



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

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval Of June 2026 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Trees And Arborist Report - Pat Mcneese
 - Grants, Hiring, Code Updates
2. Presentation/Panels Planning
 - Compile A List Of Outreach Mechanisms
 - Preservation (September) - Dr. Mickett
 - Gardening (November) - Ms. Nehin
3. Foundational Community Qualities - Continued From June

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

1. Discussion Or Presentation On The Use Of Synthetic Turf In Yards

STAFF COMMENTS

1. - Hurricane Preparedness By TS Fire Rescue: Saturday, July 18 @2 PM, TS Library
- Storm-Scaping Your Yard By UF/IFAS: Wednesday, July 29 @6:30 PM, TS Library
- Tree Stewards Training (A Two-Day Interactive Workshop (See Attachment)
Date/Time: August 25 & 26 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM @ UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough Co., Seffner

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. The City of Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for people with disabilities. 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 Sustainability Division at (727) 943-3555 or sustainability@ctsfl.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
JUNE 16, 2026

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 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.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2026 MINUTES:

MOTION:	SIOBHAN NEHIN
SECOND:	DR. MELINA SCALLY

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Visitors present included Denise Mannino, who praised the previous month's "Sustainable Minds" mental-health panel. Recommendations included increasing outreach, engaging students, and repeating the panel during the school year.

DISCUSSION

1. Review of Mental Health Panel & the Annual Report to the BOC

Committee members stated that attendance was low due to summer break, but content was strong. Future collaborations with schools, Peace4Tarpon, Kaiser University, and others will be explored. The Committee discussed improving event notification and developing better outreach methods. Regarding the annual report, Committee members felt it was well received by Commissioners. Commissioners requested an update on the sustainability plan implementation, which this presentation will provide.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

2. Future presentation planning: Preservation, Sustainable Gardening

September: Presentation on land preservation with WK Preserve Group, university representatives, and regional experts, to be coordinated by Dr. Mickett.

November: Presentation on sustainable gardening and trees, including rain garden discussions. Discussion on city tree loss, adopt-a-tree ideas.

3. Sustainability Plan Implementation Update - Holly Langston

Progress made in forestry, solar feasibility, water conservation, and public outreach. Several items limited by Florida House Bill 1217. Multiple long-term projects remain in progress.

4. Foundational Community Qualities - Dr. Mickett

Committee discussed exploring values such as respect, integrity, and environmental stewardship as guiding principles for sustainability efforts.

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Presentations – discussion/planning updates with focus on outreach and engagement strategies
- HB1217 implications
- Arborist/tree grants and tree plantings update
- Foundational Community Qualities discussion - ongoing

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. Rodenticide SOP proposed and under staff review
2. Sustainable Development Recognition Program under staff review
3. Stormwater Drain Murals update
4. Keep Pinellas Beautiful event of interest

Recycling: Myths and Misconceptions, Tuesday, July 7, 6 PM - 7 PM, Moccasin Lake Nature Park, Clearwater

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

- Juneteenth events announced
- Election of next Committee Chairperson was broached
- Fabric recycling through *Trashie* was given as a resource
- Ms. Riquetti has a scheduling conflict for July 16

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. MELINA SCALLY
SECOND: LORETTA RIQUETTI

To adjourn the meeting at 7:31 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.

TREE INITIATIVES UPDATE

Sustainability Advisory Committee – July 16, 2026



FORESTRY GRANTS

- 2022 Phase I Tree Inventory – completed in 2024; Mapped nearly 7,000 trees
- 2022 Phase II Urban Forest Management Plan – adopted July 2025
- 2022 Phase III – Tree planting – July 2026 – 34 trees planted around the City
- 2026 Tree Inventory – Awaiting agreement; Starts Fall 2026
- 2026 Hurricane Recovery Tree Maintenance – Awaiting award letter



LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LDC) UPDATES: TREE PROTECTION, LANDSCAPING

- 2045 Comprehensive Plan adopted in Fall 2024
- “Quick fixes” to address outdated standards and clarify ambiguous wording
- Articles I, II and III done. Articles V and VIII going to hearing 7/20, 8/11 and 8/25.
- Current Tree Protection/Landscaping – Highlights
 - Protected Trees, Exempt Trees
 - Tree Surveys and Permits
 - Tree Protection, Tree Mitigation
 - Minimum Tree Planting
 - Approved Landscaping Material
 - Commercial Landscape Design
 - Buffers and Screening
 - Xeriscaping



LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LDC) UPDATES: TREE PROTECTION, LANDSCAPING

Staff Working on Updates – Areas of Interest

- Exempt Trees: Florida Invasive Species Council List
- Approved Landscaping Material: Florida Friendly Landscaping List
- Tree surveys to use consistent tree condition rating standards
- Update mitigation to reflect standard tree condition
- Expand tree protection requirements during construction
- Expand on invasive exotics to be removed
- Re-evaluate minimum tree planting to ensure success
- Enable consistent, long-term success and enforcement of plantings
- Overall Focus: Right Tree, Right Place



UPCOMING

- Municipal Arborist is now in the Planning and Zoning Department
New Arborist, Jackie Salas, will start in the next 2-3 weeks
- Tree giveaway: Back to School/Ecofest Event, September 19, 2026
- Look for additional LDC updates over the next few months

Tree Stewards Leader Training

By [UF/IFAS Hillsborough Extension](#)

2.6k followers895 events9y hosting20.1k total attendees

Follow

Part of the [Urban Forestry Programs](#) collection

[UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County Seffner, FL](#)

Tuesday, August 25 • 9 AM - 4 PM

Overview

Join UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension for two days of hands-on training for team leaders in the Tree Stewards Volunteer program.

Tree Stewards Leader Training (2-Day Workshop, August 25th and 26th)

Take your role in urban forestry to the next level with this interactive, two-day Tree Stewards Leader Training designed to prepare participants to plan, lead, and implement a successful Tree Stewards program in their community.

This workshop expands on the basics of tree care covered in the Tree Stewards Volunteer curriculum manual by focusing on leadership, curriculum delivery, volunteer management, and program development so you can bring impactful, sustainable tree stewardship initiatives to life.

What This Training Covers

Across two full days, participants will engage in a highly interactive learning experience centered on building and leading a Tree Stewards program from the ground up.

Day 1: Foundations and Curriculum Design

Participants will explore the purpose, structure, and outcomes of the Tree Stewards program and gain a deeper understanding of the role Tree Stewards play as community ambassadors and educators. The day includes an overview of the 12-chapter Tree Stewards curriculum and how to adapt it to different audiences and settings. Participants will learn principles of adult learning and effective volunteer training techniques, and they will practice designing short, interactive lessons. The day also introduces strategies for adapting curriculum content to local environmental conditions, community needs, and accessibility considerations. Participants will begin shaping their own program vision and approach.

Day 2: Implementation and Leadership

The second day focuses on turning ideas into action. Participants will design their Tree Stewards program by developing a structure that includes scheduling, format, and potential partnerships. The training will cover volunteer recruitment, engagement, and retention strategies, including opportunities to practice messaging and communication techniques. During a hands-on implementation planning session, participants will build a draft plan tailored to their community. The day concludes with guidance on evaluation and impact, including how to track outcomes and tell the story of program success.

Participants will present their plans and receive feedback, followed by a closing session on next steps.

Training Format

This workshop is designed to be highly participatory and practical. Activities include hands-on planning exercises, small group discussions, case studies, curriculum mapping, and program design work. Participants will receive feedback from instructors and peers throughout the training and will leave with worksheets, draft plans, and tools they can immediately apply.

Who Should Attend

This training is ideal for extension agents, program coordinators, current or prospective Tree Stewards leaders, municipal staff, urban forestry professionals, nonprofit and community-based organization leaders, and anyone interested in leading volunteer-driven tree programs.

Outcomes

Participants who complete this training will understand how to deliver and adapt the Tree Stewards curriculum, gain skills in facilitation, volunteer management, and program leadership, develop a customized Tree Stewards program plan, and be prepared to train and lead volunteers in their community.

Event Details

Duration: Two full days (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day)

Format: In-person, interactive workshop

Includes: Training materials and hands-on planning tools

Why It Matters

Tree Stewards programs expand community capacity to care for the urban forest. By becoming a trained leader, you help multiply impact by growing not just trees, but informed, engaged communities.

*****The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact: alyvinson@ufl.edu, 813-744-5519 Ext. 54106, at least 1 week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.**

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Read less

Good to know

Highlights

- 7 hours
- In person
-

Refund Policy

Refunds up to 7 days before event

Location

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

5339 County Road 579

Seffner, FL 33584