



City of Atlantic Beach
Agenda
Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Commission Chamber
800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Page(s)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| 2.A. | Approve minutes of the May 13, 2026 regular Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting.
ESC 05.13.2026 Minutes (draft) | 3 - 12 |
| 2.B. | Approve minutes of the May 27, 2026 Tree Environmental Stewardship Committee
ESC 05.27.2026 Minutes (draft) | 13 - 24 |
| 2.C. | ESC Member Update Reports
ESC Chair's informational report 6.10.2026
ESC Meeting Agenda Template REGULAR | 25 - 30 |

3. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (5 MINS.)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

N/A

5. CHAIR REMARKS

6. COMMISSION AND/OR STAFF REPORTS

- | | | |
|------|--|----|
| 6.A. | Commissions' approved priorities - FINAL
FY2027 Commission Priorities | 31 |
| 6.B. | Commission Calendar - Budget Workshops | |
| 6.C. | Governance: quorum/voting for Tree Subcommittee meetings | |

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

N/A

8. OLD BUSINESS-ONGOING

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|--|
| 8.A. | Environmental Awards | |
|------|----------------------|--|

- 8.B. Minecraft Extension Activities

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.A. ESC Accomplishments - Review of content for presentation/presentation constraints 32 - 33
[ESC January-June 2026 Report to Commission – Draft Bulleted Content](#)

10. 90 DAY CALENDAR AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE METRICS

- 10.A. Speaker series - July
- 10.B. Motion Tracker and Life Cycle of a Motion
- 10.C. Organizational Excellence Improvement Metric for 2026 34
[20260325 2026 ESC Internal Organizational Excellence Focs](#)
- 10.D. Film Series - evaluation

11. ESC MEMBER REPORTS, REQUESTS AND/OR CLOSING REMARKS

- 11.A. Review Submitted Lead Summaries 35 - 70
[Workplan 2026 Giovannucci](#)
[ESC Lead Planning - Amy Franqui](#)
[20260610 Project Tracker S. Boren](#)

12. RECAP OF DECISIONS, ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Any person wishing to speak to the Environmental Stewardship Committee on any matter at this meeting should submit a Comment Card located at the entrance to Commission Chamber prior to the start of the meeting.

This meeting will be live-streamed and videotaped. The video recording will be posted within four business days on the City's website. To access live or recorded videos, visit www.coab.us/live.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26 of the Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Deputy City Ladayija Nichols at 247-5821 or at City Hall, 800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida not less than three (3) days prior to the date of this meeting.



MINUTES
Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 6:00 PM
City Hall, Commission Chamber
800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Present: Amy Palmer, ESC Member 2
Todd Miner, ESC Member 3
Sarah Boren, ESC Member 4
Matthew Mattila, ESC Member
Bruce Andrews, ESC Member 6
Daniele Giovannucci, ESC Member 7
Amy Franqui, ESC Member 9

Absent: Anastasia Houston, ESC Member 1
Christina Kelcourse, ESC Member 8

Also Present: Payton Jamieson, Principal Planner (PP)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Palmer noted that Dan Giovannucci had attended the May 11th Commission meeting and suggested an addition to their agenda related to preparation or weighing in on the commission's consideration of preserving the city's largest trees, which was something the committee had been discussing. Chair Palmer suggested adding this item to the staff reports section since they would be discussing that topic during the town hall discussion anyway. Dan Giovannucci credited his neighbor for bringing the issue to his attention, and Sarah Boren had sent documents ahead of the meeting to help inform the discussion.

3. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (5 MINS.)

There were no public comments.

4. CHAIR REMARKS

A. Project Leads

Chair Palmer presented the committee lead assignments attachment, noting it may still be incomplete, but she was hoping to get a motion to accept it even as amended that night. This would mean they were accepting leadership for different items they wanted to accomplish into fiscal year 27, with everyone committing to the items attached to their names.

During discussion, Sarah Boren raised questions about the timeline since four members would be rolling off, asking specifically about Amy Franqui's assignments for the

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May 13, 2026

speaker series and lights out initiatives - whether she would be planning for 2027 or just finishing up the current year. Chair Palmer explained it would be handled on a case-by-case basis, with departing members doing what they could while still on the committee and setting up their successors for success.

Amy Franqui agreed with the case-by-case approach, stating her goal was to set things up for success to hand it off to someone else, and she could continue to support until items were handed off appropriately.

Chair Palmer explained they were committing to assignments knowing there might be adjustments over time, particularly for members rolling off the committee.

Chair Palmer then presented a lead planning document as a basic overview to help members get started with their assignments. The document included sections for activities, support team, timeline, promotion plans, success metrics, and notes. She also included how these items aligned with their stated priorities and sub-priorities for fiscal year 27.

Chair Palmer announced staggered deadlines: some planning documents could be submitted by June 2nd for the first June meeting agenda, with the remainder due by June 30th for the first July meeting agenda. She emphasized this would help provide a broad overview of everyone's plans.

Sarah Boren asked for clarification on whether Chair Palmer expected one page for each item or just one row, and Chair Palmer responded that either format would work depending on the complexity of the project.

MOTION: To accept the ESC committee lead assignments as written, open to potential updating as they move forward.

Motion: Bruce Andrews
Second: Todd Miner

Motion passed 7 to 0.

B. Meeting Schedules

Chair Palmer announced several changes to their meeting schedule, noting their report to the commission was now scheduled for July 13th. She mentioned staff assignments for various commission meetings and said she would provide an updated commission agenda at their next meeting.

Chair Palmer then announced a significant change to their meeting structure. She read from Director Askew's email explaining the city would be transitioning from two monthly ESC meetings to a revised structure consisting of one regular ESC meeting and

one tree subcommittee meeting each month. This adjustment was being made to better distribute responsibilities and reduce the workload on the existing chair.

Chair Palmer provided historical context, explaining that in the nearly decade-long history of the ESC, there had really only been one regular meeting per month with three different subcommittees that each had their own chair and met monthly. Changes were made to their committee structure the previous year, eliminating subcommittees except for the tree subcommittee. Originally, they were going to have just one regular meeting and one tree subcommittee meeting each month, but then there was a decision to try having two regular ESC meetings per month instead.

Chair Palmer explained that when she took on being chair, she was concerned about being able to keep up with two meetings given her other obligations, and after trying it for four months, she felt it wasn't going to work. She emphasized her commitment to being chair but believed this new structure would work better for her and future chairs.

She noted that while the second meeting would be the tree subcommittee, all members were encouraged to attend, as it would cover tree business beyond just Chapter 23, including tree giveaways and other tree-related initiatives.

Bruce Andrews expressed support for the change, noting it would help organize topics better and allow Chair Palmer to focus on everything but trees during regular agenda items. He mentioned the possibility of Dan Giovannucci serving as vice chair of the tree subcommittee since he would still be on the ESC.

Chair Palmer clarified that Dan Giovannucci was also rolling off, leading to discussion about succession planning. Bruce Andrews committed to preparing agendas for the tree subcommittee meetings and noted that Director Askew would create a standing agenda format to make it less burdensome.

The first designated tree-focused meeting was scheduled for May 27th, two weeks from the current meeting.

C. Sunshine Training

Chair Palmer asked Matt Mattila if he had received his sunshine training invitation as a new member. Matt Mattila confirmed he had received it but hadn't completed it yet. Chair Palmer discussed whether standing members needed to re-up their training on odd years, with some uncertainty about the exact schedule. Bruce Andrews noted there were separate ethics and sunshine components, and Sarah Boren mentioned ethics, public records, and sunshine training. The committee agreed to wait for notification if training was needed.

D. Chair's Report

Chair Palmer mentioned she had finally completed an informational report and committed to doing them every month now that she had more time. She recommended this as a good way for all members to update the committee on their progress or share

FYIs without using meeting time, noting that discussion items could still be flagged for agenda inclusion.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve minutes of the April 8, 2026 regular Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting.**
- B. Approve minutes of the April 22, 2026 regular Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting.**

To approve the April 8 and April 22 ESC Meeting minutes.

6. 90 DAY CALENDAR

Chair Palmer noted they had a film coming up that month and asked Sarah Boren, as the lead, if she needed help or could describe the event for the group.

Sarah Boren provided detailed information about the May 28th event at Adele Grage Theater from 6 to 8:30 PM. She had invited four panelists: Angela TenBroeck, Tim Armstrong or Brent Clark, and someone from the Blue Zones project. She needed to borrow Anastasia's better projector and find a white sheet for the background to improve visibility.

Sarah Boren planned to reach out to Chris Delk about pushing the flyer to local schools since the event was family friendly, and she asked committee members to attend and invite friends, family, and neighbors. She mentioned the possibility of a food truck like the previous time.

Dan Giovannucci suggested the new Sunday market entity (Dig It Local) as a potential alternative panelist since they had a stake in being in the community. Sarah Boren agreed this was a good idea.

Chair Palmer noted the film could tie into their Florida Friendly focus, explaining how the movie demonstrated that when ecosystems work properly, chemicals aren't needed for pest management since natural predators maintain balance.

7. COMMISSION AND/OR STAFF REPORTS

- A. Update on 05.02.2026 Commission Town Hall and Next Steps**

Chair Palmer reported that several committee members had attended the town hall, which she found really positive and productive. Everyone there seemed interested in making changes to better preserve trees and plant more trees, including the commission.

Her biggest takeaway was a possible new approach around relocating trees. Sarah Boren had sent dramatic photos of huge live oaks going down a river on a barge, demonstrating that the technology exists for moving large shade trees, not just palm trees.

Todd Miner noted the challenge with root structures, explaining that moving trees is difficult because root structures will inevitably extend into other properties in tight

localities like theirs. The canopy typically equals the root spread, making relocation harder, though it was still worth exploring.

Chair Palmer noted other takeaways from commission comments: the mayor wanted a timeline for ordinance changes and mentioned wanting a tree inventory to know what they already had. Bruce Andrews observed that commissioners learned for the first time that their current tree protection only covered public trees, not private ones.

There was discussion about approaching canopy protection from its storm protective quality, similar to mangroves, which might deserve greater protections to counter private property versus community good concerns.

Bruce Andrews identified the most important takeaway as how to protect special trees beyond just requiring mitigation - specifically requiring property owners to exhaust all possible options for saving trees before getting permission to remove them, potentially requiring commission approval.

Chair Palmer confirmed that staff was putting forward proposals that addressed the committee's previous motions, including their recommendations for trees between 24 and 30 inches DBH to receive special consideration.

Planner Jamieson confirmed they were working on both short-term protection measures due to the town hall and longer-term protection with Chapter 23 updates, with something coming to commission relatively soon regarding big tree protection.

The committee discussed the potential for requiring relocation attempts before tree removal. Dan Giovannucci explained they had already addressed minor updates to allow relocation as mitigation rather than treating moved trees as removals requiring additional mitigation.

Sarah Boren provided details from the May 11th commission meeting, where the city manager proposed three main components: double mitigation for landmark tree removal, certified arborist statement of infeasibility, and a 30-day timeout period before tree removal. These would be drafted into an ordinance by June 8th.

Sarah Boren noted other suggestions from the town hall that weren't in staff recommendations, including commission approval requirements, comprehensive tree and landscaping plans, and third-party arborist reviews.

The committee discussed concerns about having arborists determine design feasibility rather than architects, with Bruce Andrews emphasizing that arborists assess tree health, not architectural design alternatives. There was extensive discussion about who should make infeasibility determinations and what criteria should be used.

Sarah Boren expressed concern that the commission wanted to pass the tree protection measures quickly but delay other Chapter 23 changes for six months or longer. She

recommended a phased approach with quick fixes to Chapter 23 alongside the tree protection measures.

Todd Miner supported taking advantage of the current political moment, agreeing that focusing on the most important elements made sense given the rare alignment of public and commission support.

Planner Jamieson indicated that staff was looking at 20 inches DBH as the threshold and suggested the committee would be very pleased with staff's proposal, though it hadn't been reviewed by the city manager yet.

Dan Giovannucci presented a comprehensive motion addressing the discussion points. His proposal included designating all maritime trees over 20 inches DBH as protected landmark trees with several requirements: a statement of infeasibility to retain the tree with criteria including alternative building design statements from architects or design engineers; health and risk review from certified arborists; minimum 30-day timeout for examination by city arborist or consulting arborist if there was disagreement; and if no alternatives could be found, presenting the case to commission for approval while still requiring appropriate mitigation unless the tree was dead or clearly dangerous.

Bruce Andrews requested a friendly amendment to clearly state that infeasibility determinations should not be made by arborists, emphasizing the importance of having the right professional assess design alternatives.

MOTION: That the city designate all maritime trees 20 inches DBH or greater as protected landmark trees, unless the tree is dead or a clear danger. This would require proof of infeasibility to retain the tree, with criteria including alternative building design statements from architects or design engineers, ISA risk review from qualified certified arborists, minimum 30-day timeout for examination by city arborist, and if no alternatives are found, presentation to city commission. If approved by commission, appropriate mitigation for actual tree type and size would still apply.

Motion: Daniele Giovannucci

Second: Bruce Andrews

Motion passed 7 to 0.

B. General Fund Budget Discussion

Chair Palmer reported on her discussion with Director Askew about ESC budget support. She confirmed that staff support for ESC priorities did include budgetary support, with staff putting together their budget keeping ESC priorities in mind.

For their major priorities, Chapter 23 work and most tree fund items were covered under existing budgets. Florida Friendly initiatives were seen as more of a cultural shift than requiring extra dollars initially. The parks plan and stormwater management were staff-

led initiatives. The Marsh pilot project had Steve Swan putting together funding with grants and contingencies.

Director Askew proposed \$2,500 for ESC-managed outreach, specifically for what Chair Palmer called "true outreach" like hands-on workshops (she gave the example of a vertical oyster garden making workshop) rather than printed materials, which could be covered elsewhere in the budget.

Sarah Boren asked about funding for the film series, which costs about \$2,000. Chair Palmer explained that this year's funding came from Director Askew's budget as directed by the city manager, and similar events would likely continue to be funded through existing mechanisms, with the ESC-specific budget for more intensive or unusual outreach activities.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Palmer provided updates on the environmental awards, noting they were considering holding them at the new Marsh Oaks Community Center instead of during an ESC meeting, which would allow for a larger, more public event similar to their previous awards ceremony.

The timing would be in the fall after the community center opens, potentially as a joint event with ARC. They were instructed to stick to three categories, which they already had established. The process would involve soliciting nominations from the community, building on their previous experience.

Sarah Boren reported on her recent meeting with the city manager, who proposed holding awards every two years rather than annually and suggested a budget of \$3,000 to cover the costs of hosting at Marsh Oaks, which would be more expensive than their previous restaurant venue that allowed people to buy their own drinks.

The committee discussed alternatives like cocktails and appetizers rather than full meals to manage costs. Chair Palmer noted that Anastasia was in charge of awards according to their documents.

Sarah Boren mentioned Amy Franqui's idea of using awards as showcases and packaging education around them to inspire better environmental behavior, which Chair Palmer supported.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Minecraft - Extension Activities**

Sarah Boren presented recommendations for additional Minecraft activities, noting they had a successful previous event and that sponsors were thrilled with the impact. The Marsh Oaks Community Center needed two more workshops before opening for community input on programming.

She proposed leveraging Minecraft as an attractive tool to engage the community, particularly since no Atlantic Beach schools had participated in their previous event. Her

suggestions included both community workshops and a local student competition to learn about and design features for the community center.

Sarah Boren noted the infrastructure was already in place from their previous work with Minecraft Education, requiring minimal effort to organize additional activities focused on education and inspiration.

MOTION: To enhance the opening of the Marsh Oaks Community Center, ESC proposes to promote and host the following activities to deepen community engagement and education around the center: Atlantic Beach specific Minecraft competition solely for Atlantic Beach schools and students, interactive community charrette with Minecraft Education to engage and seek ideas from the community of what they want the community center to be and grow into.

Motion: Sarah Boren
Second: Matthew Mattila

Motion passed 7 to 0.

B. Stormwater Management Plan - Scope

Chair Palmer shared a note from Steve Swann dated April 22nd indicating they were working on a draft scope for the stormwater management plan, which should be completed within a month. He indicated many of their recommendations were already included and suggested they vote on their current recommendations for inclusion in the update.

Sarah Boren presented the motion explaining that upon hearing the city received a \$300,000 grant for an updated master stormwater management plan and that staff was actively working on scope and RFP, the ESC wanted to make preliminary recommendations for inclusion in the plan. She referred to several bullet items in their attached proposal and deferred to staff to include what made sense and hadn't already been done.

MOTION: Upon hearing that the city received the \$300,000 grant to do an updated master stormwater management plan and that staff is actively working on a scope and RFP, ESC would like to make preliminary recommendations to be included in the plan [with detailed bullet points as attached].

Motion: Sarah Boren
Second: Matthew Mattila

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Sarah Boren asked about the process for getting this to the commission since it was one of their priorities. Chair Palmer explained that all motions were supposed to go from Director Askew to City Manager Hogencamp, then City Manager Hogencamp would share with commission if

relevant. Alternative options included emailing elected officials directly or making public comments.

10. MEMBERS CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Palmer asked if there was anything anyone would like to share, limiting comments to about 20 seconds each given their time constraints.

Todd Miner reported that the person managing the pilot project had reached out to schedule time for further discussion, potentially leading to them presenting to the committee.

Amy Franqui announced she had received Director Askew's approval to move forward with scheduling a Florida Friendly Landscape Review of City Hall, working with the extension office and coordinating with Andre's team. She reported finding an invasive tree behind the butterfly garden that Chris Delk confirmed and was working with Andre to have removed proactively. She was also reviewing the current plant palette, which had some invasive plants, and planned to meet with Director Askew to understand city needs before bringing recommendations to a future ESC meeting.

For the July 2nd speaker series, Amy Franqui was reconsidering her initial idea of showing a prerecorded Douglas Tallamy talk, feeling it might be too similar to the film series. She was exploring other presenters and welcomed suggestions.

Sarah Boren suggested Blue Zones as a potential speaker topic, noting they were accepting pledges and might be relevant for the city. There was discussion about Blue Zones' previous high costs but potential for individual or organizational pledges.

Bruce Andrews shared a photo of excellent landscaping at a new home construction at 11th and East Coast, highlighting native plant selections including oaks, palms, Florida saw palmetto, and sea grapes. He praised the homeowner for allocating significant budget to quality landscaping, contrasting it with typical basic plantings on new construction. He also recommended a plant place on Fort Caroline Road as a good source for native plants.

Dan Giovannucci had nothing to report.

Matt Mattila asked about updating the motion tracker and how to get feedback from the city. Chair Palmer indicated he could reach out to City Manager Hogencamp and Director Askew directly, and she would give Director Askew a heads-up that they were revisiting the tracking system.

Sarah Boren asked about everyone's clarity on their tree fund action and spending plan roles, noting that people needed to update their motions based on committee discussions. She mentioned Chris Delk was considering offering 3-5 hours weekly for on-site consultations with residents about tree concerns, potentially using Calendly for scheduling if approved by Director Askew.

Sarah Boren reported receiving over 15 calls and texts about duckweed in Howell Park, asking for updates. Committee members generally didn't think it was a significant issue, attributing it to lack of rain and water movement. Amy Franqui confirmed she had also noticed it and assumed it was due to weather conditions.

Sarah Boren asked about timing for the oyster workshop mentioned in Chair Palmer's report. Chair Palmer indicated it would be in conjunction with their Marsh pilot project in fiscal year 27.

Dan Giovannucci mentioned he had a book about United Fruit Company for anyone interested, describing it as an environmental history of a company that worked with environmental activists.

Chair Palmer asked about something that Elizabeth from Audubon had mentioned at the town hall regarding Atlantic Beach being the first city in the nation to pass a proclamation, though she wasn't sure she heard correctly. Amy Franqui clarified that Jacksonville was first overall, but Atlantic Beach was the first of the beaches in their area for the lights out initiative. The distinction about being first "in the nation" remained unclear.

11. RECAP OF DECISIONS, ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

There was no discussion regarding this agenda item.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m.

Attest:

Amanda Askew, Neighborhoods Director

Amy Palmer, ESC Chair



MINUTES
ESC Tree Sub-Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2026 - 6:00 PM
City Hall, Commission Chamber
800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Present: Amy Palmer, ESC Member 2
Sarah Boren, ESC Member 4
Matthew Mattila, ESC Member
Bruce Andrews, ESC Member 6
Daniele Giovannucci, ESC Member 7
Christina Kelcourse, ESC Member 8
Amy Franqui, ESC Member 9

Absent: Anastasia Houston, ESC Member 1
Todd Miner, ESC Member 3

Also Present: Payton Jamieson, Principal Planner (PP)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (5 MINS.)

Chair Bruce Andrews invited public comment. One member of the public was present — a newly relocated resident attending their first meeting. Dan Giovannucci welcomed the individual and noted that a seat on the committee would soon be available, extending a lighthearted invitation to consider applying. No formal public comment was offered.

3. CHAIR REMARKS

Chair Andrews noted that the meeting would be focused on two principal matters: the Large Tree Protection discussion, and the preparation of the semiannual tree permit report that is required to be submitted to the City Commission twice per year. He stated that the report is due by June 29 for presentation at the July 13 Commission meeting. Chair Andrews mentioned that he had only just located the relevant document earlier that day.

The committee briefly noted that the meeting room was without Internet connectivity. Principal Planner Payton Jamieson indicated she would inform IT staff the following day.

4. STAFF REPORTS

A. Heritage Tree Application

Planner Jamieson presented a Heritage Tree application for a property located at 2210 Oceanwalk Drive West, submitted on March 6, 2026. She reported that the application concerns three Live Oak trees located on the west side of the property, with measured diameters at breast height (DBH) of 31, 44, and 51 inches respectively. The trees were

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assessed by City Arborist Chris Delk as being in good condition and meeting the city's 30-inch DBH standard for heritage tree designation. Staff recommended approval of all three trees for heritage designation, noting that the City Arborist conducts an on-site assessment prior to every heritage tree application — a process that has been applied consistently and is yielding an increasing volume of applications, which staff characterized as a positive trend.

Giovannucci offered a comment regarding the photograph of one of the three trees, which he noted appeared to have slightly smoother bark than is typical of a Live Oak. He drew the committee's attention to the longstanding difficulty — acknowledged even by experienced local master arborists — of distinguishing between Live Oaks, Water Oaks, and Sand Oaks in this region, all of which share close visual similarities but differ substantially in lifespan. He suggested that, given City Arborist Chris's relative newness to the area, it may be worthwhile to encourage him to consult with local master arborists — specifically referencing a respected figure in the community — to ensure confident species identification going forward.

Chair Andrews agreed that it would be valuable for the City Arborist to develop expertise in *Quercus virginiana* specifically, so the committee could be fully confident in species distinctions when making heritage tree determinations.

MOTION: To **recommend** that the City Commission approve the designation of three oak trees at 2210 Oceanwalk Drive West as heritage trees.

Motion: Sarah Boren
Second: Amy Franqui

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Following the vote, the committee turned briefly to a related staff report item raised by Boren, who noted that City Arborist Chris had previously indicated he wished to bring questions to the ESC regarding the monthly tree report, but was unable to attend the meeting.

Planner Jamieson confirmed that staff had been engaged in an internal review of the accuracy of the monthly tree report data. She explained that the core challenge is a timing issue inherent in the permitting process: tree permits are typically among the first permits filed for a project but among the last to be formally closed, sometimes remaining open for up to three years. As a result, the data previously presented in monthly reports may not accurately reflect conditions on the ground — trees described as removed may not yet have been removed, and trees originally planned for removal may ultimately be retained if plans change. Staff was exploring whether separating permits into categories — such as those associated with new construction versus pools or additions versus standalone tree removals — might produce more accurate and useful reporting.

Giovannucci acknowledged the structural challenge but argued that the most statistically sound approach, given the constraints of the current system, would be to take the permit data at face value: if a permit has been filed, it should be assumed the removal will proceed. He cautioned

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against over-engineering the categorization process, noting that it would be difficult to justify the added staff burden without a clear policy purpose for the additional granularity. He stated plainly, "I don't see the case for doing extra work on that data personally."

Boren respectfully disagreed, contending that more granular data — particularly the ability to distinguish new construction removals from minor project removals — would help the committee identify the right questions to ask, and that details had previously revealed important trends, such as the elevated frequency of removals under arborist letters. She indicated a preference for maintaining at least quarterly reporting and expressed interest in eventually adding data fields for heritage trees, city tree losses and plantings, and a general ledger of the tree fund.

Franqui connected the discussion to the ESC's longer-term goal of producing a biennial State of the Canopy report, suggesting that improvements to the monthly permit report — such as categorizing the type of permit — could contribute meaningfully to that larger effort. She recalled that the committee had previously requested the addition of a field asking applicants to explain why they were removing a tree, which had yielded useful information.

Planner Jamieson clarified the technical limitations of the City's current permitting software (referred to as the BSA system), which does not support fillable form fields, queryable data filters, or automated categorization. Filtering is currently limited to tree permits by year of submission and open or closed status. Arborist letters, she noted, are not submitted through the permitting portal — they are received via email, logged in a folder by date of receipt, and tracked manually. The numbers appearing in the monthly tree report for arborist letter removals are compiled by staff from that manual folder system, not from an automated database.

Giovannucci noted that the committee had previously submitted a list of requested data categories — including type of removal, reason for removal, species, and inches — in anticipation of a new software platform that was supposed to automate the reporting. Planner Jamieson confirmed that the new system had not been programmed to support those categories.

Chair Andrews redirected the discussion, asking when the committee could expect to receive the next monthly tree report in the current format — without changes to methodology — noting that the last report received was for March 2026. Planner Jamieson confirmed that staff had concerns about presenting data that was not fully accurate but acknowledged Chair Andrews's point that consistency in reporting methodology has value in itself. She indicated she would raise the matter with the Director, and the committee agreed that in the interim, staff should continue producing the report in its current format, with appropriate footnotes about the known limitations of the data.

Chair Andrews raised a related point about staff transition, noting that responsibility for the mitigation matrix and monthly tree report had passed between multiple staff members over time, and expressing concern that such transitions should not interrupt the reporting cadence. Planner Jamieson confirmed that City Arborist Chris is now the primary owner of that work.

The committee also discussed the preferred attendance arrangement for future meetings, with Chair Andrews suggesting it would be preferable to have City Arborist Chris present at tree

subcommittee meetings and Planner Jamieson attending the regular ESC meetings, to the extent scheduling allows.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Current status of possible Chapter 23 changes

Chair Andrews confirmed his understanding that the City Commission had effectively tabled active work on Chapter 23 revisions pending resolution of the large tree protection matter, which was designated as Phase 1. Chapter 23 revisions would follow as Phase 2.

Christina Kelcourse, who attended the May 26 City Commission meeting, confirmed that she had heard discussion suggesting the Commission intended to make progress on both items within the current year, with large trees constituting Phase 1 and Chapter 23 as Phase 2.

Amy Franqui reported that at the May 26 meeting, the Commission formally approved its priorities for Fiscal Year 2027. Commissioner Ring put forward a successful amendment to add work on Chapter 23 to those priorities, ensuring that the item would remain on the Commission's agenda even if it could not be completed before the end of the current fiscal year. Franqui characterized that addition as an important safeguard.

Kelcourse offered an observation that the lengthy discussion at the Commission meeting regarding a parcel-related decision — while not strictly a tree matter — had been influenced by prior discussion about tree protection and suggested that the tree conversation may have contributed to the Commission's decision to defer action on that item.

Chair Andrews noted that the substitute city attorney had repeatedly referenced during the Commission meeting that the city's current ordinance or process may be in conflict with state statute, raising it approximately five times. He recounted asking the attorney whether there is a legal deadline by which a municipality must come into compliance with state statute and was told there is no such deadline — the city remains either in compliance or out of compliance until a party brings legal action. Boren added that state statutes upon passage are generally effective immediately unless a deferral date is specified, placing the burden on city staff to update local ordinances accordingly when practicable.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Semi-annual tree permit report to the commission

Report due to Amanda to include in the Commission agendas as follows:

- **by Monday, June 29, for the July 13 Commission meeting**
- **by Monday, November 30, for the December 14 Commission meeting**

Chair Andrews opened discussion of the upcoming semiannual tree permit report, due to the Director by June 29 for inclusion in the July 13 Commission agenda. He asked

Planner Jamieson to display the prior semiannual report — a presentation prepared by Giovannucci for the December reporting period — as the basis for discussion.

The committee reviewed the prior report, which drew on monthly tree report data through October 31 of the prior year, given that more recent months had not yet been finalized. Boren confirmed that monthly tree report data through March 2026 had already been included in meeting agendas and indicated that staff should be able to produce data through the end of May in the existing format in time for the June 29 deadline.

Chair Andrews suggested the forthcoming report should cover the period from January through June 2026, with November and December 2025 data — which had not been included in the prior report — incorporated to provide a more complete historical picture. He proposed that the data methodology remain consistent with prior reporting, even if imperfect, in order to maintain continuity.

The committee reviewed the data tables in the prior presentation. Chair Andrews observed that while the permit application count is likely fairly accurate, columns reflecting total trees removed, total inches removed, trees planted, inches planted, and total mitigation payments are all subject to the timing variability previously discussed. He concluded that the committee should not allow concerns about accuracy to prevent reporting and directed staff to continue providing the data in the current format.

Giovannucci noted that the prior report had included an estimate for "not-permitted removals," drawing partly on anecdotal information from Parks staff regarding trees removed without permits — particularly a pattern that had been observed in prior years of tree removal companies working on Saturdays before city staff could respond. He clarified which numbers in the prior report were from the formal tree report data versus estimates.

Discussion also addressed the process for tracking arborist letters. Planner Jamieson explained that arborist letters are received by email, organized in a dated folder, and that staff manually counts the trees listed in those letters for inclusion in the monthly report. They are not linked to addresses in the permitting system and cannot be queried. Giovannucci noted that the committee had previously requested that arborist letter submissions be standardized to include species, DBH, and other data fields, and that City Arborist Delk had independently proposed something similar. Planner Jamieson confirmed that the new system cannot accommodate automated data entry from letters. Boren acknowledged that an AI-based scraping approach — referencing a prior attempt involving a 13-year-old and a more recent effort by a staff member using AI tools — might be revisited as the technology has improved.

Chair Andrews raised a distinct process observation: he had learned from a constituent that City Arborist Delk had visited a property, assessed a palm tree as dead, and authorized its removal without requiring a tree permit or arborist letter, which is consistent with the city's authority under the ordinance for clearly dead or dying trees. Chair Andrews expressed support for this approach in clear-cut cases but asked that the

committee have an opportunity to hear from City Arborist Delk periodically about the types of field judgments he is making — both authorizations for removal and situations where he has persuaded property owners to preserve trees through alternative means.

Planner Jamieson noted that City Arborist Delk had already been active in encouraging property owners to consider mitigation strategies other than removal, and that he had changed people's minds in several cases. She indicated she would ask him to speak to those experiences at the next tree subcommittee meeting.

The committee briefly reviewed the narrative sections of the prior semiannual report, which included editorial commentary on the effectiveness of the tree ordinance. Chair Andrews suggested that the semiannual report should focus primarily on process oversight — how staff is administering the ordinance — rather than broader policy commentary, which is more appropriate for the State of the Canopy report.

Boren proposed that future semiannual reports consistently address the following topics: data on permits and removals; a process section including any appeals and variances received; a visual flowchart illustrating how tree permits and arborist letters each work, to help the public understand the distinctions; and a recommendations section. She suggested one recommendation for the current report would be that staff develop a model arborist letter and a model tree permit demonstrating the quality and data fields the city expects, which could be shared with local arborists to elevate submission standards without requiring a change to the software system.

Franqui noted the distinction between the semiannual report, the monthly tree report, and the State of the Canopy report, and suggested they should speak to one another coherently.

The committee agreed that members wishing to contribute to the content of the semiannual report should send their written input to Giovannucci, with Director Askew copied and at least Franqui included, ahead of the next relevant meeting. The committee discussed whether additional staff input would be required before the regular June meeting or the second meeting in June, leaving the precise submission deadline to be determined based on staff availability.

Regarding the data table, Chair Andrews proposed that staff be asked to analyze the most recent twelve months of tree permits and provide a breakdown of trees removed by species and by size category, specifically identifying oaks and using the following DBH groupings: under 20 inches; 20 to 24 inches; 25 to 30 inches; 31 to 36 inches; and greater than 36 inches. He acknowledged that species-level data beyond oaks would likely require manually reviewing individual PDFs and may represent too significant a staff burden. He suggested that, as a first step, the analysis be limited to oaks, since the mitigation matrix already tracks oaks separately due to the oak-for-oak replanting requirement. Planner Jamieson agreed to raise this request with City Arborist Delk and Director Askew.

B. Large tree protection (email from Director Askew sent on May 19)

At the May 26 meeting (Tuesday, rather than Monday due to the holiday), the City Manager has the topic of large tree protection on the under-city manager report for discussion.

Staff has prepared a draft memo for the Commission, although it was not included in the published agenda materials. The memorandum recommends establishing a formal definition of “Champion Trees” and outlining potential protections and regulations associated with those trees.

The City Manager intends for the Commission and the community to further discuss appropriate DBH standards for protections.

As I previously shared with the City Manager, if staff input is considered, we would recommend that all maritime species at least 20" DBH be included within the definition of a Champion Tree. Staff came to the conclusion of a 20" DBH because these are trees are typically at least 100 years old.

This is the language that was first presented to the city manager for his review with the focus just on live oak trees.....

Champion trees are those trees in the city which have been identified as 20-inch DBH or greater (diameter-at-breast height) Live Oaks.

Champion tree(s), as defined in Section 23-8, should be considered regulated trees in all areas of the city. Champion tree(s) removal is strongly discouraged. A tree permit is required to remove any champion tree(s). Prior to the removal of a champion tree(s), the owner shall give the city first right of refusal to relocate champion tree(s) otherwise designated for removal by the applicant. If a champion tree(s) is removed with certified arborist report, the city will obtain a 3rd-party arborist to provide an independent arborist report on the champion tree(s) to be removed. Champion tree(s) removal and/or relocation mitigation rate shall be determined by the city and equal to the cost of relocating the champion tree(s). If a champion tree(s) is removed without obtaining a proper tree permit, the mitigation rate assessed shall be doubled. Planting mitigation credits are only available with the planting of 4-inch caliper Live Oaks and require prior city approval of a landscape plan. Removing a champion tree requires approval from both the Community Development Board and the City Commission.

Chair Andrews introduced the item, noting that a memorandum prepared by Director Askew had been distributed to ESC members via email on May 19 but had not been included in the published Commission agenda materials for the May 26 meeting. He reviewed his written responses to the memorandum, which he had shared with Director Askew and the City Manager.

Terminology — "Champion Trees"

Chair Andrews flagged that the term "champion tree" is already a formally defined designation in Florida — the state has maintained a Florida Champion Tree Register since 1975, recognizing the largest specimen of each species. The term also has national usage in the same context. He recommended that the city adopt different terminology to avoid confusion, suggesting the term "landmark tree," consistent with Alachua County's ordinance. He noted the ESC has previously used terms including "heritage" and "legacy," but expressed a preference for "landmark."

Franqui agreed the point was well-taken, noting that the specific term "champion tree" carries established meaning in arboricultural and botanical contexts.

DBH Threshold — 20 Inches

The memorandum from Director Askew recommended a 20-inch DBH threshold for the new protected tree designation, on the basis that trees of that size are typically at least 100 years old. Chair Andrews questioned the accuracy of that premise, citing as an example two oak trees in his daughter's yard on Sea Oats — one measuring 20 inches and one 23 inches — that were planted by a prior owner approximately 35 years ago. He suggested the age rationale was factually imprecise, though he acknowledged the underlying goal of protecting significant trees was sound.

Planner Jamieson indicated she would ask City Arborist Delk to send the committee an email explaining the specific arboricultural basis for the 20-inch threshold, noting it relates to growth ring spacing and is not simply an arbitrary estimate.

Giovannucci suggested that the memorandum's language could be amended to say trees "may be" up to 100 years old rather than "are typically" 100 years old, to avoid factual overstatement.

Mattila suggested framing the value of such trees in economic terms — noting that a tree of that size cannot be replaced for less than tens of thousands of dollars, if it can be replaced at all.

Franqui noted that the committee had previously passed a motion recommending a DBH range of 24 to 30 inches as a minimum threshold for the special protection category, and that at a subsequent meeting, the committee had expressed willingness to support the staff recommendation of 20 inches. Chair Andrews acknowledged uncertainty about whether the latter position had been formally motioned, and expressed his personal view that 20 inches is too low, though he acknowledged it may be a useful starting point for Commission negotiations.

A show of hands confirmed that a majority of members favored including multiple species — not live oaks only — in the large tree protection definition. Planner Jamieson confirmed that staff's position, as stated in the memorandum, is to recommend all maritime species at a minimum of 20 inches DBH. She noted discrepancies in the proposed language to the definition of champion trees and its focus on live oaks only. The committee affirmed its continued support for a multi-species approach.

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)
May 27, 2026

Species Scope — Maritime Species vs. Live Oaks Only

Chair Andrews reported that in a separate conversation, the Mayor had indicated a preference at this stage for focusing the protection on live oaks only. The committee acknowledged this perspective but reiterated its position in favor of including all maritime species, consistent with prior motions. Boren gave the example of large maples she had observed on Royal Palms that would not be covered under a live-oak-only definition.

Relocation Concept — City's First Right of Refusal

Planner Jamieson explained a concept establishing the city's first right of refusal to relocate large trees designated for removal, rather than simply requiring mitigation payments. She noted City Arborist Delk has done research on tree relocation. Under this framework, if a property owner sought to remove a large, protected tree, the city could elect to have the tree relocated and the relocation cost would serve as the mitigation rate, with the relocation cost serving as the mitigation rate. If the city declined to exercise that right, the owner would still owe a mitigation payment benchmarked to the estimated cost of relocating a tree of that size, which staff indicated would be substantial. The intent is both to create a genuine option for tree preservation and to use the high cost of large-tree relocation as a meaningful deterrent to removal.

Kelcourse raised the question of whether the cost of relocation might in some cases be lower than standard mitigation fees, potentially creating an unintended easy-out for property owners. She also questioned what percentage of relocated trees would survive. Franqui raised concerns about ongoing maintenance costs — particularly watering — for a relocated tree of significant size.

Mattila, referencing the data showing net canopy loss, expressed support for giving the city additional tools to protect inches, and noted that the city could simply decline to exercise the right if the economics did not make sense.

MOTION: To **support** the relocation concept giving the City the first right of refusal to relocate large, protected trees.

Motion: *Amy Palmer*
Second: *Matthew Mattila*

<i>Amy Palmer (Moved By)</i>	<i>For</i>
<i>Sarah Boren</i>	<i>For</i>
<i>Matthew Mattila (Seconded By)</i>	<i>For</i>
<i>Bruce Andrews</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Daniele Giovannucci</i>	<i>For</i>
<i>Christina Kelcourse</i>	<i>For</i>
<i>Amy Franqui</i>	<i>For</i>

Motion passed 6 to 1.

Boren raised the point that a prior version of the staff proposal had included a requirement for applicants to demonstrate that removal was unavoidable — sometimes referred to as a "statement of infeasibility" but that this element appeared to have been omitted from the most recent draft presented to the Commission. She referenced the Alachua County Landmark Live Oak ordinance, which requires demonstration that development or construction cannot occur in any other location on the site, or that removal is unavoidable due to site conditions or design considerations beyond the applicant's control.

Chair Andrews confirmed this language was in the Alachua County ordinance excerpt he had reviewed and expressed support for Atlantic Beach adopting similar language.

Giovannucci suggested that staff, rather than the Commission, should be the initial decision-maker under this standard — with appeals or variance requests going to the Commission only when staff denies removal and the applicant wishes to challenge that decision. He cautioned that routing every large tree removal request directly to the Commission would generate an unmanageable volume of hearings, particularly if the threshold were set at 20 inches.

Boren proposed that the committee recommend staff and the Commission consider Alachua County's infeasibility language, augmented by a provision requiring consideration of pruning or other risk-mitigation measures as an alternative to removal — reasoning that if a large branch could be removed to resolve a concern about site constraints, the infeasibility standard would not be met.

C. Large Tree Protection (continued)

Proof of No Feasible Alternative — Alachua County Language

Boren raised the point that a prior version of the staff proposal had included a requirement for applicants to demonstrate that removal was unavoidable — sometimes referred to as a "statement of infeasibility" but that this element appeared to have been omitted from the most recent draft presented to the Commission. She referenced the Alachua County Landmark Live Oak ordinance, which requires demonstration that development or construction cannot occur in any other location on the site, or that removal is unavoidable due to site conditions or design considerations beyond the applicant's control.

Chair Andrews confirmed this language was in the Alachua County ordinance excerpt he had reviewed and expressed support for Atlantic Beach adopting similar language.

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— reasoning that if a large branch could be removed to resolve a concern about site constraints, the infeasibility standard would not be met.

MOTION: To **recommend** that staff and the Commission consider adopting language based on Alachua County's infeasibility standard — requiring demonstration that development cannot occur in any other location, that removal is unavoidable due to site conditions or design considerations, and that pruning or other risk-reduction measures cannot serve as a feasible alternative — as the proof-of-no-feasible-alternative framework for large tree protection

Motion: *Sarah Boren*
Second: *Daniele Giovannucci*

Motion passed 7 to 0.

Process and Implementation — Decision Tree

Giovannucci proposed that a visual decision tree be developed for use by staff in evaluating large tree removal requests, so that the vast majority of cases could be resolved at the staff level with clear criteria, and only contested cases would escalate to the Commission. Planner Jamieson indicated she would look into the feasibility of that approach.

Alachua County Implementation — Research Request

Chair Andrews asked Franqui, given her contact in Alachua County, to make inquiries about how that county's landmark tree protections are administered in practice — specifically, what staff's role is in applying the infeasibility criteria, at what point requests reach the Board of County Commissioners, and how frequently commissioners are called upon to make those decisions.

Franqui noted anecdotally that her contact had described a dynamic in which developers seeking to remove large-caliper oaks for commercial projects would be told by the Commission that project approval would not be granted if the trees were removed, and that developers had in several cases redesigned their projects to accommodate the trees. She suggested the commission-level review may function as much through deterrence as through formal denial.

Planner Jamieson offered a planning-side caution against direct comparison to Alachua County, noting that Alachua County is significantly less densely developed, with substantially larger lot sizes, making tree-by-tree comparison methodologically problematic. She suggested the committee seek reference points from municipalities with lot sizes and development patterns more similar to Atlantic Beach.

Additional Consideration — Construction Protection and Surety Bond

Boren raised a concern about a potential loophole under the current framework: a property owner may retain a large tree on a permit application, avoid mitigation fees, and then proceed to construct a pool, addition, or other structure in a manner that damages the tree's root system — ultimately killing the tree and permitting its removal under an arborist letter without any mitigation obligation. She suggested that large tree protection should include a surety bond or similar mechanism ensuring that a tree designated for preservation actually survives

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)
May 27, 2026

construction. Giovannucci noted that the forthcoming Chapter 23 revisions already address setback rules for construction near existing trees, and that this concern could be incorporated into that phase, particularly as it applies to large trees specifically.

7. MEMBERS CLOSING REMARKS

Boren asked for clarification on whether, as a tree subcommittee meeting, reporting should be limited to tree-related matters. Chair Andrews confirmed that it should be. Boren acknowledged the clarification and noted she had intended to mention an upcoming film series but would refrain.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attest:

Amanda Askew, Neighborhoods Director

Bruce Andrews, ESC Tree Chair

ESC CHAIR INFORMATIONAL REPORT 6.10.2026

UPDATES:

- Saturday, June 27 - Next due date for agenda items and Lead Summaries
- Please continue to recruit for new ESC members and share details about volunteer commitment. No meeting dates yet for Board Member Review Committee (BMRC), but expect one this summer. Interested persons should go ahead and submit an application to the city: <https://coab.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication/>

FYI:

The Drought - According to Commissioner Bole at the May 26 meeting, we are in a Stage 3 drought and on the cusp of being Stage 4, which has not happened in over 100 years. Recent rains will help, of course, but we need a sustained tropical system to get back to average rainfall.

Microforests – I think I’ve sent information on this Japanese concept in the past, but it bears looking at again. This could generate a lot of carbon sequestration in a small area.

[Why a movement to turn concrete into urban forests is growing in the U.S. : NPR](#)

New resource for Florida Friendly Yards:

The Florida Meadow Manual by Gage LaPierre and Isabella Browne, University Press of Florida

Here is a link to the book, available from UF Press:

<https://floridapress.org/9780813081557/the-florida-meadow-manual/>

The authors were recently featured on First Coast Connect. Here is a link to the segment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK42joej0Pc>

It’s sea turtle nesting season!

Here is the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol annual report from 2025:

Spring 2026

Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol

Annual Report (1)

Dear Sea Turtle Friends and Supporters,

2025 was right on target with our 10 year average of 76 nests.

- 76 loggerhead nests, 1 leatherback, 0 green
- 5,818 hatched eggs (64 nests evaluated)
- 44 false crawls (abandoned nesting attempts)
- 10 nests were lost to water events

Sadly, our lone leatherback nest was washed over repeatedly and did not produce any live hatchlings.

Our beach success rate was an outstanding 64%. This is the percentage of total crawls resulting in a nest. The general average is about 50%. This was the first full nesting season following the Duval County Shore Protection Project in 2024, so it's a good indicator that the new sand is turtle-approved.

Each season includes losses from predators and disorientation events, in addition to the tidal losses noted above. Despite installing FWC-approved predator barriers, we documented 20 predated nests, resulting in an estimated loss of nearly 300 eggs and hatchlings. Canine predators—primarily persistent foxes—were the most common cause. While no device can prevent all predation, these barriers significantly reduced losses compared to having no protection.

We identified 18 disorientation events — one involving a nesting mother, while the rest affected newly emerged hatchlings. Each of our three beach towns has a lighting ordinance in place (see the Reference Links section at the end of this newsletter).

A disorientation event occurs when the turtle is influenced to travel in the wrong direction (away from the ocean) by any type of artificial light source. This includes lights on homes/buildings, in parking lots & landscaping, flashlights and camera flashes.

To learn more about dangers from artificial lights please visit the FWC resource at bit.ly/FWC-lights

In other work, our outreach team participated in more than 50 presentations, table events and classroom sessions throughout the community. We're thrilled to announce that our educational program now includes dynamic, hands-on learning materials developed by the incredible team at Inwater Research Group. To request this free "Turtles To Go" program for your class or organization, please visit our website.



Leatherback nest washed over



A rare treat to see a mama after nesting



Nearly lost to erosion but it hatched

Our "Clean Dark Flat" initiative continued last year with support from Beaches Energy Services, and while the campaign is winding down, we're proud of the impact it has made. After four great years, the coffee mugs were replaced by window decals, and now the decals are being phased out as well. The good news is that we still have a small supply available at our outreach events, so you can grab one while they last.



FWC Statewide Report

Final nest numbers from Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) are very solid. Loggerheads remained the dominant nester, a bit below recent years, but still a strong showing. Green turtles had a standout year, making 2025 the second-highest season on record (the record was 77,042 in 2023). Leatherbacks set a new statewide record, breaking the previous high of 1,848 in 2022. Kemp's ridleys remain rare but remarkable.

- Loggerhead: 100,951 nests (down from 2024)
- Green Turtle: 66,476 nests (2nd highest on record)
- Leatherback: 2,012 nests – New Record!
- Kemp's Ridley: 12 confirmed nests (21 pending confirmation)

Large numbers of nests are great to see but production of viable hatchlings with a balanced sex ratio will determine the future of all species. If the eggs do not hatch (or skew female) it will have a negative impact on future generations.

Nest productivity assessments collect important data to paint the picture for future success. A hatch success evaluation involves the excavation and inventory of a marked nest to determine the fate of each egg. Locally, our hatch success rate for 2025 was 73%. This is a very good percentage and in line with regional data, especially considering that 10 of our nests were completely lost to tidal events. We obviously have no way of determining the gender ratio of hatchlings that survived.

It is impossible to assess each individual nest in the state for productivity, so a subset of each species is identified for inventory. Across 211 beaches, 24,981 nests were inventoried accounting for 1,758,629 hatched eggs.

For additional statewide nesting information visit FWC's data page at bit.ly/FWC-statewide

Southeast Regional Report

The Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network documents sea turtle nesting totals for the Southeast US and territories. Preliminary totals yielded a combined 187,451 nests, which is over 40,000 more nests than recorded in 2024. This network is

Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc. | PO Box 50723 | Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240-0723
bstp.net | Sea turtle emergency phone 904.613.6081

Spring 2026

Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol

Annual Report (2)

composed of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Virgin Islands.

Research Projects

As we noted last year, funding for the University of Georgia's Loggerhead Genetic Tagging Project had dried up for the Florida component so we are no longer collecting data for that. FWC's Research Institute is expanding how it studies sea turtle nesting and reproduction across the state. One project tracks whether hatchlings are mostly male or female, and now includes examining deceased hatchlings to determine their sex. Another new project looks at how many male turtles are fathering each nest and how many males are active on different beaches. Together, these efforts will give Florida a clearer picture of sea turtle populations and how they are changing over time. BSTP will contribute data to both of these projects.

Plans are also underway to collaborate on sand-temperature research with biologists from the U.S. Geological Survey and Loggerhead Marinellife Group. We look forward to sharing early results in next year's newsletter.

2026 Calendar of Events

- Apr. 11, 10-1. Springing the Blooms, Beaches Museum.
- Apr. 14, 6:30pm. Beaches Go Green panel discussion, Ink Factory Brewing.
- May 1 Official start of nesting season.
- June 30 Annual fundraiser/anniversary celebration at Strings Sports Brewery.
- June 16 World Sea Turtle Day
- July 5, 7-9 am. Annual 5th of July beach cleanup.
- Sept. 19, 7-9 am. Annual International Coastal Clean Up Day.
- Oct. 31 Official end of nesting season.

Check bstp.net and Facebook page for more details and new events.

Dates are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

You Make A Difference!

In closing, we sincerely thank you for your continued support, advocacy, and outreach. Your donations provide the tools we need to continue our conservation work. We also recognize that money is tight for many families, which makes your generosity even more meaningful. All contributions are tax-deductible, and many employers offer matching gift programs.

On a broader scale, purchase of a sea turtle specialty tag for your vehicle helps fund marine turtle research projects across the state. FL Dept of Motor Vehicles lists the turtle tag as the #2 best-seller from more than 100 choices. That is over 113,000 tags as of January 31, 2026.

~ BSTP Directors ~

Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc. | PO Box 50723 | Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240-0723
bstp.net | Sea turtle emergency phone 904.613.6081

HISTORICAL DATA

Number of years recorded	38 (Data n/a for '89, '92, '93)
Overall total nests	1,764
Overall annual average	50
10 year average	76

Reference Links

BSTP Online

bstp.net
facebook.com/beachesseaturtlepatrol
youtube.com/user/bstpjax
instagram.com/bstpjax
linkedin.com/in/bstp

Partnerships

Beaches Energy Clean Dark Flat Campaign
beachesenergy.com/protect-sea-turtles
Turtles To Go program
inwater.org

Local Lighting Ordinances

Atlantic Beach: bit.ly/AB-ordinance
Neptune Beach: bit.ly/NB-ordinance
Jax Beach: bit.ly/JB-ordinance

BSTP is the only FWC-permitted turtle patrol in Atlantic, Neptune and Jax Beaches.

Our name is clearly visible on our work shirts and UTVs. If you observe anyone touching a turtle or a nest that is NOT identifiable as a BSTP volunteer, please notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency immediately.

You can help protect the turtles just by keeping the beach **Clean, Dark and Flat!**

Pick up trash, keep lights off, fill in holes, knock down sandcastles.

Nest-sitting violates FWC protocol as it is highly illegal to interfere in any way with a nest or the turtles themselves. Please report any human disturbances immediately to the local police department and FL Wildlife Alert line at 1-888-404-3922, or #FWC from cell phone.



BSTP, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code. We are a 100% volunteer organization and receive no direct government funding.

All conservation activities are authorized by FWC under Marine Turtle Permit #111.

More examples of living with trees. Issues around developing with trees occur around the world. Article from *Dwell* – values of Mexican architectural firm dictate building without removal of any trees.





CONSTRUCTION DIARY



animals. The lot was narrow and only a slice of what it once was, but it had more trees so trees—and that was what mattered to us. Orlando: We wanted to have a better life and to create a home with minimal intervention that was also comfortable to live in.

TREES FIRST, HOUSE SECOND
Orlando: There's this perspective here that development can only happen through destruction. They start by bulldozing the land, and when they're finished, they bring in a tree from a forest. It was important for us to take a stance against that, even if it meant adapting how we live. Our main goal was simple—not to cut down any trees—but it wasn't easy. The house's dimensions would have to be constrained.

Zaida: We felt we could do a lot with what was there. Inhabiting the exterior as much as the interior went hand in hand with our philosophy as architects.

DESIGNING THROUGH OBSERVATION
Zaida: We didn't begin with geometry or floor plans but with the activities that we wanted to engage in. It was a fun exercise. I made a storyboard about the things I wanted to do daily, and he did the same for me. We even drew one of our cats sitting on a ledge, which helped us establish the height of the windows, so they could observe everything. And of course we did a thorough mapping of the existing vegetation.

Orlando: The trees led us to separate the



To preserve every tree, the couple designed the home as two separate, rectangular structures, a private one for sleeping and a main living one (above) with transparent front and back walls to visually connect the home and gardens. Zaida works along a leafy, striped path (right) that connects the two structures.

The walk-in closet in the primary bedroom opened up an adjacent bedroom (right). The dark-toned, weathered palm-wood tray is a focal point, showing a mix of textures and materials.



Dulcya has lots of artisans who work with wood and stone, and we wanted the essence of this town.
Zaida BARRERO, ARCHITECT AND RESIDENT

interaction into two modules. Then we added dormers: "What are the minimum dimensions needed for a bedroom, living room, and kitchen that fit comfortably and connected to the same outside?"
Zaida: During the construction process, from one bedroom was usually because of the trees. For me, we also had this vision of an independent private area, in case one of us needed to stay in the other house to rest.
Orlando: Some people questioned this, but we have so many friends that the rain doesn't fall very hard. And even if it does—what's the big deal?

SIMPLE MATERIALS, YUCATAN TRADITIONS

Zaida: Here in Yucatán, local stones are typically used to build the entire foundation, so we followed that tradition. There's a rock in some visible structures and window frames. We also used red Tzol stone to top concrete touches—table and rest—and as transition strips on the floors.

A BLOOMING FUTURE

Zaida: The plan is for the house to grow with us. There are three other spaces programmed: an office, a guest or service room, and a baby's room. The couple are expecting their first child in July.
Orlando: Having a baby will be a very interesting opportunity, in the sense that a person will grow up here, in this environment, coexisting with other species and understanding that not everything is about humans, humans, humans. I think that's very positive—and very necessary. ■

PROJECT
Location: PPT Estadio, Yucatán Drive, Yucatán, Mexico





City of Atlantic Beach
Agenda
Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
City Hall, Commission Chamber
800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 2.A. Approve minutes of the... regular meeting
- 2.B. ESC Member Update Reports

3. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (5 MINS.)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

5. CHAIR REMARKS

6. COMMISSION AND/OR STAFF REPORTS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8. OLD BUSINESS-ONGOING

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. 90 DAY CALENDAR AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE METRICS

11. ESC MEMBER REPORTS, REQUESTS AND/OR CLOSING REMARKS

12. RECAP OF DECISIONS, ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Any person wishing to speak to the Environmental Stewardship Committee on any matter at this meeting should submit a Comment Card located at the entrance to Commission Chamber prior to the start of the meeting.

This meeting will be live-streamed and videotaped. The video recording will be posted within four business days on the City's website. To access live or recorded videos, visit www.coab.us/live.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26 of the Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Deputy City Ladayija Nichols at 247-5821 or at City Hall, 800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida not less than three (3) days prior to the date of this meeting.

FY 2026-27 Strategic Priorities: Atlantic Beach

I. RESILIENCY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Focus: Addressing drainage needs, functional integrity, and long-term sustainability.

- **Stormwater Master Plan Update:** Formalize a strategic management framework that includes:
 - **Basin & Geological Surveys:** Conducting technical drainage basin evaluations and geological-level surveys (distinct from property boundary surveys).
 - **Infrastructure Prioritization:** Emphasizing publicly funded infrastructure improvements over property rights restrictions.
 - **Right-of-Way Optimization:** Utilizing city rights-of-way to expand drainage capacity and ditch networks.
 - **Systematic Maintenance Program:** Develop and publish a recurring maintenance cycle for cleaning drainage ditches and restoring the functional capacity of retention basins.
 - **Comprehensive Rate Studies:** Procure professional rate studies for water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, and recreational facilities to ensure fee structures align with actual maintenance and public service costs.
 - **Permeable Technology Incentives:** Create a program to incentivize the use of permeable materials by residents to reduce neighborhood runoff.
-

II. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Focus: Protecting the tree canopy and preserving vital maritime ecosystems.

- **Old-Growth Tree Protection:** Develop and adopt a robust ordinance specifically designed to protect "champion" trees.
 - **Marsh & Shoreline Restoration:** Prioritize the protection of marsh shorelines by initiating two high-impact environmental restoration projects.
 - **Dune Stabilization:** Sustain critical erosion-mitigation efforts through strategic sea oat planting and dune maintenance.
-

III. COMMUNITY SPACES & PROGRAMMING

Focus: Enhancing recreational assets and connectivity.

- **Parks Master Plan Update:** Modernize the citywide Parks Master Plan to reflect current usage trends and community demographics.
- **Donner Park Upgrades:** Complete the splash pad and canopy installations; leverage private funding sources for baseball field improvements.
- **Marsh Oaks Community Center:** Dedicate specific programming and operational resources to maximize the utility of the new facility.

2026

Note current membership (photo); upcoming openings

Chronological listing of accomplishments; these will be tied to priorities:

JANUARY

- First Night participation/table
- Raised \$6k in sponsorships to have CoAB participate in 2026 COJ Minecraft competition
- Arbor Day – maintain Tree City USA designation; ABE and Mayport Middle participation
- Lights Out – Audubon effort for Beaches cities results in Mayoral proclamation

FEBRUARY

- Five Heritage Trees designated – including commercial “Sherry-Atlantic Tree”
 - Since city hired Chris Delk as our first city arborists, there have been 11 Heritage Tree designations (through May) -- all on private land.
 - Have photos of ceremony for May 15 residence of Dee Reiter 1798 Selva Marina Drive, 51” DBH live oak and is about 200 years old. The resident named it “Sunrise Beach Oak.” name of her tree? And type?
Amy F email
- Media attention – losing priceless trees
- Centennial Tree Planting Campaign – 100 for 100 years (sign up for free front yard trees)
- Feb. 21 – Film Series - The Lorax in partnership with ARC
- Feb. 21 – Weed Wrangle in Howell Park – partnership with Friends of Howell Park
 - # tons removed
 - # volunteers
- Date - Follow-up Native Plantings in Howell Park
- Feb. 25 – Public Input Session – ESC Priorities
- Marsh Pilot Study start – met with city engineer Steve Swann/applied for SASME grant

MARCH

- March 2 – Joint Workshop with Commission on FY2027 Priorities
- March 7 – Partnership Friends of Howell Park native plantings
- Mayor’s Proclamation – “Lights Out” AB – start of spring bird migration

- Lots of media! Ponte Vedra Recorder, Jax Today, and ...
- March 28 – participate in Centennial Celebration
 - 100 sign-ups for free front yard trees for 100 years

APRIL

- April 2 – Lights Out workshop (migratory birds and sea turtles)
- April 17 – Minecraft final competition at WJCT – AB resiliency hub
 - ESC and city staff spoke and served as volunteer judges
 - Photos of winners, etc.
- Renew Mayor’s Monarch Pledge
- Earth Day tree planting in Howell Park

MAY

- May 2 – Commission Town Hall on Tree Preservation
 - Work to support the commission on passing ordinance to protect our priceless century oaks
- Passage of Commission’s FY2027 Priorities – alignment with ESC’s priorities
- IFAS review of City Hall (Florida Friendly)
- May 28 – Film Series - Film and panel – Biggest Little Farm

JUNE

- Centennial tree sign-up tally (40 in the ground for spring planting)
- Marsh Pilot (got the grant?)
- IFAS Review of City Hall campus



Recommendation for Consideration: 2026 ESC Organizational Excellence Focus
submitted by Sarah Boren, ESC Member

Motion:

After analyzing its 2025 self-evaluation survey, the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) chooses to focus on improving at least one of the following areas in 2026:

Areas for Improvement from 2025 Survey

- Preparing for meetings better
- Recruiting and onboarding new members better
- Following through and monthly reporting out on progress of committed-to action items

Details/Background of the Motion:

Since 2022 ESC has voted to continue to complete an annual self-evaluation survey which is considered a best practice for volunteer advisory committees. Each year ESC has chosen at least one thing to internally improve upon.

Voting Results

- Motion Passed / Declined / Amended
 - Vote (yeas; nays)
 - Moved:
 - Second:

References:

- See emailed results from survey in January 2026 from S. Boren for more detail.

LEAD ITEM	PRIORITY	SUBPRIORITY	ACTIVITIES	DELEGATION SUPPORTS	TIMELINE	PROMOTIONS PLAN	SUCCESS METRICS	NOTES
Heritage Tree Pilot Grant Program	Secure Commission Approval	Design program structure and features	Design PROGRAM OUTLINE, get input-consensus of ESC and staff, develop a presentation, deliver to Commission	Anastasia to coordinate with Elder and Centennial programs	Jun 10 - present to ESC, then to staff Jun 22 - to Commission	Educate Commissioners in advance	Design Acceptable (to ESC-Staff) Program Commission accepts 90% or more of proposal	
Edible Orchard	Installed on site	Determine site Staff alignment	recover original inputs (Heather), ensure staff alignment and contact person, ensure coverage of site needs.	Sarah Boren inputs, Chris D. oversight,	Aug 12 ready to present. Sep 9 finalized	Educate Commissioners in advance	Gather Design requirements Design Acceptable (to ESC-Staff) Commission accepts proposal	
Tree Subcommittee	Finalizing and securing the Agenda for 2026 remainder	support Bruce	TBD				New Ch 23 finalized with staff ready for Commission	
Chapter 23 Updates	Push through final version this year		recover original inputs, determine what staff wants now, ensure staff alignment,	Bruce, Sarah, Chris, Payton	TBD with Chris	Educate Commissioners as we go	New Ch 23 passed with 90%+ of proposed changes this year	
Semi-annual reports to Commission	Finalize template	secure necessary data	Determine the 2 dates for this. Develop Template, Input-consensus of ESC and staff, develop a presentation, deliver to Commission	Bruce and Sarah, and Chris	TBD	inform other City agencies and affiliate organizations (Beaches Go Green, Audubon, Preservation, etc.) of this report	Template agreed by all parties. 2 reports delivered by Jan 2026	
Biennial Tree Report	Template	identify further data needs	Develop Template, Input-consensus of ESC and staff, develop a presentation, offer to Commission for approval	Amy, Bruce, Sarah, and Chris	TBD	inform other City agencies and affiliate organizations (Beaches Go Green, Audubon, Preservation, etc.) of this report	Template agreed by all parties.	

ESC Committee Member	Lead Item	Priority	Subpriority	Activities	Delegation / Supports	Timeline	Promotions Plan	Success Metrics	Notes
Amy Franqui	Environmental Speaker Series	Environmental Stewardship	Communications, Education & Outreach Plan (Events, Educational Materials & Campaigns, Partnerships & Volunteers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate quarterly educational programs aligned with ESC priorities and current environmental topics. Secure speakers and venues, develop event topics, coordinate logistics, manage RSVP process, prepare sign-in materials and educational resources, coordinate giveaways/raffles, and conduct attendee and speaker follow-up communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Askew: facility reservation, approvals, city communications. Valerie Jones: ESC Event RSVP form updates. Printing support, as needed. Guest speakers and partner organizations: educational materials, expertise, and giveaways. ESC members: outreach support and event participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly (April, July, October, January). Speaker/topic selection begins 2-3 months in advance. Flyers finalized at least one month prior to support city newsletter deadlines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute event flyer through city website, social media, Recreation Newsletter, ESC email list, partner organizations, and personal outreach. Maintain ESC Event RSVP form and send reminder communications approximately one week before each event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 4 educational programs annually Average attendance of 20+ participants per session Growth and retention of attendee mailing list Participation from partner organizations and subject matter experts Post-event resources distributed within one week Increased community awareness and engagement on ESC priority topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program transitioned from monthly to quarterly format in 2026 to improve attendance and focus resources on higher-impact programming. Topics are selected to support current community discussions and ESC priorities (e.g., Lights Out campaign, tree canopy preservation, Florida-Friendly Landscaping). Promotion remains the primary challenge due to reliance on multiple communication channels and approval timelines.
Amy Franqui	Lights Out Atlantic Beach	Environmental Stewardship	Communications, Education & Outreach Plan (Educational Materials & Campaigns, Partnerships & Volunteers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate community education and outreach supporting Lights Out Atlantic Beach during spring and fall bird migration seasons. Collaborate with conservation partners to increase awareness of migratory bird collisions and actions residents and businesses can take to reduce nighttime lighting impacts. Support educational events, public communications, and partnership development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duval Audubon Society (Elizabeth Filippelli and team): technical expertise, educational materials, regional coordination. Amanda Askew and City staff: approvals, website and social media communications. ESC members: outreach support and event participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring migration (March-May) and Fall migration (September-November). Educational materials and promotions developed in advance of each migration season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop seasonal awareness announcements and educational materials for city website, social media, newsletters, and community events. Incorporate Lights Out messaging into ESC programming and partner events. Explore future opportunities such as Farmers Market outreach, community yard signs, library distribution, and educational materials for businesses and neighborhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two seasonal awareness campaigns annually (spring and fall migration) Educational materials distributed prior to each migration season Partnership maintained with Duval Audubon Society and regional municipalities Inclusion of Lights Out messaging in ESC outreach efforts and events Community engagement through events, presentations, or outreach opportunities Increased public awareness of migratory bird conservation practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiative launched in 2026 following the Mayor's Lights Out proclamation. Supported local media outreach, educational programming through the April Speaker Series, and regional partnership-building efforts that contributed to adoption of similar proclamations in neighboring beach communities. Future opportunities include expanded community engagement through yard signs, Farmers Market outreach, and business education campaigns.
Amy Franqui	Friends of the Park / Stewards of the Park Liaison	Parks & Open Spaces	Parks Master Plan; Partnerships & Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as ESC liaison between community volunteers, park advocates, and city staff to support stewardship activities in Atlantic Beach parks. Coordinate volunteer efforts such as invasive plant removal, native planting projects, litter cleanups, habitat restoration activities, and environmental education opportunities. Support development of a scalable Friends of the Park framework that empowers park-specific volunteer leadership and long-term stewardship. Develop recommendations for volunteer roles, responsibilities, training, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Howell Park volunteers, Master Gardener Volunteers, city staff, Environmental Stewardship Committee members, community volunteers, and partner organizations. Future model would include designated volunteer park leads and co-leads serving as primary points of contact for each participating park. ESC members: outreach support and event participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing stewardship support throughout 2026. Present draft Friends of the Park framework to ESC by September 2026 for committee feedback, with final recommendations targeted by year-end to support implementation beginning in 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote volunteer opportunities through city website, social media, newsletters, partner organizations, community groups, and ESC communications. Encourage participation through recurring stewardship events and partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 4 stewardship events annually per participating park Volunteer participation and retention Draft Friends of the Park framework presented to ESC by September 2026 Final program recommendations completed by year-end 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current efforts have focused on Howell Park as a pilot for community-based park stewardship through Weed Wrangles, native planting events, habitat restoration, and volunteer engagement. Long-term vision is to establish a Friends of the Park model that empowers trained community volunteers to support individual parks while maintaining coordination with city staff and alignment with Parks Master Plan priorities. Future recommendations may include Florida-Friendly Landscaping and stewardship training for volunteer leads and co-leads to promote consistent practices and shared stewardship values across participating parks.
Amy Franqui	Florida-Friendly Landscapes	Beautification of Public and Private Spaces	Florida-Friendly Public Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles on public properties and promote adoption throughout the community. Coordinate Florida-Friendly Landscape reviews of city properties, beginning with City Hall, identify opportunities for improvement, support staff training, promote water conservation and sustainable landscape management practices, update the city's plant palette using a native-first approach, and support development of local native plant sourcing partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Askew and city staff UF/IFAS Duval County Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program; Florida-Friendly Program Assistant (Stephanie Means) City arborist (Chris Delk) Ixia Chapter Florida Native Plant Society (President: Jody Willis) Local native plant vendors ESC members: outreach support and event participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Hall FFL review scheduled June 2026. Updated plant palette presented to ESC for consideration by end of Summer 2026. Maintenance staff training coordinated in 2026. Additional city property reviews and implementation efforts ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote City Hall recognition and improvements as a "lead by example" initiative. Share review findings, implemented improvements, water conservation benefits, and opportunities for residents to schedule their own Florida-Friendly Landscape reviews. Utilize city website, newsletters, social media, workshops, and educational materials to increase community awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Hall achieves Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ recognition (Silver or higher; Gold stretch goal) Maintenance staff training completed Updated native-first plant palette adopted and implemented Local native plant vendor relationship established and utilized Reduction or elimination of invasive species from city-owned landscape installations Increased use of native and Florida-Friendly plants in public spaces Public outreach completed encouraging resident participation in FFL reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial efforts focus on City Hall as a demonstration site and model for future city properties. Work includes updating landscape standards, improving plant selection guidance, supporting staff education, and strengthening local native plant sourcing. Long-term vision is for city facilities and landscapes to serve as visible examples of Florida-Friendly and native landscaping practices while supporting water conservation, biodiversity, and reduced maintenance inputs. Future opportunities include development of a city-native plant branding campaign similar to the "AB Loves Trees" initiative.

ESC Member Project Tracker

Sarah Boren, ESC Member
last update 5/30/26

S. Boren ESC Lead Commitments Summary Chart

LEAD ITEM	FY	PRIORITY	SUBPRIORITY	ACTIVITIES	DELEGATION SUPPORTS	TIMELINE	PROMOTIONS PLAN	SUCCESS METRICS	NOTES
AB Film Series	FY25-26	P2	Events			5/26 & 8/26	See slide	See slide	50% completed
Free Arborist Days	FY25-26	P1 Mature Tree Incentives	Program	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Revisit by ESC
Realtor Roundtable	FY25-26	P2 Trees E&O	Events	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Seeking staff approval
Marsh Pilot Locations & Funding	FY25-26	P1 Parks, Preserves & Open Spaces	Pilot Program	See slide	See slide	9/30/26	NA	See slide	50% done; waiting on SASMI grant
No Mow Pilot	FY25-26	P1 Beautification	Pilot Program	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Confirming completion with staff
SJRWMD MOU & Canal Seeding	FY25-26	P1B Parks, Preserves & Open Spaces	Canal seeding program	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress
“Sorry for Your Loss” Program	FY25-26	P1 Trees	Plant more trees faster	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress
Pruning Incentive Program	FY25-26	P1 Trees	Mature tree incentive	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress

S. Boren ESC Lead Commitments Summary Chart Continued

LEAD ITEM	FY	PRIORITY	SUBPRIORITY	ACTIVITIES	DELEGATION SUPPORTS	TIMELINE	PROMOTIONS PLAN	SUCCESS METRICS	NOTES
Beach/Marsh/ Park Access & Entrances	FY25-26	P1 Beautification	FL Friendly landscaping	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Behind
TreePlotter / ArcGIS Story Map Subscript	FY25-26	P1 Trees	Accurate data	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress
Private Tree Inventory	FY25-26	P1 Trees	Mature trees	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress
Rain Garden Pilot	FY25-26	P1 Parks	Reduce flooding	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Behind
Mayport Road	FY25-26	P1 Beautification	FL Friendly landscaping	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Behind
Dutton Island Tree Loss Assessment & Pilot Seedling Planting	FY25-26	P1 Trees	Plant more trees faster	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	In progress
Commercial Property Planting Partnership	P1 Trees	P1 Trees	Plant more trees faster	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Behind

S. Boren ESC Lead Commitments Summary Chart Continued

LEAD ITEM	FY	PRIORITY	SUBPRIORITY	ACTIVITIES	DELEGATION SUPPORTS	TIMELINE	PROMOTIONS PLAN	SUCCESS METRICS	NOTES
Education and outreach materials on trees/canopy	P1 Trees	P2	Education & outreach about Centennial drive	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	See slide	Behind
Marsh Pilot Implemented	FY26-27	P1B Parks, Preserves & Open Spaces	Pilot Implemented	See slide	See slide	9/30/27	See slide	See slide	Not started
Stormwater Mgmt	FY26-27	P1D Env Stew	P1Di SWMP	ESC Input for SOW	All ESC	6/1/26	NA	See slide	Completed 5/26/26

PRIORITIES OVERVIEW

2025-2026 ESC Priorities Workplan Update

Timeline: October 2025 – September 2026

Focus: *Incentivize protection of mature trees*

Goals: 1) Improve communications with Commission, staff, and community; 2) Improve community engagement and education

ESC Purpose #1					Purpose #2	Continual	
CC Priority	Trees / Canopy	Parks & Open Spaces	Beautification	Environmental Stewardship	Motivating & Coordinating	Org Excellence	Ongoing Efforts
1) Incentivize Protection of Mature Trees	2) Seek approval & Implement 2025-2026 Tree Fund Action & Spending Plan	6) Propose a Marsh Pilot program for 2026-2027 support	FDOT Mayport Road Beautification	5) Work Toward 2050 Goals & Better Performance and Measurement	Education/outreach on ESC's four focus areas	Increase effectiveness, productivity, and satisfaction of ESC mtgs	Maintain "Tree City USA" status
	3) Continue to Improve Chapter 23	Update Parks Master Plan – moved to FY26-27	Improve public spaces with Florida Friendly Landscaping	Support 15% residential water reduction in N FL Regional Water Supply Plan	Various events	Improve ESC processes, communications, & priorities alignment	Community Service Days
	4) Create Tree Reports & Improve Data Collection	Rain Gardens in flooded areas of Jack Russell Park	Bee City Designation	Voluntary Resilient & Green Building Ordinance Proposal	Expand outreach via website	Improve upon one takeaway from self-evaluation	Interrelation of city plans / assessments and CIP Implementation
	Long-Term Tree Replacement Draft Plan	Create Friends / Stewards of the Parks Working Group		Flooding & Stormwater Management Plan Input		Increase number of volunteers and SMEs	Listening to community needs and wants
	Dutton Island Tree Loss Investigation			Floating Solar Research			Beautification input from Commission & community
	Tree Inventory of Parks						Parks health & connectivity
	Partner with COJ TreePlotter Program – proprietary vendor						Develop partnerships & learn best practices from other municipalities

COMPLETED / IN PROGRESS / DID NOT COMPLETE

Oct 2026 – Sep 2027 ESC Priorities

Purpose #1: Study and make recommendations:

A. Maritime Forest

- i. **Chapter 23 Update:** Support passage and implementation of Chapter 23 update and other tree-related recommendations – especially those focused on preservation of largest trees

B. Parks, Preserves & Open Spaces

- i. **Marsh Restoration Pilot Project:** Support/guide implementation of nature-based solutions to combat marsh erosion
- ii. **Parks Master Plan:** Support renewal of Parks Master Plan

C. Beautification of Public Spaces

- i. **Florida Friendly Public Landscapes:** Improve public spaces through incorporation of “Florida-friendly” landscape design principles, which will conserve water and reduce use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

D. Environmental Stewardship

- i. **Stormwater Management:** Provide input for Master Stormwater Management Plan and related water conservation campaign

Purpose #2: Act as a coordinating and motivating body:

- **Events:** CoAB Centennial, Minecraft Challenge, Arbor Day, Speaker Series, Film Series, Awards, Community Work Days
- **Reports:** Monthly tree report; Semi-annual tree permit process report; Biennial comprehensive report on the canopy
- **Educational/Outreach Communications & Materials:** “Call Before You Cut” graphic; citizen guide; free tree hanger
- **Volunteers & Partnerships:** Build up a committed volunteer group and set of strategic partners

Visual Status: S. Boren Lead Items

On Track / Completed
In Progress / Pending
Not Started / Off Track

Projects / Efforts

FY25-26

- P1 Parks: Marsh Pilot Project (FY25-26)
- P1 Parks: SJRWMD MOU FY25-26
- P1 Beautification: No Mow Pilot
- P1 Trees: "Sorry for Your Loss" Program (Diseased/Dead Arborist Letter Tree Replacement Program)
- P1 Trees: Hazard Prevention / Pruning Incentive Program
- P1 Beautification: Beach/Marsh/Park Access & Entrances
- P1 Trees: TreePlotter / ArcGIS Story Map Subscription
- P1 Trees: Private Tree Inventory
- P1 Parks: Rain Garden Pilot at Jack Russell Park
- P1 Beautification: Mayport Road Diet Greenspace Along Trail
- P1 Trees: Dutton Island Tree Loss Assessment & Pilot Seedling Planting
- P1 Trees: Commercial Property Planting Partnership
- P2 Education and outreach materials on trees/canopy

FY26-27 (by 12/31/26)

- P1 ES: Stormwater Management Plan Recommendations (FY26-27)
- P1 Parks: Marsh Pilot Project (continued)
- P1 Trees: Private Tree Inventory & Mapping Process and Launch (continued)
- P1 Beautification: Mayport Road Diet Greenspace Along Blue/Green Trail (continued)

Events

- P2 AB Film Series (2 ESC films)
- P2 AB Minecraft Challenge (supporting Kelcourse)
- P1 Trees: Free Arborist Days
- P1 Trees: Realtor & Title Company Roundtable

Website / Online Data

- P2 Tree FAQs
- P1 Trees: Online Collection of Permit / Arborist Letter Data

Volunteer / Partnership Development

- P2 UNF Marsh Monitoring & GHG Inventory
- P2 UNF Tree Canopy Data Visualization
- P2 ESC Volunteer Opportunities
- P2 SJRWMD

FY 2025-2026 EVENTS

AB Educational Film Series



Timeline & Action Items

June

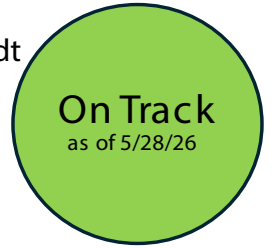
- Debrief May screening
- Begin working on August screening logistics, promotional materials, confirm panelists & questions, and partners
- Create/implement better promotion plan for future films
- Line up panelists and questions
- ARCC needs to work on screening license for Isle of Dogs or choose another movie
- Prep opening slides for ESC films if appropriate
- Debrief and decide if COAB/ESC wants to do educational film series again

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren / ARCC LEAD: Sondra Goldschmidt
STAFF LIAISONS: Jordan Leslie & Veronica Ouellette
YTD BUDGET: \$2000-\$555-\$350=\$1,095
FILE LOCATION: ShareFile>ESC>Events>2026>Film Series
SUCCESS METRICS:

- 25 number attendees per/film/series
- 90% Attendees provide positive feedback
- Low cost/attendance ratio
- 5 pledges to take action due to a film

Completed Actions (most recent at bottom)

- Received consensus from ESC 3/11/26 to replace No Sleep Til with Biggest Little Farm
- Approach ARCC & BGG to see if they want to partner
- Secured \$2k of funding for educational film series
- ARCC chose to screen The Lorax and Isle of Dogs
- ESC voted to screen No Sleep Til and Kiss the Ground
- Staff secured license to screen The Lorax
- Sondra with ARCC designed The Lorax flyer
- Lorax Debrief -- \$555 (w/ S&H; \$22/attendee); 26 attendees; young couples and moms with children five years old or younger. Poor projection quality.
- ESC switches to "Biggest Little Farm" for 5/28/26
- Boren designs flyer and gets approval from staff
- V. Ouellette secures license to screen for \$350
- 5/20 Sent calendar invites to ESC, ARCC, BGG & staff
- 5/22/26 Tested white sheet and different project with staff
- 5/28 logistics: Prep opening slides; Design feedback survey on Menti (ended up not using due to time loss from audio issues); Prepare questions for panelists; Promote to local AB schools - (Chris K did not feel comfortable doing this with end of school timing)' Promote to community -- Heavy promotion on FB and sent out 1300 emails
- Biggest Little Farm Debrief -- \$350 (w/ S&H; \$15/attendee); 23 attendees; 4 panelists, 5 ESC members, 8 brand new attendees, 2 kids. Issues with making audio connect at beginning. 3 people raised hands for free trees.



ATLANTIC BEACH FILM SERIES PRESENTS



the Biggest little Farm

Free, open to the public, & walk ups welcome

Thursday, May 28, 2026 6-8:30pm
 Film 6-7:30pm; Local Expert Panel 7:30-8:30pm

Adele Grage Community Center Gulliford Hall - 716 Ocean Blvd
 Panelists: Angela Tenbroeck, Center for Sustainable Agricultural Excellence & Conservation; Kira Mauro, Dig It Local; Sarah Salvatore, Earth's Farm & Market; & Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Jax

Presented by the City of Atlantic Beach's Arts, Cultural & Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Committees and Beaches Go Green



OFFICIAL SELECTION SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL | WINNER BOULDER FILM FESTIVAL | OFFICIAL SELECTION TORONTO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL | WINNER HAMPTONS INT'L FILM FESTIVAL | OFFICIAL SELECTION TELLURIDE FILM FESTIVAL

"MOTHER NATURE has never been more INSPIRING."
 - Alice Waters

the Biggest little Farm

Thursday
 May 28, 2026
 6-8:30pm
 716 Ocean Blvd

Film 6-7:30pm; Expert Panel 7:30-8:30pm

Panelists:
 Angela Tenbroeck, Ctr for Sustainable Agricultural Excellence & Conservation; Kira Mauro, Dig It Local; Sarah Salvatore, Earth's Farm & Market; & Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Jax




AB Minecraft Challenge



Current Action Items

- Get workshop and MOCC opening dates from staff and see if winning teacher/student would be willing to present (Kelcourse)
- Promote especially before school lets out (Kelcourse / Boren)
- Work with staff on workshop(s) agenda and desired outcomes (Kelcourse)
- Decide on challenge winner & announce at workshop/opening? (Kelcourse)
- Debrief and decide if COAB/ESC wants to do something similar next year (Kelcourse)

LEAD: Chris Kelcourse (S. Boren supporting)
STAFF LIAISON: Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: \$5000-\$5000 = \$0
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Events>2026>Minecraft
SUCCESS METRICS:

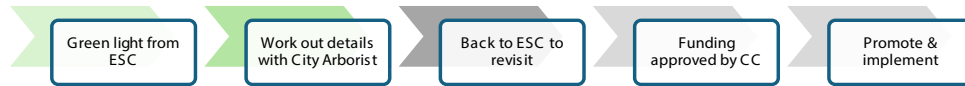
- AB/Duval students learn about S&R while having fun
- Helps engage community in purpose of MOCC and serving as a resilience hub



Completed / Incomplete Action Items (most recent at bottom)

- 10/25 Ask COJ if COAB can participate (Boren)
- ESC agrees to take on this opportunity
- 11/25 Kelcourse volunteers to lead
- 1/16/26 Kelcourse & Boren raise required \$5k to be included in challenge
- 2/27 Customized flyer for local AB schools (Boren)
- Promote Round 1 to local schools
- Draft content for MOCC challenge (Askew)
- ESC/Commission/Staff attend 4/17 Finale
- 5/13/26 ESC voted to participate in MOCC workshops and host AB challenge
- 5/17/26 Created challenge prompt, schedule, and promotional flyer with submittal deadline of July 1st (Boren)
- 5/26/26 Kelcourse met with A. Askew. Aug 1st set as new deadline

Free Arborist Days



Current Action Items

- Seek funding approval from Commission
- Create sign-up form with slots and promotion materials
- Implement first Master Arborist Day in Q4 FY25-26
- Implement rest of the Master Arborist Days

LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)

STAFF LIAISON: Chris Delk

YTD BUDGET: \$12,000

SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Focus Areas>Trees>Arborist Days

SUCCESS METRICS:

- All slots are filled each quarter
- 90% positive reviews by residents



Completed Action Items (most recent at bottom)

- 4/22/26 ESC voted for \$12k towards this effort via the Q2 Tree Fund Action & Spending Plan
- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and it was concluded that Boren should resubmit recommendation at the June TSC meeting for further discussion.
- 5/30/26 Boren sent email requesting Amy P/Bruce to add updated recommendation to the appropriate meeting agenda.

Realtor & Title Company Roundtable



Current Action Items

- Work with Keller Williams to schedule first roundtable if approved by staff
- Outreach to title companies that work in AB
- Reach out to NEFAR regarding 2nd roundtable
- Implement action items and monitor success

LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)

STAFF LIAISON: Amanda Askew

YTD BUDGET: \$0

SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Focus Areas>Trees>Partnerships

SUCCESS METRICS:

- Good attendance & engagement at RTs
- Willingness to share tree information with clients
- More new homeowners understand tree ordinance
- Fewer trees cut down with new/redevelopments

Completed / ~~Incomplete~~ Action Items (most recent at bottom)

- Keller Williams willing to host first RT to test out concept
- 5/30/26 Boren sent email to ESC staff liaison, A. Askew, and City Manager, K. Hogencamp seeking green light to proceed regarding Keller Williams Realty invitation to host an initial roundtable to test concept



FY 2025-2026 PROJECTS / EFFORTS

P1 ES: Stormwater Management Plan Priority



Timeline & Action Items

- Q3 FY25-26 (April – June)
 - Staff drafts scope of work
 - Formal RFQ posted
 - ESC decides what, if any, public education about SWMP it will do
- Q4 FY25-26
 - Bid/contract awarded and work begins
 - Education and outreach if agreed upon

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)
STAFF LIAISONS: Steve Swann & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: \$300,000 grant
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>SWMP
SUCCESS METRICS:

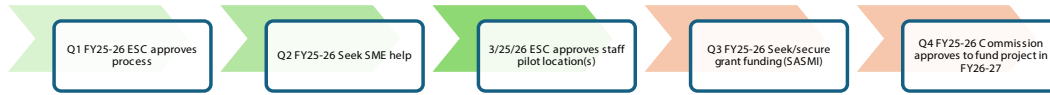
- ESC recommendations incorporated into SWMP scope/RFP
- ESC completes THREE excellent education/outreach efforts by 9/30/26

Completed Actions

- Research past COAB SWMP and other city plans
- Draft recommendations for scope of work/RFP
- Request to put on ESC agenda for discussion and vote (4/22/26 & 5/13/26)
- 5/13/26 ESC approved recommendations and sent to staff to include in scope of work/RFQ as they deem fit



P1 Parks: Marsh Pilot Project FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Q3 FY25-26
 - Seek/secure grant funding (SASMI)
 - Potential community workshop regarding locations
- Q4 FY25-26
 - Potential community workshop regarding locations
 - Commission approves to fund project in FY26-27

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Steve Swann & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: \$0 (seeking SASMI grant)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Marsh Pilot
SUCCESS METRICS:

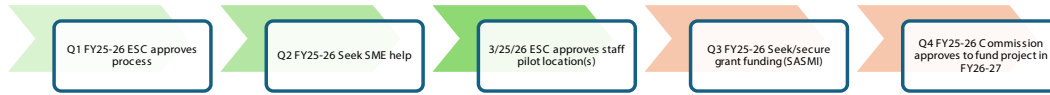
- Identify at least one location for pilot (3 were identified)
- Commission approves to fund in FY26-27



Completed Actions

- Q1 FY25-26: ESC approves process to determine pilot locations
- Q2 FY25-26: Seek SME help including proposal from City Engineer, Steve Swann, and attending March NERT, Mayport Waterfront Partnership, and MIRR Technical Advisory meetings
- S. Swann applies for SASMI grant
- 3/25/26 ESC approves staff's three recommended pilot locations
- 5/8/26 T. Miner shared similar DARPA oyster project and is reaching out to SME
- 5/13/26 Amy P reported that Hunter Mathews is interested in hosting an Oyster POSH workshop sometime in 2027

P1 Parks: SJRWMD MOU FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- S. Swann reaching out to Tom Frick about likelihood and timing of funding.
- Share with City Manager (Boren)
- COAB works with SJRWMD on MOU.

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Steve Swann & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: \$0 (seeking SASMI grant)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Marsh Pilot>SJRWMD

SUCCESS METRICS:

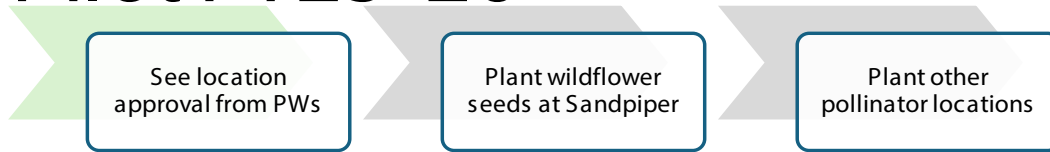
- MOU is signed
- Funding and project schedule is confirmed

Completed Actions

- 2/17/26 Meeting with SJRWMD and COAB staff
- 2/18/26 Tom Frick emails copy of Indian River MOU
- 3/26/26 Attended NERT meeting



P1 Beautification: No Mow Pilot FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren waiting on response from A. Askew

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren

STAFF LIAISONS: Amanda Askew

YTD BUDGET: \$200

SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>No Mow Pilot

SUCCESS METRICS:

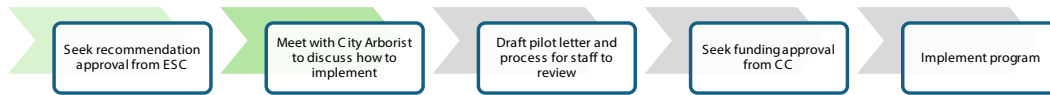
- Pilot is successfully installed and maintained
- Well received by community and staff
- Other no mow locations adopted

Completed Actions

- 8/1/25 Received OK from Interim PWs Director, Rick Carper, to try pilot on Sandpiper Lane
- A. Askew bought wildflower seeds
- 10/25 Told to wait for new PWs Director to be hired
- 1/26 Told to give new PWs Director more time to get oriented
- 4/17/26 Received email from A. Askew pilot pollinator planting around the bathrooms at Tideviews
- 5/30/26 Boren send A. Askew email if city was planning any other pollinator areas



P1 Trees: “Sorry for Your Loss” Program FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to draft letter to property owner with response deadline and overall program process for staff to review
- Seek funding approval from CC

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Proposed \$10,000 (not yet approved by CC)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>Arborist Letter Replacement

SUCCESS METRICS:

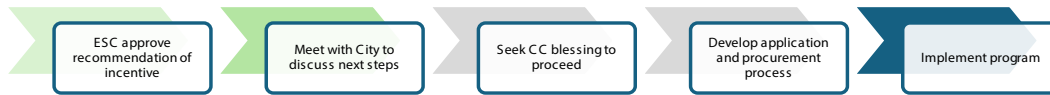
- 10% of trees removed by letters are replaced with Trees for All



Completed Actions

- 3/25/26 ESC recommendation unanimously approved: [The Environmental Stewardship Committee \(ESC\) recommends that the City automatically offers to replace a dead or ill tree that is being removed with a free city planted tree \(and old tree stump removal if appropriate\).](#)
- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and concluded next steps include: a) Boren to draft letter to property owner with response deadline for staff to review and b) seek funding approval from CC
 - Concern: City does not always reliably receive arborist letters before removal, so there may need to be a process improvement—such as requiring submissions through a city email or online portal.
 - A simple pilot approach could begin with mailing homeowners a letter offering a replacement tree and asking them to respond by a deadline.

P1 Trees: Hazard Prevention / Pruning Incentive Program FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Seek Commission approval to move forward for pruning incentives and refine program structure (cap per tree, percentage covered, etc.).
- Develop a homeowner application process for the preventative pruning incentive program.
- Clarify procurement/direct appointment options for using arborists or pruning contractors under city rules.

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: \$15,000
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Hazard Pruning Incentive

SUCCESS METRICS:

- 20% homeowners prune rather than remove mature tree(s)

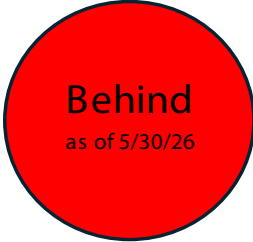
Completed Actions

- 4/22/26 ESC approved via the Tree Trust Fund Action & Spending Plan a pruning incentive program proposed by City Arborist to reduce risk ratings rather than complete removal on large mature trees.
- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist to discuss how to implement Pruning Incentive Program that would use tree fund money (up to a certain percentage or dollar cap per tree) to help homeowners pay for preventative pruning instead of removing mature trees. Next steps include ESC developing a fair homeowner application and staff a fair vendor procurement process.

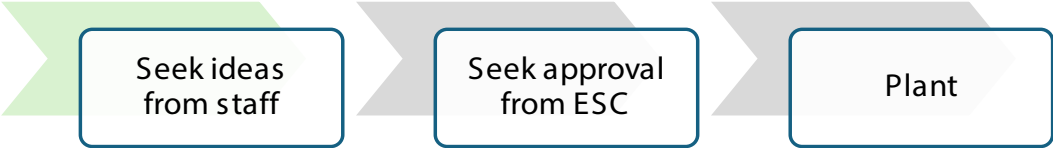


Beautification: FL Friendly Beach / Marsh / Park Access & Entrances FY25-26

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>FL Friendly
SUCCESS METRICS:



- Two locations are planted with FL Friendly plants

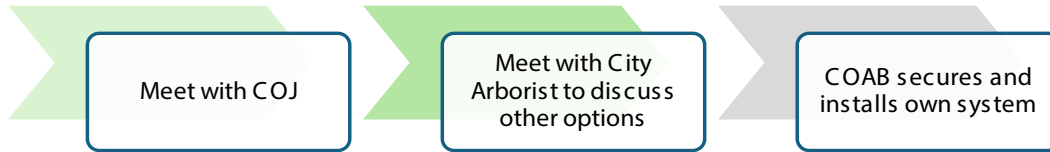


Timeline & Action Items

- Boren needs to connect with A. Askew about what staff wants to do and what is possible and feasible

Completed Actions

P1 Trees: Partner with COJ on their TreePlotter or GIS software & efforts



Timeline & Action Items

- Waiting on feedback from City Arborist

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren

STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew

YTD BUDGET: Unclear (~\$3k/yr)

SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Tree Mapping

SUCCESS METRICS:

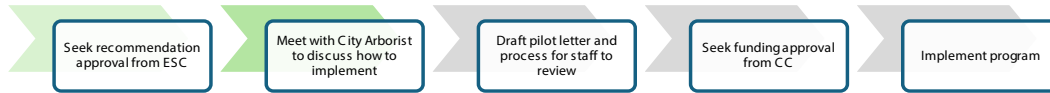
- Secure and install internal and external facing tree mapping software



Completed Actions

- COAB and COJ met to discuss partnership opportunities but COJ said that the TreePlotter software was proprietary and their GIS system too customized to share.
- City Arborist is looking into costs for a mapping/database program as part of the public tree inventory grant program he is working on and plans to assess what COAB's internal GIS capabilities are since the city does have a GIS ArcPro account.

Private Tree Inventory Research & Voluntary Program FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

Research proven private tree inventory processes and successes

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear (avg ~\$8/tree)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Private Inventory



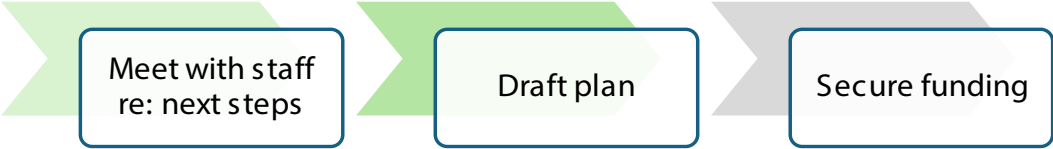
SUCCESS METRICS:

- Decide on a hybrid voluntary / paid approach to keep costs down
- Launch the voluntary portion of the program

Completed Actions

- Reviewed past materials and effort
- 5/22/26 Met with City Arborist to discuss best approach. He shared that looks like average cost is about \$8/tree and that the city might consider doing inventory in batches / phases

P1 Parks: Rain Garden Pilot at Jack Russell Park FY25-26



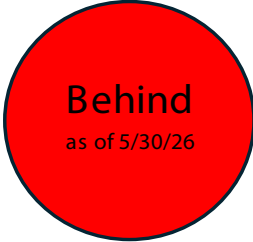
Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to meet with staff regarding next steps

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Proposed \$15,000 (not yet approved by CC)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Rain Garden
SUCCESS METRICS:

- Installed rain garden reduces flooding in park
- Community learns about plants they can use in their swales and low parts of their yards

Completed Actions



P1 Beautification: Mayport Road Diet Greenspace FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to reach out to FDOT/TPO to discern status
- Boren to reach out to potential partners

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)
STAFF LIAISONS: Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Mayport Rd
SUCCESS METRICS:

- FL Friendly landscaping installed instead of cement

Completed Actions

- 3/25/26 ESC directed Boren to explore additional partners to help with this effort
- 5/26/26 Commission meeting – City Manager Hogencamp shared that Mayport Road Diet would start in June and would be a massive ongoing project.



P1 Trees: Dutton Island Tree Loss Assessment & Pilot Seedling Planting FY25-26 & FY26-27



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to reach out to Larry Figart to see how IFAS can help and tour Dutton Island
- Coordinate with parks staff on community planting

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Proposed \$15,000 (not yet approved by CC)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>Dutton Island
SUCCESS METRICS:

- 50% of seedlings survive

Completed Actions

- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and concluded next steps include: a) Work with IFAS to determine cause(es) of loss and b) plan for seedling planting around Arbor Day 2027 with coordination of parks staff



P1 Trees: Commercial Property Planting Partnership FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

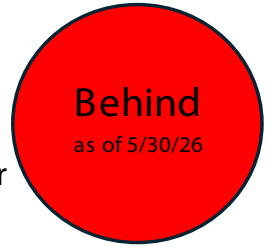
- Boren to reach out to few commercial properties, Southern Trees, and COAB Financial Director

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Proposed \$10,000 (not yet approved by CC)
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>Arborist Letter Replacement
SUCCESS METRICS:

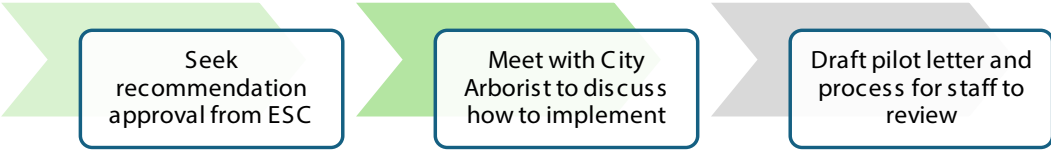
- 10% of trees removed by letters are replaced with Trees for All

Completed Actions

- Q4 2025 ESC directed Boren to go talk to some commercial properties to see if they would even be interested in such a program
- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist to seek his thoughts and he recommended reaching out to Tim with Southern Trees and see if he would be willing to give a 10% discount to both commercial properties and the city for bringing them more business



P2 Education and outreach materials on trees / canopy FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to design draft door hanger to include call before you cut, all free tree programs, stapled tree manual, stapled Centennial canopy drive, and watering restrictions?

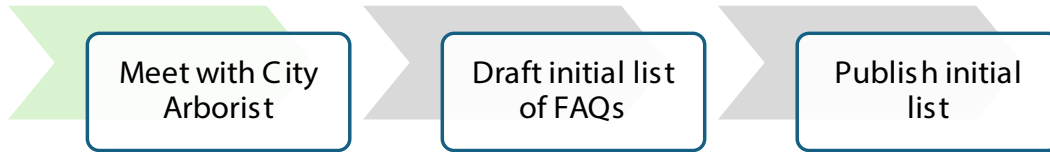
ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Door Hanger
SUCCESS METRICS:

- 25% of placed hangers lead to sign up for Trees for All

Completed Actions



P2 Tree FAQs Webpage FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to follow up with City Arborist and ESC for initial list of FAQs to publish

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>FAQs
SUCCESS METRICS:

- FAQs webpage published and viewed a minimum 50 times

Completed Actions

- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and he said he would get her his top 10 most asked questions starting with:
 - When do I need a permit?
 - Can I get a free tree risk assessment?



P1 Trees: Online Collection of Permit / Arborist Letter Data FY25-26



Timeline & Action Items

- Boren to explore again if recent AI advances can help with data gathering and analysis

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk & Amanda Askew
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2025>Online Submittal
SUCCESS METRICS:

- Require online submittal and specific data fields for tree permits and letters
- Ability to query accurate data reports with a few clicks

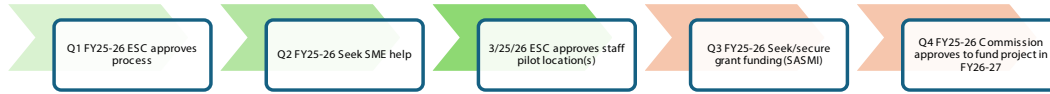
Completed Actions

- 9/10/25 ESC recommended a comprehensive list of data fields necessary for tree reports for new BS&A system
- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and he said BS&A system does not have data field capability only PDF forms



FY 2026-2027 PROJECTS / EFFORTS

Marsh Pilot Projects FY26-27 Commission & ESC Priority



Timeline & Action Items

Currently waiting if SASMI grant awarded or if need to budget general funds

Q1 FY 26 -27 (Oct-Dec 2026; if funded)

- Confirm monitoring partnership with UNF/Scott Jones
- Explore how to include public participation, education and outreach
- Possible workdays/hands-on participation in implementation activities like Oyster POSH placement.

Q2 FY 26 -27 (Jan-Mar 2027)

- Explore public education Oyster POSH workshop with Hunter Mathews

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren (until 12/31/26)

STAFF LIAISONS: Steve Swann & Amanda Askew

YTD BUDGET: \$0 (seeking SASMI grant or general funds)

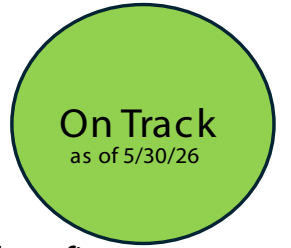
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>Marsh Pilot

SUCCESS METRICS:

- High community involvement & understanding of pilot benefits
- Beneficial partnerships with UNF & SJRWMD
- Pilot locations installed and monitoring begun

Completed Actions

- Q1 FY25-26 ESC approves process
- Q2 FY25-26 Seek SME help
- 3/25/26 ESC approves staff pilot location(s)
- 5/15/26 Initial conversation with Dr. Scott Jones, UNF about monitoring capacity



Beautification: FL Friendly Public Landscapes FY26-27



Timeline & Action Items

ESC LEAD: Sarah Boren
STAFF LIAISONS: Chris Delk
YTD BUDGET: Unclear
SHAREFILE LOCATION: ESC>Projects>2026>FL Friendly
SUCCESS METRICS:

- 16th Street Beach Access planted with at least one tree (ideally maritime shade tree) and FL Friendly landscaping



Completed Actions

- 5/22/26 Boren met with City Arborist and asked him to check out 16th Street Beach access to see if there is room for a shade tree so ESC can supplement Commission FY26-27 priority of upgrading that access.