

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

TREE BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

MAY 2024



Our Vision

To safeguard and enhance the urban canopy, ensuring its vitality and resilience for generations to come. We aspire to be a respected and influential advocate championing the importance of trees, green spaces, and sustainable urban ecosystems.

Our Mission

The Tree Board is dedicated to nurturing and enhancing the urban canopy within our municipal boundaries. We achieve this through a multifaceted approach:

- 1 Education of Our Community:** We empower our community by providing *knowledge and awareness* about the importance of trees. Through workshops, outreach programs, and educational campaigns, we foster a deeper understanding of the role trees play in our environment.
- 2 Preservation and Protection:** We are staunch advocates for the preservation and protection of our urban canopy. By enforcing tree ordinances, promoting sustainable practices, and addressing safety concerns, we ensure the longevity of our green assets.
- 3 Proliferation of Urban Canopy:** Our commitment extends beyond maintenance. We actively engage in diverse tree plantings, reforestation efforts, and the expansion of green spaces, with an emphasis on Florida natives. This not only enhances property values but also contributes to carbon sequestration and effective stormwater management.
- 4 Beautification and Aesthetics:** We collaborate to leverage resources for parks, recreational areas, and the public realm to enhance community aesthetics. By strategically planting and maintaining trees, we create inviting and visually appealing landscapes for residents and visitors alike.

Goals & Objectives



GOAL 1: MAINTAIN "TREE CITY" DESIGNATION

Objective

Continuously meet the criteria for the "Tree City" designation.

Strategies

- Regularly assess compliance with the requirements set by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Collaborate with local government and community stakeholders to ensure ongoing adherence to tree-related standards.
- Celebrate Arbor Day annually with tree-planting events and educational programs.



GOAL 2: MONITOR AND PROVIDE INPUT TO TOWN PROJECTS

Objective

Monitor development projects and programs, and provide input to ensure consistency with Tree Board goals and objectives.

Strategies

- Develop communication program to make community aware of future infrastructure construction schedule and locations.
- Collaborate with Historic Preservation Committee and interested stakeholder groups in the preservation and enhancements to the historic Citrus Grove.
- Actively participate in the Town's 100th Anniversary Celebration activities
- Near term continue to monitor mitigation and implementation plans for 500 Block development and Ward Trail projects.



GOAL 3: DEVELOP EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Objective

Broaden the types of forums for education and information dissemination.

Strategies

- **Community Workshops:** Organize regular workshops and seminars on tree care, planting techniques, and the benefits of urban trees. Invite local experts and arborists to share their knowledge.
- **Community Events:** Build on Arbor Day event to include participation in other community-wide festivals and public activities as part of advocacy program for Tree Board initiatives.
- **Student Programs:** Create engaging materials for students, such as tree identification guides and interactive activities.
- **Online Resources:** Develop a comprehensive website or online portal with resources like tree care guides, videos, and FAQs. Ensure it's accessible to all community members.
- **Tree Walks:** Conduct guided tree walks in parks and neighborhoods. Educate participants about different tree species, their ecological roles, and historical significance.
- **Partnerships:** Partner with environmental organizations, garden clubs, and other community groups. Leverage their expertise and networks to expand educational outreach.



GOAL 4: INITIATE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Objective

Be the proactive agent for specific initiatives related to the preservation and maintenance of the Town's tree canopy.

Strategies

- **Designation Process for "Heritage & Memorial Trees":**
 - Develop clear guidelines for selecting Heritage/memorial trees, considering factors like species, location, and significance.
 - Involve community input to honor local history and culture.
 - Create a formal application process for requesting memorial tree designations.
- **Update Regulatory Codes for Mitigation:**
 - Conduct a comprehensive review of current codes.
 - Propose amendments to strengthen enforcement, streamline processes, and improve clarity.
 - Seek input from legal experts, environmental specialists, and community members.
- **Develop Site Plan for Future Planting Opportunities:**
 - Survey public spaces, parks, and street rights-of-way to assess potential planting sites.
 - Prioritize areas with low tree coverage or high visibility.
 - Collaborate with landscape architects and urban planners to create a detailed site plan.



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