



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
324 EAST PINE STREET
2ND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM**

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of March 2026 meeting minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. The Owls of Philippe Park — Dr. Mark Schocken
2. Annual Report to the BOC- Dr. Mickett
3. Presentations update
4. Sustainability for Development Recognition Program - Committee comments

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

1.
 - Phase III Extreme Water Shortage Order in place April 3–July 1: Violations starting April 17
 - Earth Day at the Library April 20-24
 - Spring Cleanup City of Tarpon Springs Solid Waste: Sunday, April 19; items at curb by 7:00 AM
 - Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community Meeting, April 21, 5:30-7:00 PM 400 S. Walton Ave
 - Salt Tolerant Plants for Pinellas County: Tuesday, April 21, 2 PM @ Palm Harbor Library
 - Shred Day - City of Tarpon Springs PD event Saturday, April 25 @ Tarpon Tower
 - Tentative Mental Health Awareness Presentation May 19 @ Leepa-Rattner
 - Annual report to the BOC May 27 at 6:30 PM
 - A native garden was planted at the library on April 10 by library staff, garden club, Gro Group

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose 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 Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for the disabled. Anyone needing assistance regarding this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 938-3711, fax a written request to (727) 942-5619, or email a written request to cityclerk@ctsfl.us at least two days prior to the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (727) 937-0017 or TarponCode@tspd.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
MARCH 19, 2026

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DR. CAROL MICKETT	CHAIRPERSON
SIOBHAN NEHIN	MEMBER
LORETTA RIQUETTI	MEMBER
DR. MELINA SCALLY	MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT: HOLLY LANGSTON SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM MANAGER

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mickett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; Ms. Nehin sent notice that she was running late.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. MELINA SCALLY
SECOND:	LORETTA RIQUETTI

To approve the minutes of February 2026 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Visitors present included Denise Mannino and Geri Doherty. Ms. Doherty expressed how much she enjoys the meetings and confirmed that Dr. Schocken will be able to attend the April 16 meeting and give a presentation on the owls of Safety Harbor and rodenticide. Ms. Mannino commented on the previous BOC meeting with the flood awareness week proclamation.

DISCUSSION

Chairperson Mickett reordered the discussion items from the proposed agenda to prioritize the annual report to the Board of Commissioners in May - the discussion order below reflects the events of the meeting.

1. **Annual Sustainability Committee Report to the Board of Commissioners** – Chairperson Mickett
Dr. Mickett presented a draft to the Committee for feedback. There are a few follow-up items, additions, and changes to be made. This will be revisited prior to the presentation.

2. **Presentation topics discussion** – Dr. Scally, Siobhan Nehin
Dr. Scally shared her presentation proposal, and possible areas of focus were discussed. The goal is to focus on two or three topics maximum and have speakers for those. Dr. Scally will reach out to two potential presenters. Ms. Langston offered to help schedule and coordinate with Dr. Scally since the targeted timeframe of May (Mental Health Awareness month) is soon. Ms. Nehin shared her thoughts on a later (fall) presentation that will stick to gardening; she is planning to set up meetings with potential experts. Ms. Langston will send her the contact information for Theresa Badurek, the Urban Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer leader with UF| IFAS Extension Pinellas County.

3. **Sustainable Development Guidelines** - Loretta Riquetti
Ms. Riquetti prepared and shared a document for a program titled “City of Tarpon Springs Sustainable Development Recognition Program). The program is well thought out and presented clearly. Staff recommended taking it for internal City Staff review.

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Owls and Rodenticide presentation by Dr. Schocken
- Annual report – discussion or draft presentation
- Sustainability for Development Recognition Program review
- Presentations - updates

STAFF COMMENTS:

- Net Zero Policy Bill
- Tarpon Springs High School Environmental Club VOGs project
- Urban Forestry Management Plan will be submitted for a Future of the Region Award
- Upcoming Events - March 24 Board of Commissioners: Earth Day & Water Conservation Proclamations - Easter Egg-Stravaganza, March 28, 10AM-1PM @ the Sports Complex - City Spring Cleanup, April 19 — place eligible items at curb by 7AM
- IFAS Extension upcoming events/classes - Water Wise Workshop: Rainwater Harvesting: Saturday 3/21 • 10AM in Largo - Salt Tolerant plants for Pinellas County: Tuesday 4/21 • 2 PM @ Palm Harbor Library

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

No Comments

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: SIOBHAN NEHIN
SECOND: LORETTA RIQUETTI

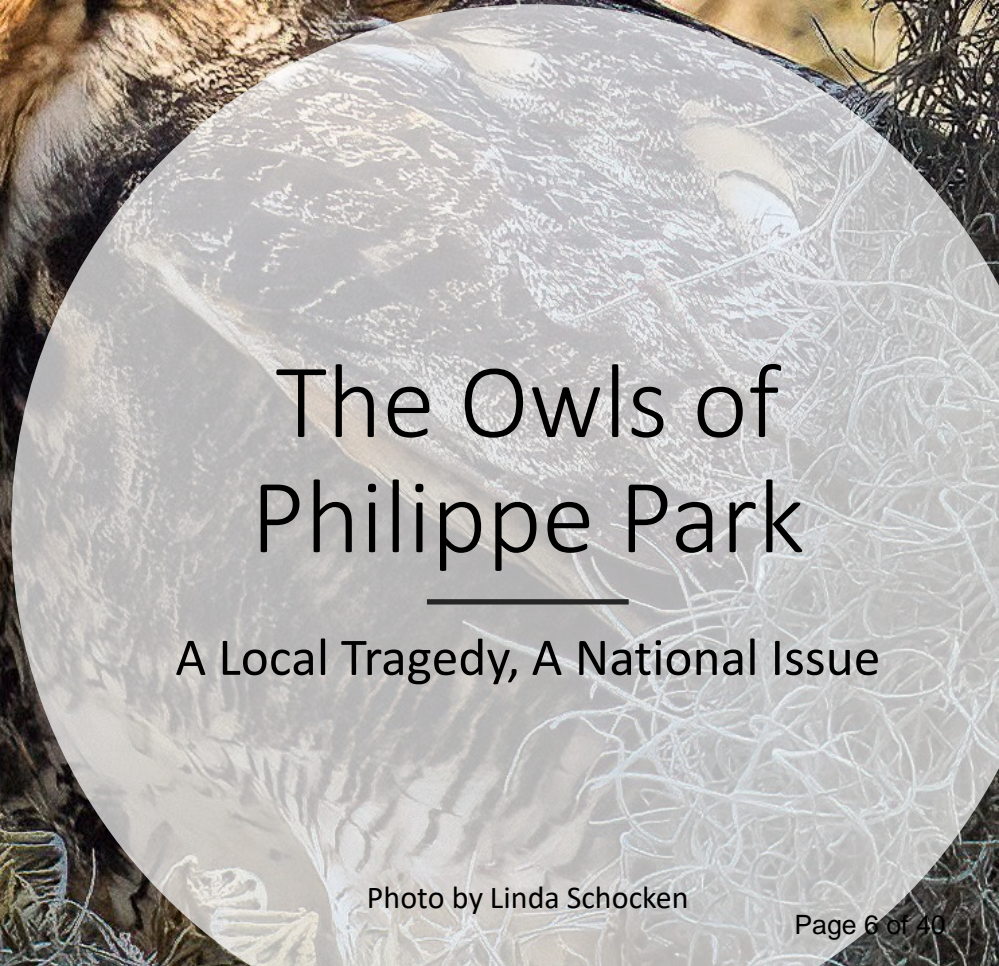
To adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DR. CAROL MICKETT
CHAIRPERSON

HOLLY LANGSTON
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM MANAGER

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety, and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.



The Owls of Philippe Park

A Local Tragedy, A National Issue

Photo by Linda Schocken

Objectives of this Talk

- Tell the story of the Philippe Park great horned owl family and their demise.
- What did we do to help protect our owls going forward?
- What can you do for your owls!





The male great horned owl, named Oliver, nested in Philippe Park for 8 years. During this time, he had 2 mates. Emily was his mate for 2 years before her demise.

Photo by Mark Schocken

Oliver and Emily



The Owls were Famous!!!

- Photographers came from all over Florida, from various parts of the United States, and from the UK and western Europe to photograph this owl family.
- On weekends, 50 – 75 photographers and spectators came to see the owls.



The Three Owlets from 2022





Daisy - photo by
Mark Schocken

What happened to the owls?

- Emily had three owlets in early January 2022. We called them Huey, Dewy (later identified as Daisy) and Louie after nephews of Donald Duck.
- Oliver and Emily and two of their three owlets died between early March and early April 2022.
- The cause of death was from anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning based on necropsy results. The owls had consumed rats baited with anticoagulant rodenticides and the poison was transferred to their organs and tissues.
- There was one, 3-month-old owlet left, Daisy; we tracked her for almost 3 weeks trying unsuccessfully to rescue her; then she disappeared.

After the Deaths of our Beloved Owls

- We learned that the City of Safety Harbor was using anticoagulant rodenticides on all city properties – suddenly we could see there were black boxes of rat poison everywhere!
- A handful of concerned citizens met each other under the “Owl Tree” to talk about what had happened and to grieve. We formed the “Safety Harbor Owl Team”.
- That night we started a Facebook group called “Safety Harbor Strong Owls and Nature” – 500 people joined the group within 3 days (now we’ve got over 3,800 members)





photo by: Fred Brisard

Learn More

Safety Harbor Strong Owl and Nature
facebook.com/groups/226335709651892

Raptors are the Solution
www.raptorsarethesolution.org

BIRDS IN HELPING HANDS

BIRDSINHELPINGHANDS.ORG

727-365-4592

BIRDSINHELPINGHANDS@GMAIL.COM



photo by: Mark J. Schocken

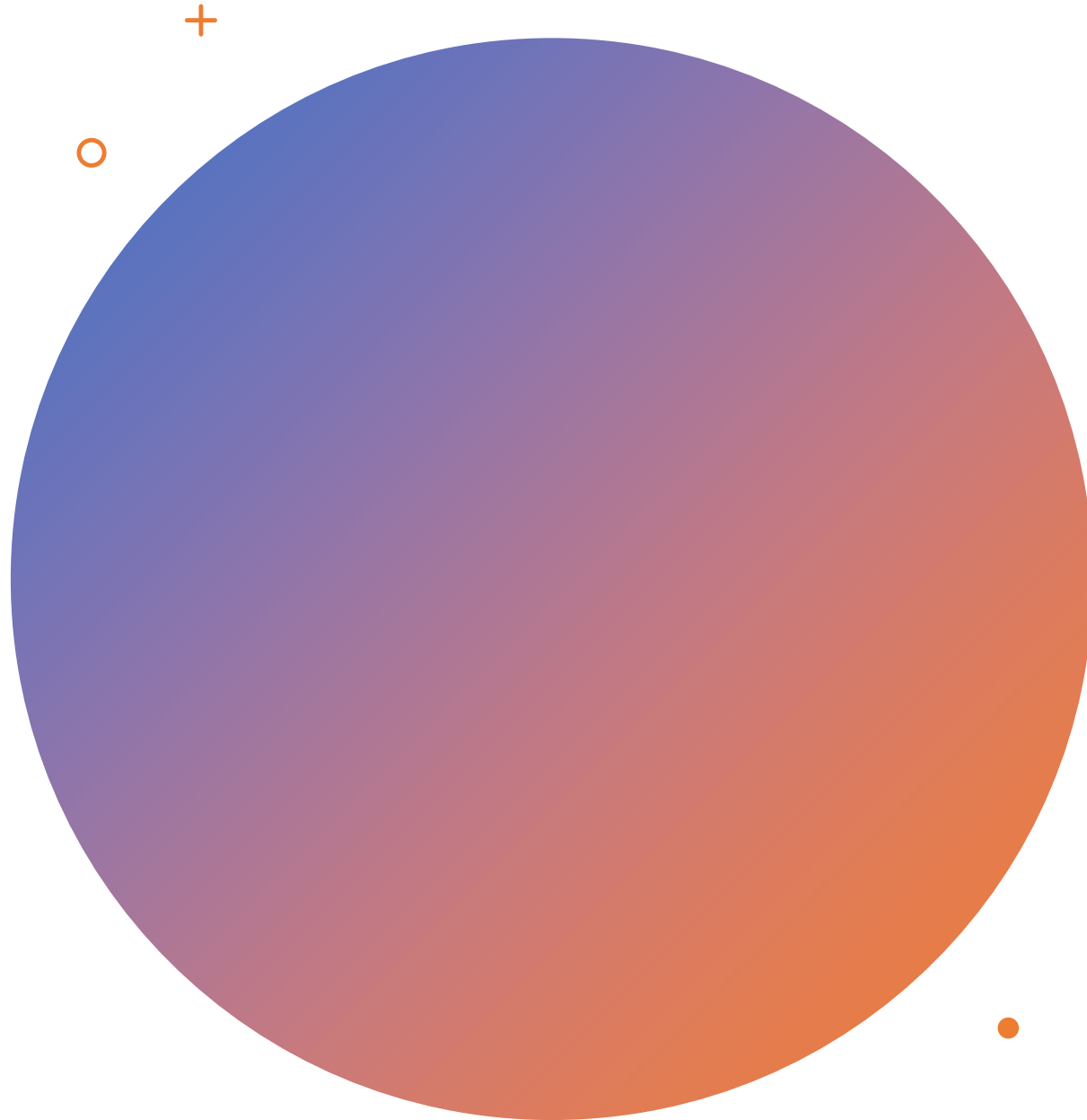
DEATH BY POISON

Rat poison is often used in bait stations, those shoebox size black boxes you see around buildings and dumpsters. The rats and mice do not die inside the stations but after eating the bait, they go back into the wild and can take more than a week to die. Weakened from internal bleeding, poisoned rodents become toxic ticking time bombs for any animal who preys on them.

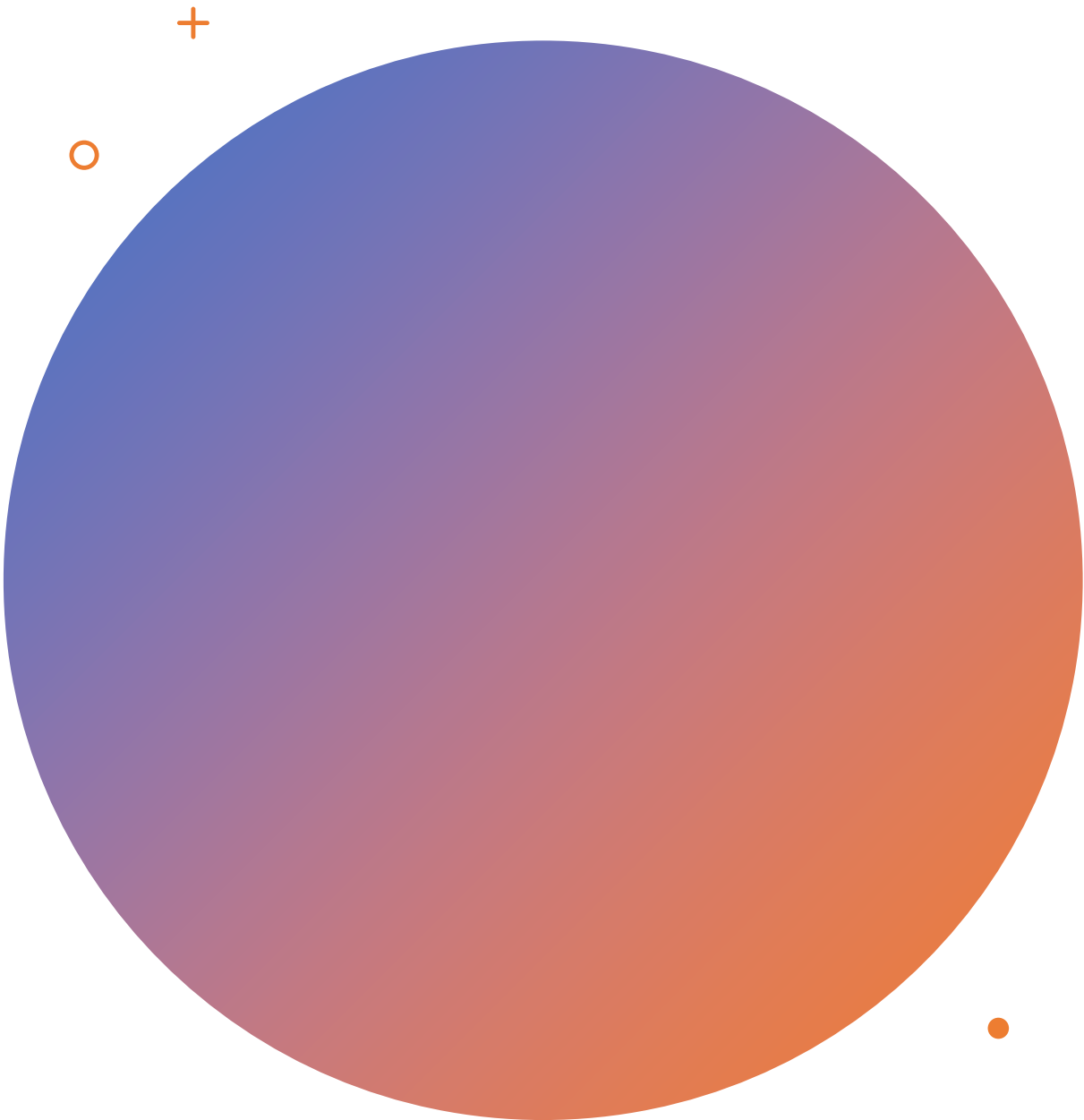
All types of rodent poison can sicken and kill wildlife and pets.

Do Use	Don't Use
Safer Products Bromethalin Examples: · Fastrac · Assault Cholecalciferol Examples: · Terad3	Unsafe Products Brodifacoum Example: d-Con Bromadiolone Example: Contrac Chlorophacinone Example: Ratol Difenacoum Example: Di-Kill Rat Bait Difethialone Example: First Strike Diphacinone Example: TomCat

We developed a brochure and posters to help educate the local citizens concerning this issue.



- We went to the Mayor and City Council and explained what happened. The black boxes were immediately removed from city properties.
- The City of Safety Harbor mailed our brochures to every resident of the City as a utility bill insert.
- The Mayor, through social media, commented on the risks of poisoning wildlife and pets and asked everyone to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides.
- The issue was the cover of the quarterly Safety Harbor Magazine.
- The story of the poisoning of the Philippe Park owls was featured in the Tampa Bay Times, Patch, The Beacon, Dunedin Living and other publications. On TV, Channels 3 and 8 and Fox News.



- The Safety Harbor Owl Team developed the idea of providing a **Certificate of Recognition** and we highlight the companies on our Facebook page as “owl-friendly”community heroes.
- Given to businesses that agree to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides.
- A team contacted pest control companies and asked them not to use anticoagulant rodenticides. If they confirm and prove that they are using only “safer” products, we present them with this certificate and give them lots of publicity.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS
PRESENTED TO

Vital Planet

BY

Birds In Helping Hands

In recognition of the efforts
Eckerd College has made to
protect the environment by
eliminating the use of
anticoagulant rat poison

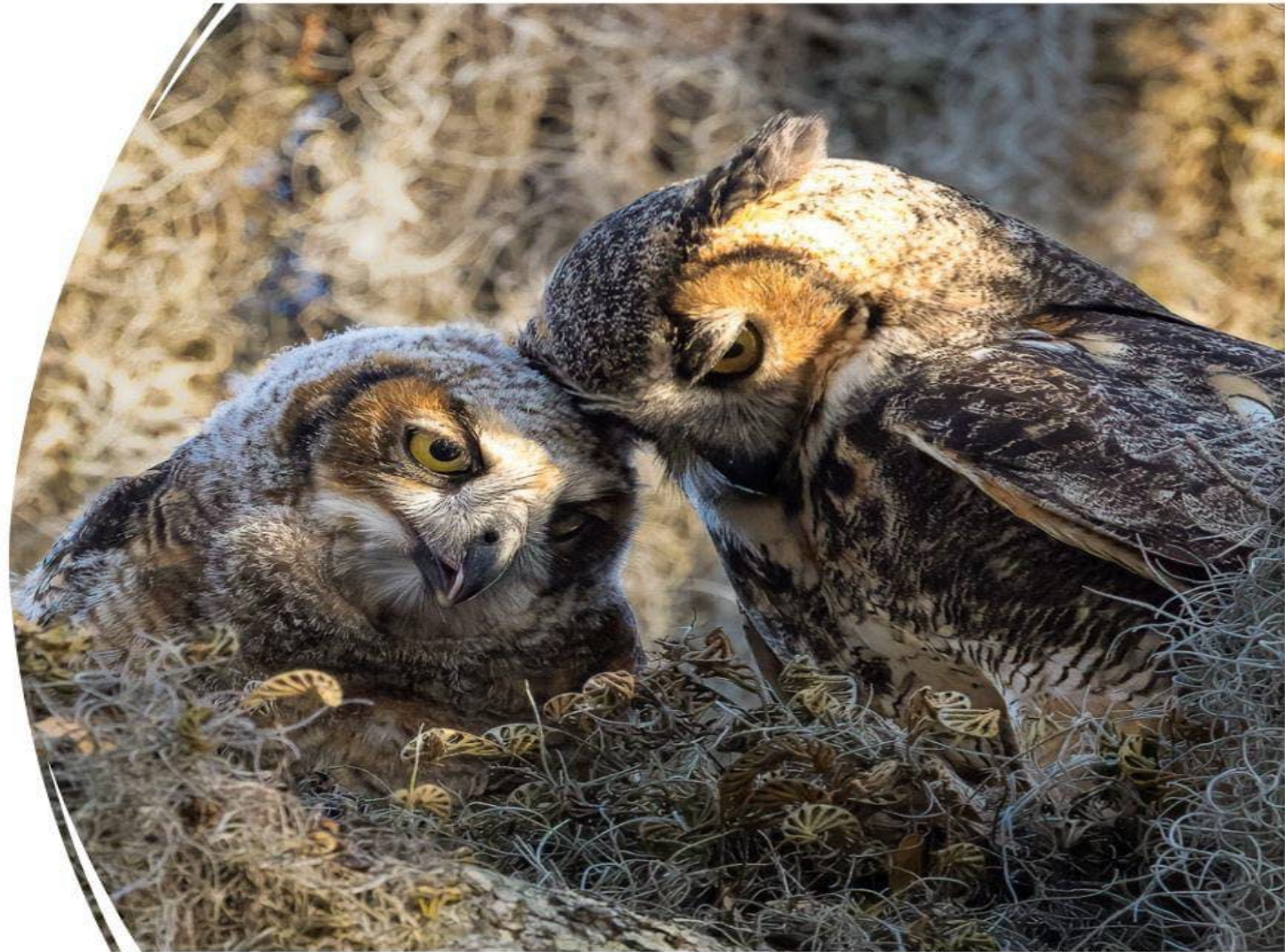


Photo by Linda Schocken – ©Schocken Photography

In memory of Emily and Huey

Nature's Pest Control

One adult owl can eat 1,000 to 1,400 rats in one year.

Using poison to kill rodents has the long-term effect of **INCREASING** the rodent population since the poison kills off the rodents' natural predators, such as owls, allowing the rodents to breed unchecked.



What you can do!

- Keep trash bins tightly closed, clean up refuse; remove pet food, spilled birdseed and fallen fruit
- Seal cracks and crevices leading into your home. Use ¼-inch metal mesh, not chicken wire, to block entry points
- Trim foliage and tree limbs at least 2 feet away from sides and roofs of houses
- Use an owl box; ultrasonic devices, repellents such as peppermint oil or eucalyptus oil; dryer sheets
- If you need to hire a professional, only hire exterminators who do **not** use anticoagulant rodenticides and who use and are trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM).



A Safer Approach to Rodent Control

By using preventative measures and safer rodenticides, we can keep rodents out of our homes and businesses, protect our pets and keep the rodents in the wild where they belong.



Photo by Linda Schocken

The Truth About Anticoagulant Rat Poison


- Dozens of scientific studies have found rat poisons are present in the tissues of a wide variety of wildlife, including owls.
- Rat poison also kills dogs and cats.
- Rat poison leads to a painful death for all animals who are exposed to it, whether they consume the poison **directly** or eat the flesh of a poisoned animal (secondary). Rat poison kills the very wildlife that helps us control rats and mice.



Anticoagulant Rodenticides

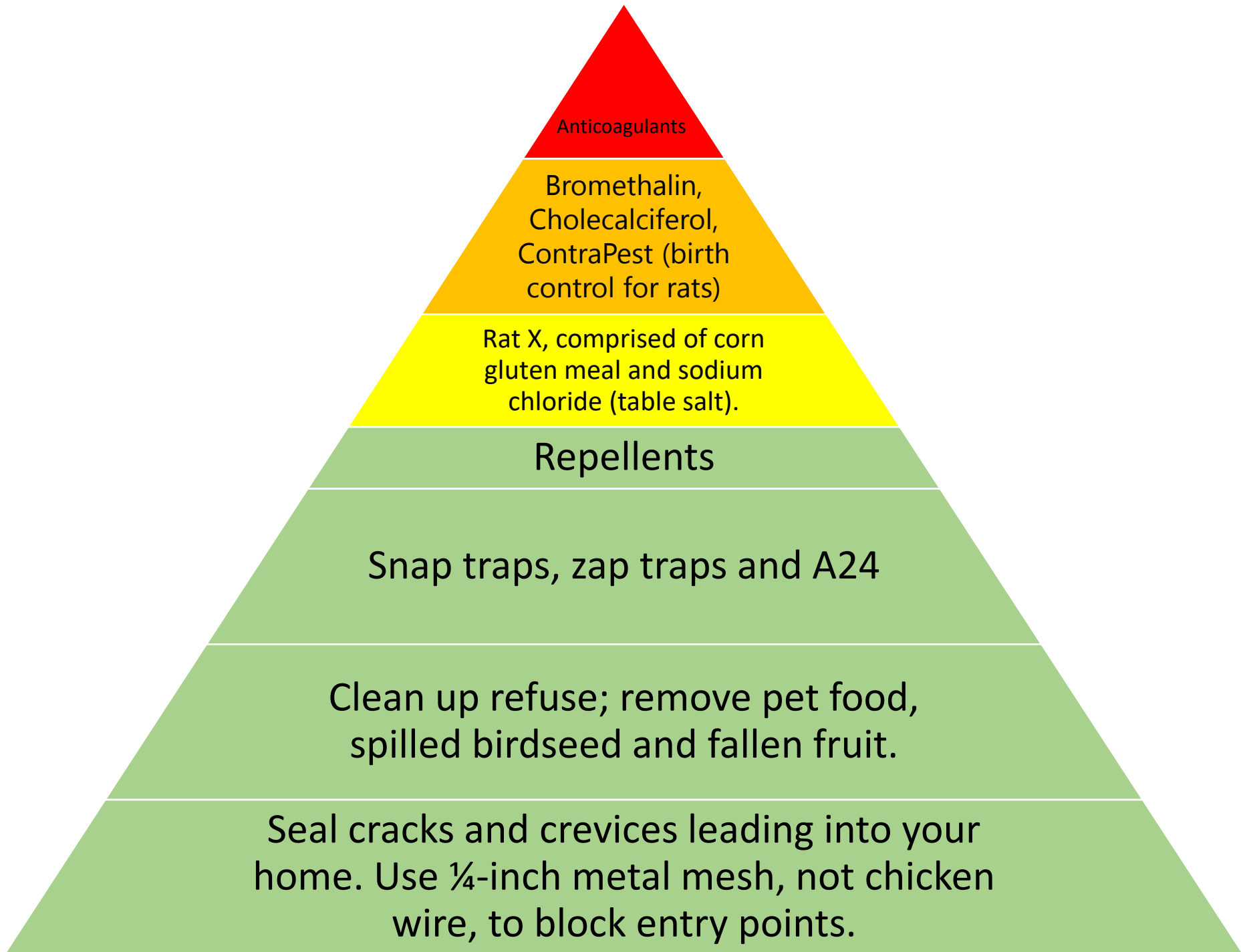
- First-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs)
 - Warfarin, diphacinone and chlorophacinone
 - Warfarin developed in the 1940s and the others introduced later. Work by disrupting normal blood clotting so that rats suffer from uncontrolled bleeding (hemorrhaging). Requires multiple feedings to cause death. Once lethal dose is achieved, can take 3 – 4 days for the rat to die. However, rats develop a resistance to these rodenticides over time.
- Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)
 - Brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum and difethialone
 - First developed in the 1970s. Substantially more potent than FGARs. A lethal dose can be ingested in a single feeding. They are not excreted quickly and are persistent in rat organs and tissues.
- Antidote is Vitamin K₁





Non- Anticoagulant Rodenticides

- Bromethalin (1985)
 - A neurotoxicant that causes paralysis and convulsions.
 - Lethal dose achieved with a single feeding. Death within 24 – 36 hours.
 - Not known to cause secondary poisoning of wildlife.
 - No antidote
- Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D₃ [1984])
 - Produces elevated calcium levels which results in kidney failure.
 - Lethal dose achieved with a single feeding. Death within 3 – 4 days.
 - Not known to cause secondary poisoning of wildlife.
 - No antidote



- Mark wrote a summary of the Philippe Park Great Horned Owl Tragedy, and it was published in The Wild Lens magazine. A PDF version can be provided free to anyone if you email Mark at:

- mjschocken@gmail.com



Resources

Safety Harbor Strong Owl and Nature [Safety Harbor Owls & Nature | Facebook](#)

Our website www.safetyharborowls.weebly.com

Raptors are the Solution
www.raptorsarethesolution.org

Birds in Helping Hands
www.BirdsInHelpingHands.org

Photo by Linda Schocken



Thank You!

City of Tarpon Springs

Sustainability for Development Recognition Program

Developer Guide, Sustainability Menu, Incentives, and Recognition Framework

In partnership with the Sustainability Advisory Committee

City of Tarpon Springs

Sustainable Development Recognition Program

Complete Detailed Developer Packet

In partnership with the Sustainability Advisory Committee

1. Introduction

Build Smarter. Get Recognized.

The City of Tarpon Springs is introducing the Sustainable Development Recognition Program to encourage practical, high-quality sustainability features in new development and redevelopment projects.

This program provides a clear and flexible framework that allows developers to incorporate sustainability measures through a simple menu of options, without complex scoring systems.

Inspired by neighboring communities but intentionally simplified, this program reflects Tarpon Springs' coastal environment, community identity, and long-term resilience goals.

Through this program, the City seeks to:

- Promote energy efficiency and reduced emissions.
- Encourage water conservation appropriate for Florida's climate.
- Support resilient and adaptable development.
- Enhance long-term property value and livability.

All recognized projects—Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—will be featured on the City's sustainability webpage, highlighting their selected sustainability measures.

The City of Tarpon Springs recognizes that sustainable development extends beyond buildings to include the protection and enhancement of natural systems.

Efforts to preserve trees, protect native habitat, and support local wildlife are strongly encouraged and may be highlighted as part of the City’s sustainability recognition program, reflecting the community’s commitment to environmental stewardship and coastal resilience.

2. Why Participate / Business & Developer Benefits

Participation in the Sustainable Development Recognition Program provides more than operational benefits—it offers an opportunity for developers and businesses to demonstrate leadership and commitment to the community.

Building Value Through Sustainability

Projects that incorporate sustainability features contribute to a shared vision of a resilient, environmentally responsible, and vibrant Tarpon Springs, fostering a sense of pride for both project teams and the broader community.

Strengthening Your Brand

- Enhanced reputation as a forward-thinking and responsible business.
- Alignment with community values related to conservation, resilience, and environmental stewardship.
- Increased visibility through City recognition and promotion.

Attracting Customers & Tenants

Today’s residents, customers, and visitors are increasingly making decisions based on environmental values.

- Projects that visibly incorporate sustainability features may attract customers who prefer to support environmentally responsible businesses.
- Recognized projects may appeal to tenants seeking sustainable living or working environments.
- Sustainability recognition can improve overall desirability and competitiveness in the marketplace.

A Shared Commitment

By participating in this program, developers and businesses become partners in advancing a more sustainable future for Tarpon Springs. This shared commitment not only benefits individual projects, but also strengthens the identity of the city as a community that values environmental responsibility, natural beauty, and long-term resilience.

3. How the Program Works

Simple 3-Step Process

- Review the Sustainability Menu.
- Select applicable sustainability features for the project.
- Submit selections with project plans and supporting information.

There is no point calculation, no weighted scoring matrix, and no requirement for developers to perform complex tabulations. The program is intended to be straightforward, predictable, and easy to administer.

Equivalent sustainability measures may be proposed for City review and approval where an alternative method supports the intent of the program.

4. Recognition Levels

Level	Requirements	Recognition / Incentives
Bronze – Recognized Sustainable Development	Minimum of 6 approved sustainability measures.	Certificate of Recognition; recognition on the City's sustainability website; Sustainability Recognition Window Decals for approved categories.
Silver – Enhanced Sustainable Development	Minimum of 8 approved sustainability measures, including one water measure.	Framed certificate; website feature for one year; Sustainability Recognition Window Decals; optional recognition plaque available upon request.
Gold – Exemplary Sustainable Development	Minimum of 10 approved sustainability measures, including one water measure and one high-impact feature.	Premium recognition; featured project placement on the City's sustainability webpage; public promotion; Sustainability Recognition Window Decals; commemorative plaque; eligibility for Sustainability Leadership Ribbon Cutting consideration.
Platinum – Sustainability Leadership Development	Minimum of 12 approved sustainability measures, including one water measure and two high-impact features.	All Gold benefits; enhanced promotion; designation as a Sustainability Leadership Project; strong eligibility for Sustainability Leadership Ribbon Cutting consideration.

All recognition levels are publicly acknowledged on the City's sustainability webpage.

5. High-Impact Sustainability Features

For purposes of this program, high-impact sustainability features are those that provide significant environmental benefit, visibility, or both.

- Solar photovoltaic systems.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Rainwater collection systems.
- Smart irrigation systems.
- Native landscaping that significantly reduces irrigation demand.
- Preservation of mature trees.
- Landscape design that eliminates or significantly reduces mowing, fertilizers, and pesticides while supporting pollinators and wildlife.

6. Sustainability Menu (Developer Selection)

The following checklist is intended to provide detailed options for developer selection. Items may be selected where applicable to the project and may be supplemented with approved equivalent measures.

Energy

- Install high-efficiency HVAC systems that exceed Florida Building Code minimum efficiency requirements.

- Use LED lighting for all interior and exterior building and site lighting applications.
- Design the building to be solar-ready, including proper orientation, conduit pathways, and structural support.
- Install on-site solar photovoltaic panels sized appropriately for building energy demand.
- Install cool or reflective roofing materials to reduce heat island effect and improve energy efficiency.
- Use high-performance insulation systems and energy-efficient windows to reduce heat gain and loss.
- Install ENERGY STAR or equivalent high-efficiency appliances and mechanical equipment.
- Integrate building automation systems or smart energy management controls for optimized performance.
- Use daylighting strategies to reduce reliance on artificial lighting where feasible.

Water

- Use native or drought-tolerant landscaping to significantly reduce irrigation demand.
- Install drip irrigation systems for planting beds and landscaped areas.
- Use smart irrigation controllers with weather-based or soil moisture-based adjustments.
- Install rainwater harvesting systems or cisterns to capture roof runoff.
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures, including toilets, faucets, and showerheads.
- Design landscaping to eliminate or significantly reduce permanent irrigation systems.
- Capture and reuse stormwater for irrigation or site use where feasible.
- Use permeable landscape design techniques to promote groundwater recharge.
- Minimize turf grass areas that require high water consumption.

Urban Nature / Habitat

- Preserve existing mature trees on-site wherever possible.
- Plant additional canopy trees to increase shade and reduce heat island effect.
- Use native landscaping that supports local ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Select plant species that support pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- Include plant species that provide nectar, seeds, and shelter for wildlife.
- Create designated habitat-supporting landscape zones within the project site.
- Provide shaded pedestrian areas using trees or structural shade elements.
- Design landscaping that eliminates or significantly reduces lawn areas requiring mowing.
- Eliminate or significantly reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides in landscape maintenance.
- Use layered vegetation—such as groundcover, shrubs, and canopy—to enhance habitat quality.

Transportation

- Install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations accessible to residents, employees, or customers.
- Provide bicycle racks or secure bike storage areas.
- Design site layout to be pedestrian-friendly and encourage walkability.
- Reduce overall parking footprint where feasible to minimize impervious surfaces.

- Provide preferred or designated parking for low-emission or electric vehicles.
- Include connections to nearby sidewalks, trails, or transit where available.

Materials & Waste

- Implement a construction waste recycling program to divert materials from landfill.
- Provide on-site recycling facilities for building occupants.
- Use locally sourced building materials to reduce transportation impacts.
- Use recycled, reclaimed, or sustainably sourced construction materials.
- Reduce overall material waste during construction through efficient design and planning.
- Provide composting options for organic waste where feasible.
- Use durable, long-lasting materials to reduce replacement frequency.

Resilience

- Elevate building above minimum flood elevation requirements.
- Use hurricane-resistant construction methods and materials.
- Install permeable paving systems to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Incorporate advanced stormwater management systems.
- Design building and site for long-term climate resilience.
- Achieve or pursue recognized green building certifications.
- Use backup systems or design strategies to improve operational resilience during extreme events.

7. Pollinators & Wildlife

Landscaping should support pollinators and wildlife using native species that provide food, shelter, and habitat value.

Projects are encouraged to reduce or eliminate mowing, fertilizers, and pesticides through sustainable landscape design.

Landscapes designed with pollinators and wildlife in mind help support bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial species, while also improving ecosystem health, reducing chemical use, and enhancing the natural character of Tarpon Springs.

8. Website Recognition

All approved sustainability measures incorporated into a project will be acknowledged and highlighted on the City's sustainability webpage.

Recognition may include project descriptions, photos, and highlighted sustainability features.

Each sustainability feature selected as part of this program contributes to the overall environmental performance of the project, and the City intends to recognize those efforts publicly.

9. Sustainability Recognition Window Decals

Participating projects will receive Sustainability Recognition Window Decals identifying the sustainability categories incorporated into the development.

These decals provide a visible way to showcase efforts such as energy efficiency, water conservation, tree preservation, habitat support, and other sustainable practices to customers, tenants, and the community.

Projects may receive decals for the following categories:

- Energy Efficiency
- Water Conservation
- Tree Preservation & Habitat
- Sustainable Transportation
- Materials & Waste Reduction
- Resilience & Innovation

Decals are intended for display in storefront windows, building entrances, leasing offices, or lobbies. Digital versions of these recognition decals may also be used in marketing materials, websites, and leasing information.

10. Plaques

The plaque option is intended to provide a visible, durable, and official form of recognition that can be displayed prominently on-site.

Recommended use by level

- Bronze: no plaque required.
- Silver: optional recognition plaque available upon request.
- Gold: commemorative on-site plaque identifying the project as a recognized Sustainable Development.

Standard plaque wording

Recognized Sustainable Development – City of Tarpon Springs – Sustainability Advisory Committee – [Project Name] – Gold Level – Year

Plaques are intended to be displayed in a prominent location such as a building entrance, lobby, or leasing office.

11. Sustainability Leadership Ribbon Cutting

Projects achieving Gold or Platinum recognition and incorporating solar energy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and water conservation measures may qualify for a Sustainability Leadership Ribbon Cutting event.

This recognition is intended to highlight projects that go above and beyond in demonstrating leadership in sustainability and environmental responsibility within the City of Tarpon Springs.

- A City-hosted ribbon cutting ceremony coordinated with the Sustainability Advisory Committee.
- Participation by members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee to recognize the project's sustainability achievements.
- Potential participation by the Mayor of Tarpon Springs, subject to availability, to formally acknowledge the project's contribution to the community.
- Local media and press recognition highlighting the project and developer.

- Featured placement on the City’s sustainability website and promotional channels.
- Public acknowledgment of the developer’s leadership in sustainability and commitment to the community.

Projects that include solar energy, EV charging, and water conservation features may be prioritized for ribbon cutting opportunities and enhanced recognition.

12. Application Form

Project Name: _____

Project Address: _____

Applicant / Developer: _____

Requested Recognition Level: Bronze / Silver / Gold / Platinum

Selected Sustainability Measures: _____

Supporting Description / Notes: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

13. Example Project

Example: Harbor Grove Mixed-Use Development

- Solar panels installed.
- EV charging stations provided.
- Rainwater collection and smart irrigation incorporated.
- Existing mature trees preserved and additional canopy trees planted.
- Native, pollinator-supporting landscape areas provided.
- Project receives website feature, window decals, commemorative plaque, and ribbon cutting eligibility.



TARPON SPRINGS SHRED DAY

APRIL 25, 2026

10AM TO 1PM



3 FILE SIZE BOXES OR
PAPER GROCERY BAGS
OF YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION



NO BINDERS,
HARDCOVERS, OR
BINDER CLIPS
STAPLES AND PAPERCLIPS ARE OK!



NO CD'S OR DVD'S
NO COMPUTER HARD DRIVES

↑
DRIVE
THRU

DRIVE THRU SERVICE

STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE WHILE OFFICERS TRANSFER
YOUR DOCUMENTS TO THE SHRED TRUCK



TARPON SPRINGS RESIDENTS ONLY

ID REQUIRED
NO COST
HELP PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

**905 E MARTIN LUTHER KING DR
TARPON TOWERS REAR PARKING LOT**



SPRING CLEANUP DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

Place items at the curb by 7:00 AM

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Furniture - Mattresses - Small Household Items - Carpet & Pads (cut & bundled in 4' sections) - Ovens - Washers - Dryers - Microwaves

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

Tires - Yard Waste - Propane Tanks & Gas Powered Equipment - Air Conditioning Units - Concrete - Construction Material Over 4' - Refrigerators - Freezers - TV's - Electronics - Chemicals

QUESTIONS?

Call: (727) 943-4837

Visit: ctsfl.us/200/Solid-Waste-Recycling-Yardwaste

TIRE DROP OFF

As part of this clean-up service, the City will accept used off rim tires at the Yard Waste Facility located at 101 E Meres Blvd, Tarpon Springs, FL, 34689

Friday, April 17, 2026 from 7:00 AM to 4:40 PM and Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

You must bring your City of Tarpon Springs utility bill and a valid driver's license. There is a 4-tire limit per household, and all tires over 32" must be cut in half.

TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

138 E. LEMON ST. TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689

APRIL 2026

HOURS

MON-WED: 10 AM-8 PM
THU-FRI: 10 AM-6 PM
SAT: 10 AM-5 PM
SUN: CLOSED

AARP FREE TAX HELP

Mondays & Tuesdays
10 AM - 1:45 PM

LAST DAY APRIL 14

See details inside or visit
tarponlibrary.org/tax

EARTH WEEK AT THE LIBRARY



April 20 - April 25

- Free "Grab & Grow" Kits sponsored by the Friends of the Library
- Free Seeds from our Seed Library
- Sustainability Information & Resources

COMMUNITY EVENT



SATURDAY
APRIL 25 10 AM TO 4 PM

FESTIVAL LOCATED ON
COURT STREET IN
DOWNTOWN TARPON

SPECIAL EVENTS LOCATED
AT THE TARPON LIBRARY,
CULTURAL CENTER &
TRAIN DEPOT MUSEUM

Stop by the Library booth
& Friends of the Library
booth on Court Street



CAREGIVERS & COMPANIONS

MEMORY CAFÉ 1st Saturdays of each month

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Friendly meeting place for adults living with mild cognitive impairment or dementia and their care partners to relax, have fun, and meet others

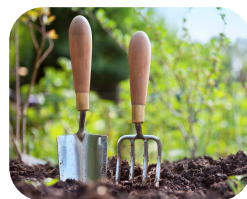


YOUTH PROGRAM (Ages 5 & up)

TOUCH-AN-INSTRUMENT

PRESENTED BY TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY
STUDENTS FROM TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, April 11, 11 AM - 12:30 PM



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

PRESENTED BY FLORIDA MASTER GARDENERS

Tuesday, April 14, 6 PM

Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/garden



INTRODUCTION TO BROAD EDGE CALLIGRAPHY

PRESENTED BY MARGOT GRIFFIN

Monday, April 20, 4 PM or 6 PM session

Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/calligraphy



LAUGHTER FOR WELLNESS

PRESENTED BY EMPATH HEALTH

Monday, April 27, 2 PM

Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/laugh

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

Stop by the Help Desk or call (727) 943-4922, ext. 6011 for more information or to register for a program.

MOVIES

FAMILY FILM

**Saturday, April 4
2 PM**
The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants



PG; 1H 28M; 2025; Paramount Pictures

FRIDAY FILM

**Friday, April 10
2 PM**
Hamnet



PG-13; 2H 5M; 2025; Focus Features

CINEMA SATURDAY

**Saturday, April 11
2 PM**
Anaconda



PG-13; 1H 39M; 2025; Sony Pictures

STEVEN SPIELBERG MOVIE SERIES

**Friday, April 24
2 PM**



The Terminal

PG-13; 2H 8M; 2004; Paramount Pictures

Visit tarponlibrary.org/spielberg for upcoming series movies.

FREE AARP TAX HELP

**Mondays & Tuesdays,
10 AM - 1:45 PM**

Last Day: Tue, April 14

Assistance is on a first-come, first-served basis. Volunteers are not available to answer questions by phone.

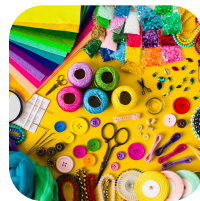
CRAFTS



NEEDLECRAFT GROUP

1st Mondays, 6-8 PM

Next Meeting: April 6
Needlecrafters meet to knit, crochet, embroider, and quilt. Beginners are welcome. Come learn a new skill.



CRAFTER-SPACE

3rd Tuesdays, 6-8 PM

Next Meeting: April 21
Bring your current craft project to work on with other crafters. Don't have a project? We can start you out on one.



Adults & Teens (13-17)

DIAMOND PAINTING

Mon, April 27, 6 PM

Make a stained glass magnet.

Registration required.
Register online:
tarponlibrary.org/diamond



Adults & Teens (13-17)

DIY CRAFT NIGHT

Wed, April 29, 6 PM

Project: Paper Beads

Supplies and instructions are provided.

Registration required. Limited space.
Register online: tarponlibrary.org/diy

ADULT TO GO CRAFTS



BOOK CLUBS

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

1st Wednesdays, 3:30 PM

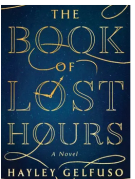
April 1*
Sisters Under the Rising Sun

by Heather Morris

May 6

The Book of Lost Hours

by Hayley Gelfuso



*This meeting will be at 3 PM due to special guest speaker

BOOKS & BEYOND

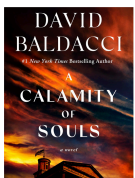
Last Thursdays, 12:00 PM

April 30
Sandwich

by Catherine Newman

May 28

A Calamity of Souls
by David Baldacci



WRITERS GROUP



FICTION WRITERS

Wednesdays, 10 AM

Sharpen your writing skills with a fiction critique group.

Call David (727) 741-0055 for info.

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

Stop by the Help Desk or call (727) 943-4922, ext. 6011 for more information or to register for a program.

GENEALOGY



ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Available by appointment

Stuck trying to find an ancestor? Or need help with DNA results?

Call (727) 943-4922, ext. 6021 to schedule an appointment.



GENEALOGY RESEARCH GROUP

Presented by Debbie Smyth from Suncoast Genealogy Society

Mon, April 13, 6:30 PM

Topic: *The Bucket List: Sorting DNA Matches*

This presentation describes the "bucket" approach for sorting DNA matches and how it can help with the management and organization of those matches.

For more information, call Denise (727) 943-4922, ext. 6021

SENIOR EVENTS



CAREGIVERS & COMPANIONS MEMORY CAFÉ

1st Saturday of each month

Sat, April 4, 10:30 AM- 12 PM

The Memory Café is a friendly meeting place for adults living with mild cognitive impairment or dementia, and their care partners, where they can relax, have fun, and meet others. A diagnosis of dementia is not required to attend.

For more information, visit: tarponlibrary.org/memory-cafe

SPECIAL EVENTS



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

Presented by Florida Master Gardener, Suparna Robertson

Tue, April 14, 6 PM

Explore which native plants from Florida will thrive in your garden.

Register online: tarponlibrary.org/garden



INTRODUCTION TO BROAD EDGE CALLIGRAPHY

Presented by Margot Griffin

Mon, April 20, 4 PM or 6 PM

Choose from two session times.

Learn basic and essential principles of traditional, broad-edged calligraphy to create spring-themed art.

No prior knowledge or artistic skills necessary.

Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/calligraphy



LAUGHTER FOR WELLNESS

Presented by Empath Health

Mon, April 27, 2 PM

Laughter Yoga combines deep breathing with laughter sounds. This aerobic exercise was developed by Dr. Madan Kataria in 1995 to help improve physical and mental health.

Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/laugh

DATABASES

JOBS & BUSINESS



Career Cruising®

BOOKS, MOVIES, & MUSIC

hoopla

Libby.

kanopy

freegalmusic+

LANGUAGE LEARNING

pronunciator: 
LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

READING

NoveList

For more information, visit tarponlibrary.org or stop by the Library Help Desk

YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

Stop by the Youth Desk or call (727) 943-4922, ext. 6016 for more information or to register for a program.

TODDLERS & PRESCHOOL



(Ages 1-4)

STORY TIME*

Thursdays at 10:30 AM

Themed story time with books and music, followed by a craft.

*Registration is required. Please see the Youth Desk.



(Ages birth-3)

BABY SIGN LANGUAGE*

Fridays at 10:30 AM

Communicate with your baby by using basic American Sign Language phrases and songs.

Presented by the Deaf Literacy Center of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative.

*Registration is required. Please see the Youth Desk.

YOUTH



(Ages 5 & up)

TOUCH-AN-INSTRUMENT

Presented by Tri-M Music Honor Society Students

Saturday, April 11
11 AM - 12:30 PM

Tri-M Music Honor Society students from Tarpon Springs High School will come with their musical instruments to share their passion for music with children. Participants will learn about a variety of musical instruments and even have an opportunity to play them.

YOUTH



(Ages 6-11)

YOUNG ARTISTS*

Tuesday, April 14
4:30 PM

Learn about art masters and get hands-on experience with art techniques.

The monthly program is presented by the Tarpon Springs Art Association and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

*Registration is required. Please see the Youth Desk.



(Ages 3+)

LEGO HOUR

Saturday, April 18
11 AM - 12 PM

Swing by Youth Service and unleash your inner architect with LEGOS. We provide the LEGOS.

Children under the age of seven must be accompanied by an adult.



(Ages 6-11)

YOU CAN DRAW*

Tuesday, April 21
4:30 PM

Learn the basics of drawing for beginners and beyond. You will be able to draw something new by the end of each class.

*Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/youth

TWEEN & TEEN



(Ages 12-18)

PAINTING WORKSHOP*

Tuesday, April 7
4:30 - 5:30 PM

Discover the creative interplay of brush and pigment as you learn to create a one-of-a-kind painting, with a painting demonstration and step-by-step instruction.

*Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/youth



(Ages 12-18)

TEEN CRAFT AND SNACKS*

Wednesday, April 22, 4:30 PM

Project:

Decorate your own coffee mug

*Registration required. Register online: tarponlibrary.org/youth

YOUTH KITS



New Youth Audiobook Players

Available for check out in Youth Services