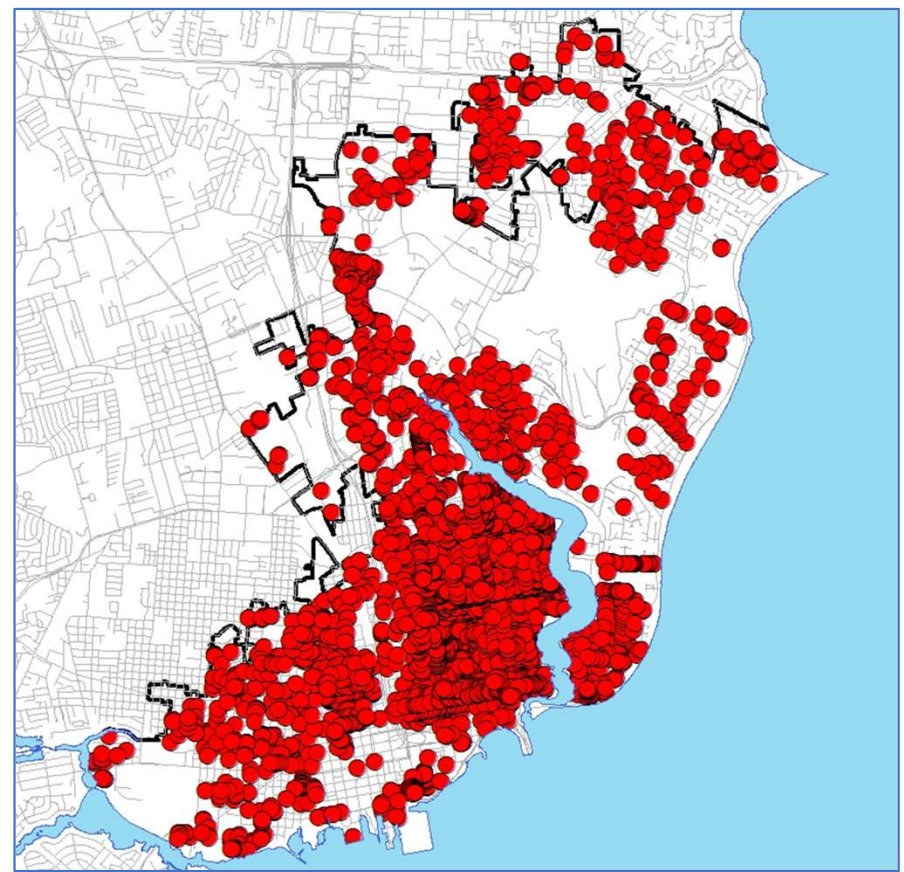


Phase II Selection Process

Existing Tree Canopy



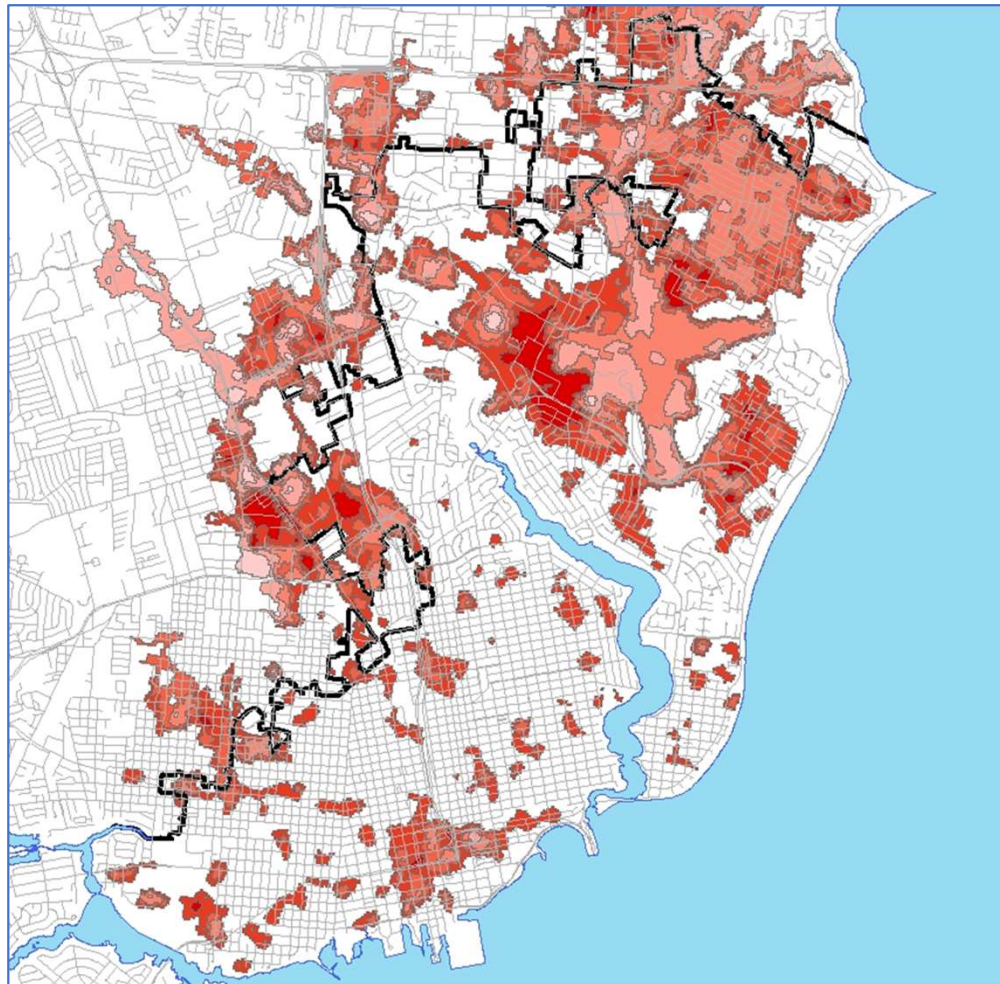
Trees having OH Utilities





Phase II Selection Process

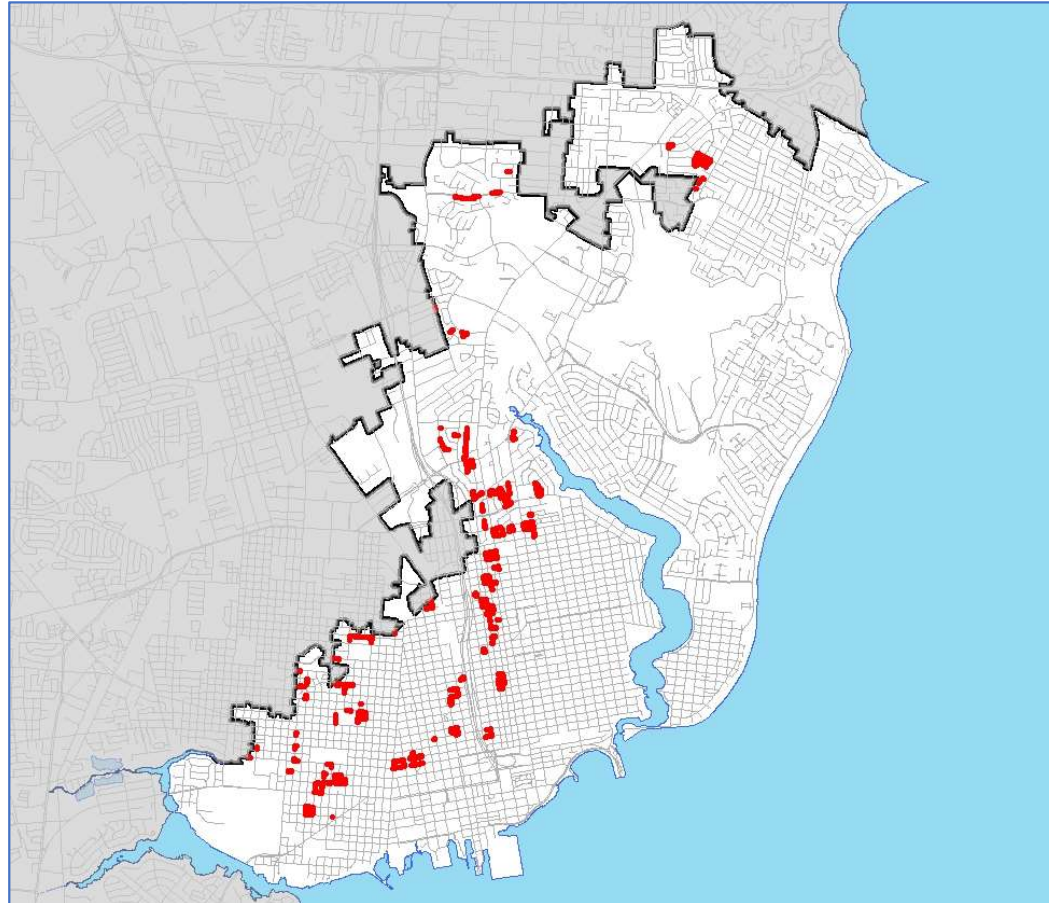
Identified Urban Heat Islands





Phase II Selection Process

Canopy Assessment High Priority Planning Areas





Tree Canopy Revitalization Proposed Phase II

From the City-Wide Canopy Study (updated early 2023) staff identified 5 five additional locations for tree planting as proposed Phase II for approximately \$100,000 from the Tree Trust Fund.

Phase II Proposal:

- 17 Live Oak trees adjacent to Catalonia Square Park
- 11 Live Oak trees along Fisher Street (east side) from 9th Avenue to 11th Avenue
- 3 Live Oak trees near northwest corner of East & West DeSoto Streets
- 5 Live Oak trees along West DeSoto Street from G to H Streets
- 14 Sycamore trees and 13 Live Oak trees adjacent to St. John's Cemetery (La Rua and Wright Streets)



Tree Canopy Revitalization Proposed Phase II

- 17 Live Oak trees are being considered within the rights-of-way on the north and east sides of Catalonia Square Park
- Funding from the current Tree Trust Fund for fall/winter 2023 and spring 2024



NOTE: Oak trees are only available in the Fall/Winter.



Tree Canopy Revitalization Proposed Phase II (continued)

- 11 Live Oak trees are being considered for installation along the north side of East Fisher Street between North 9th Avenue and North 11th Avenue



NOTE: Oak trees are only available in the Fall/Winter.



Tree Canopy Revitalization Proposed Phase II (continued)

- 3 Live Oak trees are being considered for installation on the northwest corner of North E and West DeSoto Streets
- 5 Live Oak trees are being considered for installation on the north side of West DeSoto Street, between North G and North H Streets





Tree Canopy Revitalization Proposed Phase II (continued)

- 14 Sycamore trees (yellow) and 13 Live Oak trees (green) are being considered for installation adjacent to St. John's Cemetery on the south side of La Rua Street and north side of West Wright Street





Tree Trust Fund Financial Status

Tree Canopy Revitalization Expenditures

- \$ 150,000.00 Hurricane Sally Restoration (2021)
- \$ 100,000.00 Phase I Tree Removals and Installations (2023)
- \$ 100,000.00 Proposed Phase II Installation Costs (November 2023 City Council for consideration)
- \$ 5,500.00 CNAPP Grant (up to \$5,500.00)

- \$ 258,682.00 Current Tree Trust Fund Balance (unencumbered)**
- \$1,000,000.00 Federal Grant for Education and Tree Planting**



Next Steps

- Phase II Funds Re-allocation, November 2023
- Analyze Federal Grant Funding
- Discuss Priorities of City Tree Trust Fund
- Community Feedback on Proposed Planting Locations
- Discussion with FDOT for Tree Plantings on State Roadways