



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

**THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025
AT 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of May 2025 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. Final Discussion and Committee Endorsement of the Urban Forest Management Plan
2. Sustainability Webpage Updates
3. Scheduling

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

1. Summer Newsletter
2. Outdoor Watering Awareness Flyer
3. Storm Drain Mural Program - outcome from the July 9 Public Art Committee Meeting
4. Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) partnership update

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
MAY 15, 2025

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DENISE MANNINO	CHAIRPERSON
DR. CAROL MICKETT	MEMBER
SIOBHAN NEHIN	MEMBER
DIANNE BROWN	MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT:	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR
	THOMAS KIGER	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES
	CHARLES RUDD	CITY MANAGER

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2025 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND:	DIANNE BROWN

To approve the minutes of April 2025 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public present.

DISCUSSION

1. MAIN STREET PROGRAM- CHARLES RUDD, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Rudd presented an overview of the Main Street America/Florida Main Street Program under which the Downtown District of Tarpon Springs is working to be designated. There was previously a Main Street program

in downtown Tarpon Springs that started in 1986, but it is no longer active. Because of the previous designation, the Downtown District would not need to reapply to the program but would be required to meet certain requirements to be re-designated. If the Sponge Docks area pursues designation as a Main Street, this area would have to apply for designation as a new Main Street. The Florida Main Street program is run through the state government. There are many active Main Streets throughout the state of Florida, and it is a framework to get people involved – it is not a membership organization. It is a four-point program with eight principles. There would be a full-time Executive Director and a Board of Directors responsible for operations. Additionally, the City must commit financial resources toward the program and work as a partner. At the end of the presentation, the Committee members asked several questions including the proposed boundaries, timeline, and other downtown concerns. Some of the concerns are related to the vacant lot on Tarpon Avenue as well as the Mother Meres Parking Lot. Mr Rudd shared that there will also be a new CRA Master Plan under which the street grid will be considered/analyzed, along with a branding package for the City. The next Main Street meeting is going to be on May 20 at 6:00 PM at the Tarpon Tavern.

2. URBAN FORESTRY STORY MAP – CHRISTINA COLE & HOLLY LANGSTON

An overview of the Urban Forestry StoryMap created by Christina Cole for the Urban Forestry related grant initiatives that have been undertaken by the municipal arborist. The StoryMap is housed on the Connect Tarpon Urban Forestry Management Plan page. It provides a history of urban forestry efforts in Tarpon Springs, as well as the values of trees, and looks forward at potential maintenance and other forestry programming the City could undertake as part of the Urban Forestry Management Program.

3. STORMWATER STEWARDSHIP MONTH & STORM DRAIN MURALS – HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston announced that May is Stormwater Stewardship Month and gave a brief presentation consisting of images of Storm Drain Murals in neighboring cities to gauge the Sustainability Advisory Committee’s interest in supporting a storm drain mural program in the City of Tarpon Springs. Dr. Mickett noted that it would require approval by the Public Art Committee, and Ms. Langston agreed as well as stated the importance of the role the Stormwater Department would play in such a program. Additionally, there is not funding available through the Sustainability budget, so Dr. Mickett noted that the Public Art Committee does have a fund. The Committee is interested and supports the idea.

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A CITY STORM DRAIN MURAL PROGRAM:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: DIANNE BROWN

To present the idea of a Storm Drain Mural program to the Public Art Committee Meeting in July.

4. BOC PRESENTATION DE-BRIEF- DENISE MANNINO

Chairperson Mannino asked for feedback on how the annual update to the BOC went from the perspective of the Committee and staff. There were no negative comments, only positive feelings on completing the update and being able to do so on Earth Day.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA (JULY):

- Energy and Climate Action Plan (30 min.)
- Solar feasibility plan update (10 min.)
- Urban forestry management plan update/request for letter of support (15 min.)
- Citizens alliance for progress – *invited* (30 minutes)
- VAAP- hold for future (August) meeting with story map presentation

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Langston announced to please keep sharing the Committee membership opportunity with contacts that might be interested in serving.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

There is a request for a way to share information/resources with one another that could be continually accessed but no communication would be done. Perhaps a library of resources. Ms. Langston will investigate possibilities. There is also a request for a copy of the City Manager's presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: SIOBHAN NEHIN

To adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

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

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

HOLLY LANGSTON
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

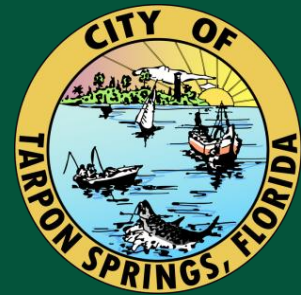
PREPARED FOR
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS

PRESENTED BY

CTS URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT TEAM

&

TREE CHECK UP, LLC



2025

PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS



John Snow



Tree Checkup LLC, Contracted Technical Advice

CTS Sustainability Advisory Committee

Residents and Property Owners

Tarpon Springs Staff:

- Shannon Brewer, City of Tarpon Springs Municipal Arborist
- Paulette "P.J." Harbert, City of Tarpon Springs Grant Project Specialist
- Holly Langston, City of Tarpon Springs Sustainability Coordinator
- Patricia McNeese, City of Tarpon Springs Planning Supervisor
- Matthew Smith, City of Tarpon Springs GIS Administrator
- Mitchell Moure, City of Tarpon Springs, GIS Mapping Technician
- Christina Cole, City of Tarpon Springs Sustainability Intern

PROJECT FUNDING

The work upon which this publication is based was funded, in whole or in part through a subrecipient grant awarded by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the USDA Forest Service nor does the mention of trade names, commercial productions, services or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



WHY IS AN URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPORTANT TO TARPON SPRINGS?



- **Protect Community Assets** - Ensures trees' long-term health and beauty, which are crucial to the city's identity.
- **Strengthen Storm Resilience** - Helps manage and restore the urban forest post-hurricanes, protecting infrastructure and reducing recovery costs.
- **Improve Public Safety** - Provides clear visibility and prevents accidents near sidewalks and roadways.
- **Support Environmental Sustainability** - A healthy urban forest enhances air and water quality, reduces heat impacts, and provides wildlife habitats.
- **Guide Smart Growth** - Aligns tree management with zoning, land use, and sustainability goals during city development.
- **Attract Grants and Funding** - A clear plan showcases responsibility, making the city competitive for state and federal urban forestry grants.
- **Engage the Community** - Encourages resident involvement in tree care, increasing awareness and pride in the city's green spaces.

WHY THE URBAN FOREST MATTERS TO TARPON SPRINGS

2019-07-10 08:44:21
-82.75598 +28.14416

SUPPORTS AND ALIGNS WITH CITY'S GOALS:

- City of Tarpon Springs Strategic Plan
- City of Tarpon Springs Sustainability Plan
- Tarpon Springs 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Vision Statement

Our vision is to create a thriving, inclusive urban forest that protects heritage, enhances the environment, improves stormwater management, and delivers measurable, sustainable outcomes for the community of Tarpon Springs.



Urban Forest Goals and Objectives

Goal A: Sustain and Expand Urban Tree Canopy

Goal B: Strengthen Community Engagement and Partnerships

Goal C: Update and Enhance City Policies, Standards and Practices

Goal D: Build a Strong Urban Forestry Program

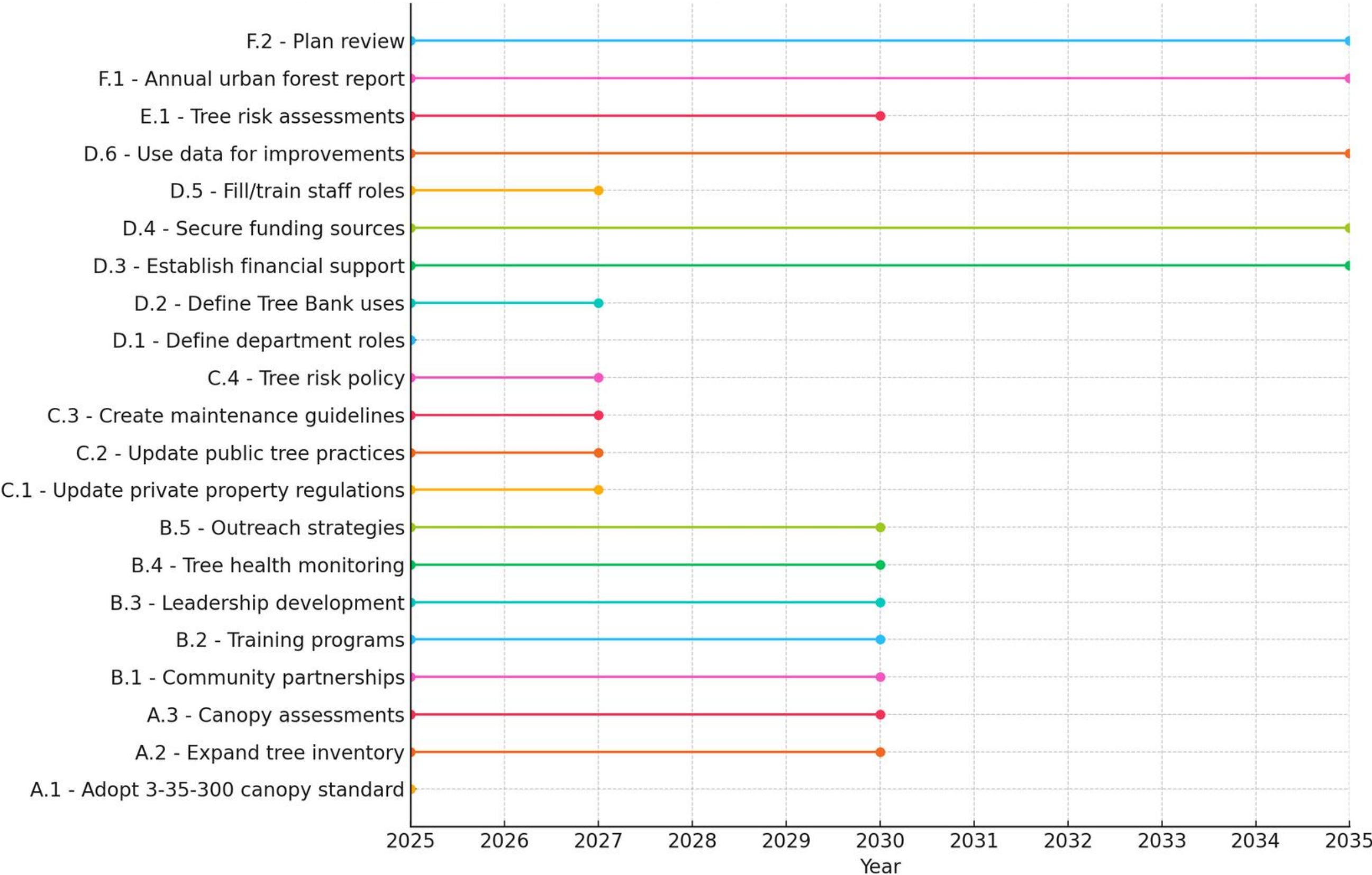
Goal E: Plan for Weather-Related Risks

Goal F: Measure Progress and Long-Term Success

UFMP ACTION MATRIX: 25 OBJECTIVES WITHIN 10 YEARS

Goal/Objective	Strategy Description	Implementation Objective	Time frame (Years)	Performance Indicator	Responsible Party
A.1	Adopt 3-35-300 canopy standard	Promote equity and canopy access	1-3	% neighborhoods meeting 3-35-300	Municipal Arborist & GIS
A.2	Expand GIS Street/park tree inventory	Full inventory every 5 years	1-5 & 6-10	% inventory completion	GIS, Municipal Arborist and Sustainability
A.3	High-resolution canopy assessments	Track canopy trends	1-5 & 6-10	Canopy % citywide and by zone	Urban Forestry Consultant
B.1	Engage schools, businesses, nonprofits	Support community-based forestry	Ongoing (1-10)	Number of formal partnerships	Sustainability Coordinator
B.2	Train staff and volunteers	Build urban forestry capacity	1-6	Hours of training completed	Municipal Arborist
B.3	Leadership development programs	Build stewardship pathways	1-6	Participant enrollment	Municipal Arborist
B.4	Community in tree health monitoring	Promote shared responsibility	Ongoing (1-10)	Public reports and resolution	Public Works Dept. & Municipal Arborist
B.5	Inclusive citywide outreach	Broaden awareness and engagement	1-10	Outreach reach metrics	Communications Team

Implementation and Timeline



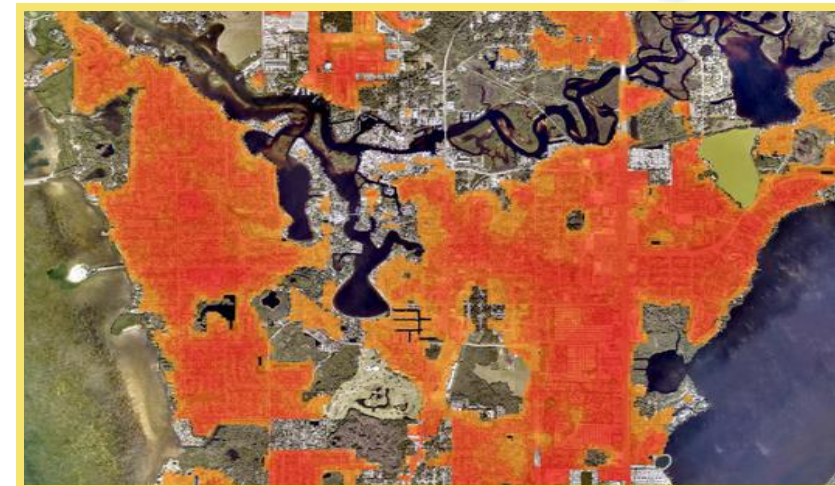
GUIDELINES

- Time Frame: 10 Years**
- Reporting: Annual State of the Urban Forest Report**
- Coordination: Interdepartmental Working Group**
- Public Comment: 2-week period**
<https://connectarponsprings.com/urban-forestry>

Addressing Challenges In The Urban Forest

- Regulatory Context & Governance
- Smart Site Design & Infrastructure Compatibility
- Diversity, Resilience & Species Selection
- Planting Standards & Soil Preparation
- Maintenance Strategy & Resource Allocation
- Heat Reduction & Canopy Equity
- Community Engagement & Education

MAIN OBJECTIVE: Integration into Planning & Development



Tree Size Category	Recommended Spacing	Minimum Distance from Infrastructure	Minimum Rootable Soil Volume
Small Trees	15–20 feet	5 feet from sidewalks/utilities	400–600 cubic feet
Medium Trees	25–30 feet	10 feet from sidewalks/utilities	800–1,000 cubic feet
Large Trees	40–50 feet	15 feet from sidewalks/utilities	1,000+ cubic feet

Task Area	Activity Description	Frequency	Responsible Entity
Tree Pruning	FDOT-based structured and cyclic pruning schedule	3–5 year cycles	In-house/Contracted Teams
Watering	Deep watering for establishment period	2 years post-planting	Contractor/Volunteers
Tree Monitoring	Visual inspections for health and risk	Annual	In-house crews/Volunteers
Mulching	Organic mulch application and replenishment	Annual or as needed	In-house crews
Public Education	Tree walk, QR tags, youth programs	Ongoing	Planning/Sustainability Team



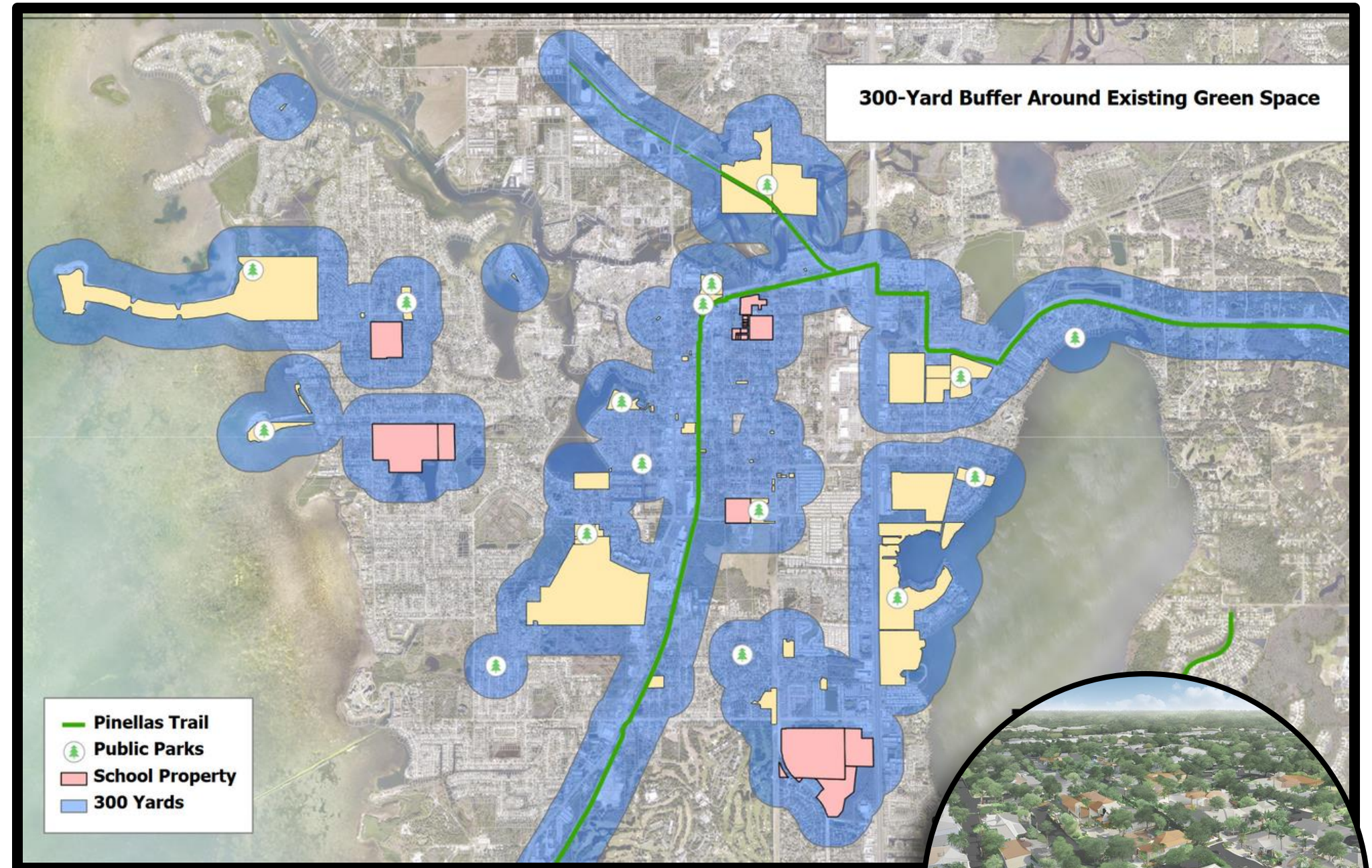
3-35-300 Benchmark Framework

Measurable Criteria

- > Ability to see 3 trees from every home
- > 35% canopy cover in residential neighborhoods
- > Providing public park or green space within 300 yards of the home

Key Advantages

- Balances canopy distribution so that all neighborhoods have 35%.
- Enhances health and well-being by being close to green spaces.
- Resilience to climate change and cooling effects from tree cover.
- Aligns with community preferences discovered in recent surveys.
- Creates a comprehensive and measurable approach to guide leadership to develop parks and open space availability.



Questions & Comments

THANK YOU



CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

<https://connecttarponsprings.com/urban-forestry>



TREE CHECK UP, LLC

<https://treecheckup.com/>

Red Mangrove
*Official Tree of
Tarpon Springs*



Dear Tarpon Springs Residents,

The innumerable benefits that trees provide to enhance health, beauty, and quality of life are nearly impossible to quantify. Everyone, from staff to citizens, has placed legacy value on our amazing trees as a very distinctive feature to the heritage, the beauty, the natural environment, and the quality lifestyle of Tarpon Springs.

The Arbor Day Foundation recognizes this source of civic pride, and in 1976 they created a structure to support cities in establishing trees as a priority. Since 2007, Tarpon Springs has participated in the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program and has been acknowledged as a Tree City, a status our City has maintained every year since that time.

With the adoption of Sustainable Tarpon Springs in July 2023, we continued to recognize trees as a key part of resilience, playing a significant role in mitigating heat within urban spaces, reducing carbon, providing natural air purification, while simultaneously uplifting our spirits. The beauty that trees provide to a City enhance the tourism and economic growth as well.

This **Urban Forest Management Plan** is complimentary and integrally connected to the Sustainability Plan, which covers a variety of Actions ranging from the Natural Environment to Climate and Energy, Built Environment, Social Wellbeing and beyond. The proposals in this document are so neatly integrated, it is probably the most significant pathway for many of the Sustainability Plan Actions to be seamlessly accomplished!

The alignment between the **Urban Forest Management Plan** and Sustainable Tarpon Springs is an expression of Systems Thinking, enhancing the interconnectedness of all living things: plants, wildlife, and our own ability to healthfully flourish. The elements of this **Urban Forest Management Plan** provide a long-term, broad, thoughtfully considered structure to maintain the values so many of us cherish.

We hope you will read through this beautiful **Urban Forest Management Plan** and embrace it enthusiastically as our Sustainability Advisory Committee has! We wholeheartedly support this plan, and thank you all for contributing to the fabric of Tarpon Springs where positive visions for the future can flourish!

Warmly,

Denise Mannino, Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair, on behalf of the Committee

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, SUMMER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- Turning Wastewater into Wonder
- Drought Alert
- Fertilizer Restrictions
- Local Water Rules
- Future of the Region Award
- Tree Care
- Sustainable Summer Activities
- Tips to beat the heat

Turning Wastewater into Wonder

Sustainable Innovations

The City of Tarpons Springs' commitment to a healthy environment and a thriving community is evident at our Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP).

We're not just cleaning water – we're integrating sustainable practices that benefit our residents and our local ecosystems.

Through advanced technology and innovative processes, the City transforms waste into beneficial resources.

Beginning with aerobic and anaerobic treatment processes, nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen are removed and recovered for later use as an agricultural fertilizer. This reduces the need for harsh chemicals and energy-intensive treatment methods while also recycling valuable nutrients.

Water quality monitoring systems operate throughout the treatment process, ensuring the treated water meets environmental standards before it is distributed as reclaimed water to residents and the golf course for irrigation.

Utilizing 80% of treated water through the City's reclaimed water system helps to both protect natural ecosystems and conserve potable water resources. This high level of reuse is an impressive achievement and value added service for residents.

Resilience Upgrades

The City has planned an Electrical Resilience Project to further enhance the reliability and sustainability of our wastewater treatment operations.

The goal of this project is to harden all

critical electrical units, safeguarding them from potential flooding and ensuring uninterrupted service.

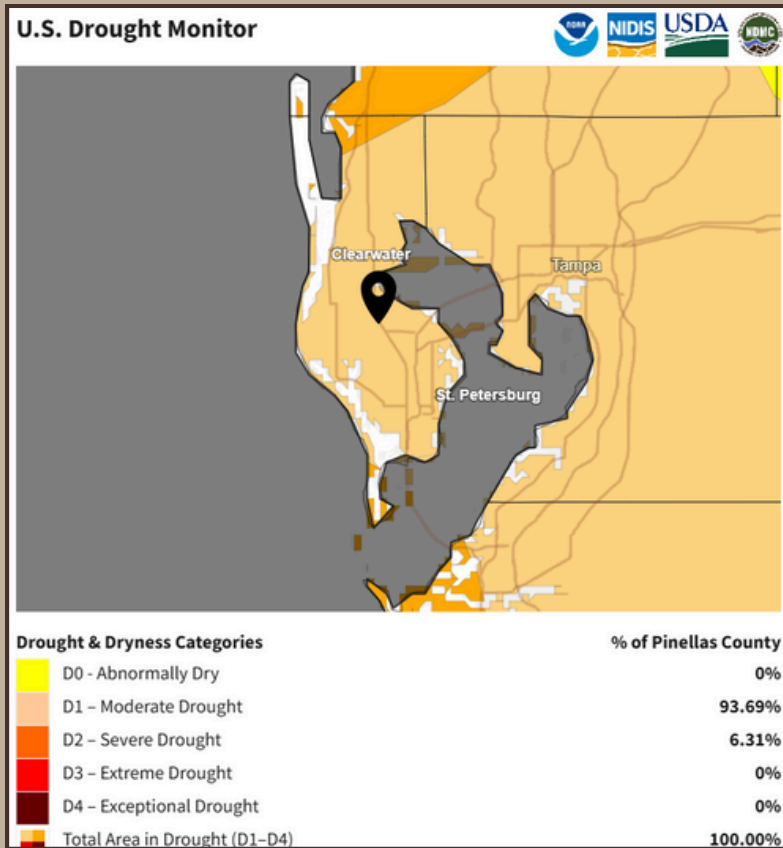
Demonstrating our commitment to responsible resource management, this project will repurpose an existing building onsite rather than constructing a new facility; minimizing our environmental footprint and reducing the fiscal costs for this capital project.

The City is eagerly awaiting \$2.1 million in grant funds from the Resilient Florida Program to cover half of the project costs.



City of Tarpon Springs Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant

Drought Alert: What You Need to Know



Source: Drought.gov

MOST OF PINELLAS COUNTY IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING **MODERATE DROUGHT** CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, A PORTION OF THE NORTH COUNTY IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN **SEVERE DROUGHT**. THIS INCLUDES PART OF TARPON SPRINGS.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR WATER USE!

FOLLOW THE COUNTY'S GUIDE ON WHAT TO DO DURING A DROUGHT, [CLICK HERE](#).

FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS

Pinellas County's fertilizer ban is in effect from:

June 1st - September 30th

Read more about the fertilizer ordinance [here](#).



Navigating the Nozzle: Your Guide to Local Water Rules

The City of Tarpon Springs has issued mandatory limited watering days citywide due to drought conditions.

**WATERING IS PROHIBITED
FROM
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

Need more info?

Check the City website [here](#) for all water use rules.

If your house number ends in:	Then you may water on:
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday
Mixed or No Address	Friday

More Ways to Save!

- Check fixtures and monitor your water bill for unusual water usage – you could have a leak!
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands.
- Fix damaged sprinkler heads and adjust your irrigation settings.

For more tips and homeowner resources, check out the Southwest Florida Water Management

District's website:



Building a Sustainable Future

On May 16th, the City of Tarpon Springs was presented a “Future of the Region” award for its Sustainability Plan, *Sustainable Tarpon Springs*. This plan was created by City staff under the guidance of its Sustainability Advisory Committee and core Staff Team. The plan aims to improve the environmental, social, and economic vitality of the City by implementing actions that will integrate sustainable practices into local government operations and into the wider community.



L to R: Denise Mannino, Tommy Kiger, Holly Langston, Dory Larsen, Mayor John Koulianos, Moe Freaney, & Wren Krahl

YOUR VOICE MATTERS - VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Passionate about Sustainability? Apply to serve on the Sustainability Advisory Committee!



Complete and submit this application to the City Clerk's office.

TREE CARE BEFORE STORMS

It is time to prepare your trees for hurricane season!

This [IFAS resource](#) provides guidance on selecting, planting, and most importantly, pruning trees to maximize their chance of survival.

Find more IFAS tips on preparing your trees for hurricane season [here!](#)



Photo Credit: WUSF



Sustainable Summer Activities

1. Go Swimming or Kayaking
2. Visit the Library
3. Read in a shady hammock
4. Visit a Farmer's Market
5. Explore Museums
6. Make homemade frozen treats
7. Collect Seashells
8. Build a bird bath or bee hotel



TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT



- Stay Hydrated
- Dress Lightly and Wear Sun Protection (i.e. Hats, Sunglasses, Sunscreen)
- Limit Outdoor Activities from 10 AM to 4 PM
- When outdoors, seek shade for you and your pets
- Know Heat Illness Symptoms and When to Seek Medical Assistance

CONTACT US:

sustainability@ctsfl.us

connecttarponsprings.com/sustainability





Water Wisely this Summer

Inspect, Adjust, Conserve

During the hottest months & ongoing drought conditions:

1. **Inspect** sprinkler heads, outdoor spigots, and pipes for leaks or broken parts. Also inspect your bill/useage!
2. **Adjust** irrigation timer settings to meet local watering restrictions.
3. **Conserve** water by optimizing your irrigation system's efficiency and embracing Florida-Friendly landscaping & drought tolerant plants.

Irrigation Using Potable City Water or Wells/Lakes/Ponds

House numbers ending in:	May water on:
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday
Mixed or No Address	Friday

**WATERING IS PROHIBITED FROM
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**



Visit ctsfl.us or scan this QR code for full watering restrictions.

