



Environmental Restoration Fund Proposal

Amending the Existing “Tree Fund” to serve
a “whole-environment” purpose

Presented by The Environmental Conservancy of North Port
And Surrounding Areas

Planting of trees

Up to 50% support of the arborist and tree crew

Resources needed for management/maintenance of the City's tree canopy

Maintaining tree health and safety on public lands

Tree education, planting and conservation programs

What the City “tree fund” (Section 45-13) currently supports





Trees are of
course
wonderful!

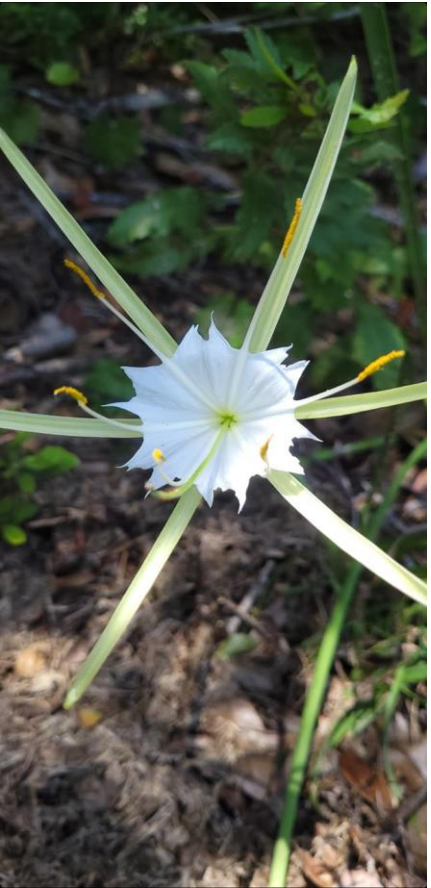
But they aren't
the only thing
being erased to
make way for
development.

Photo Credit: Keith
Brown

A close-up photograph of a yellow flower with green foliage in the background. The flower is in the foreground, slightly to the right of the center, and is in focus. It has five petals and a yellow center. The background is filled with green leaves and other yellow flowers, but they are out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image, centered, and is white with a thin white underline.

Native plants and entire
ecosystems are also being
removed, with few to no
natives being replanted.

“Underbrush” is an unfortunate catch-all term for our native plant communities.



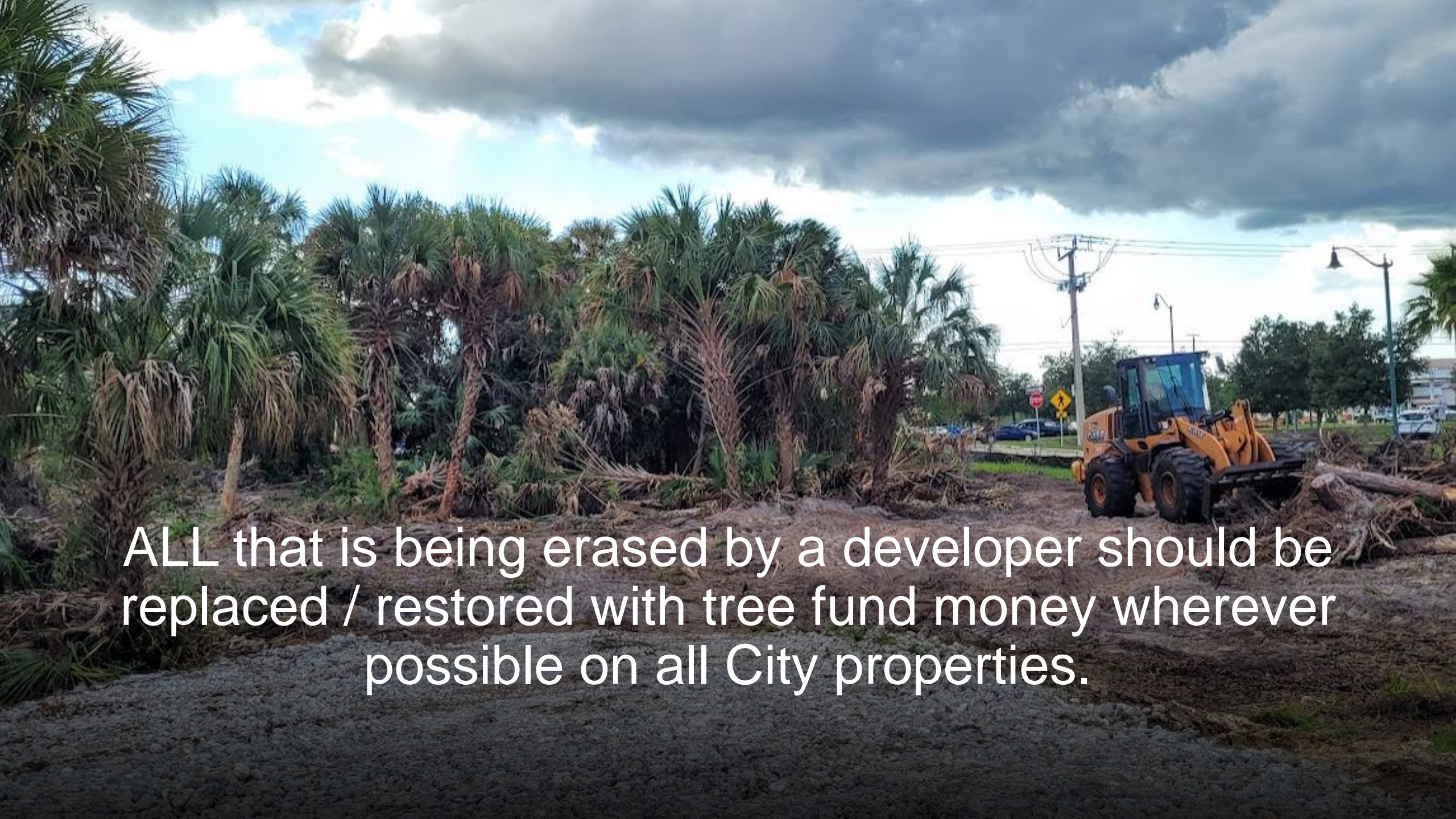
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Plant/Tree Inventory - Lot 1				
2					
3	<u>GENUS</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SUBSPECIES or VARIETY</u>	<u>COMMON NAME(S)</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
4	Andropogon	glomeratus	var. glaucopsis	purple bluestem	along ditchbank
5	Andropogon	ternarius		splitbeard bluestem	on adjacent lot
6	Andropogon	virginicus	var. glaucus	chalky bluestem	
7	Andropogon	virginicus		bluestem	along ditchbank
8	Aristida	spiciformis		bottlebrush threeawn	
9	Asimina	reticulata		netted pawpaw	
10	Baccharis	halimifolia		saltbush; sea myrtle; groundsel tree	
11	Callicarpa	americana		American beautyberry	
12	Chamaecrista	fasciculata		partridge pea	
13	Coreopsis	leavenworthii		Leavenworth's tickseed; coreopsis	along ditchbank
14	Dichanthelium	sp.		low panicum; witchgrass	
15	Diodia	sp.			
16	Eleocharis	vivipara		Viviparous spikerush	
17	Eriocaulon	sp.		pipewort	
18	Euthamia	caroliniana		slender flattop goldenrod	
19	Gratiola	ramosa		branched hedgehyssop	along ditchbank
20	Habenaria	floribunda		toothpetal false reinorchid; mignonette orchid	
21	Hypericum	brachyphyllum		Coastalplain St. Johns-wort	upright growth habit
22	Hypericum	cistifolium		roundpod St. John's-wort	
23	Hypericum	tetrapetalum		fourpetal St. Johns-wort	
24	Hyptis	alata		musky mint; clustered bushmint	
25	Ilex	glabra		gallberry; inkberry	
26	Lachnanthes	caroliniana		Carolina redroot	
27	Ludwigia	maritima		seaside primrose willow	
28	Lyonia	fruticosa		rusty lyonia; Coastalplain staggerbush	
29	Mecardonia	acuminata	subsp. peninsularis	axilflower	along ditchbank; Florida endemic
30	Melaleuca	quinquinervia		melaleuca; paperbark tree; punk tree	exotic
31	Morella	cerifera		wax myrtle	
32	Panicum	hemitomon		maiden cane	
33	Pinus	elliottii	var. densa	South Florida slash pine	
34	Pluchea	sp.		camphorweed	
35	Polygala	nana		candyroot	compact; low-growing; yellow flowers
36	Polygala	rugelii		yellow batchelor button; yellow milkwort	along ditchbank
37	Polygala	sp.		milkwort	
38	Pterocaulon	pycnostachyum		blackroot; rabbit tobacco	
39	Quercus	geminata		sand live oak	
40	Quercus	minima		runner oak	
41	Quercus	myrtifolia		myrtle oak	
42	Rhexia	nuttallii		Nuttall's meadowbeauty	
43	Rhus	copallinum		winged sumac; shining sumac	
44	Sabal	palmetto		cabbage palm; sabal palm	
45	Scoparia	dulcis		sweetbroom	
46	Serenoa	repens		saw palmetto	
47	Smilax	sp.		catbrier; greenbrier	
48	Solidago	chapmanii		Chapman's goldenrod	
49	Sophronanthe	hispida		rough hedgehyssop	
50	Syngonanthus	flavidulus		yellow hatpins	along ditchbank
51	Utricularia	sp.		bladderwort	along ditchbank
52	Vaccinium	myrsinites		shiny blueberry	
53	Vitis	rotundifolia		muscadine; fox grape	
54	Xyris	caroliniana		Carolina yellow-eyed grass	corkscrew stem; white flower
55	Xyris	sp.		yellow-eyed grass	yellow flower
56	Hypoxis	junceae		grassleaf yellow star grass	
57	Cladonia	evansii		Reindeer Moss	
58	Drosera	capillaris		Pink Sundew	

One lot can have
a large variety /
large number of
plants residing on
it.
(55 plants)



Wildlife and pollinators depend on our local native plants for shelter, food and a place to raise their young.



A yellow backhoe loader is positioned on the right side of the image, clearing a pile of debris and roots. The background features a dense line of palm trees and other vegetation. In the distance, a road with a stop sign and a yellow diamond-shaped warning sign is visible. The sky is filled with large, dark, dramatic clouds. The foreground is a dark, uneven surface, possibly gravel or dirt.

ALL that is being erased by a developer should be replaced / restored with tree fund money wherever possible on all City properties.



City Parks & Rec and EAB Advisory Boards want to replant native plants to restore habitat to our parks.

They've been told there is no money in the City budget until at least 2025.

Our Native Plant
Growers / Rescuers are
working to compile
native, local sourced
plants to donate to the
City.

#collaboratetoconserve

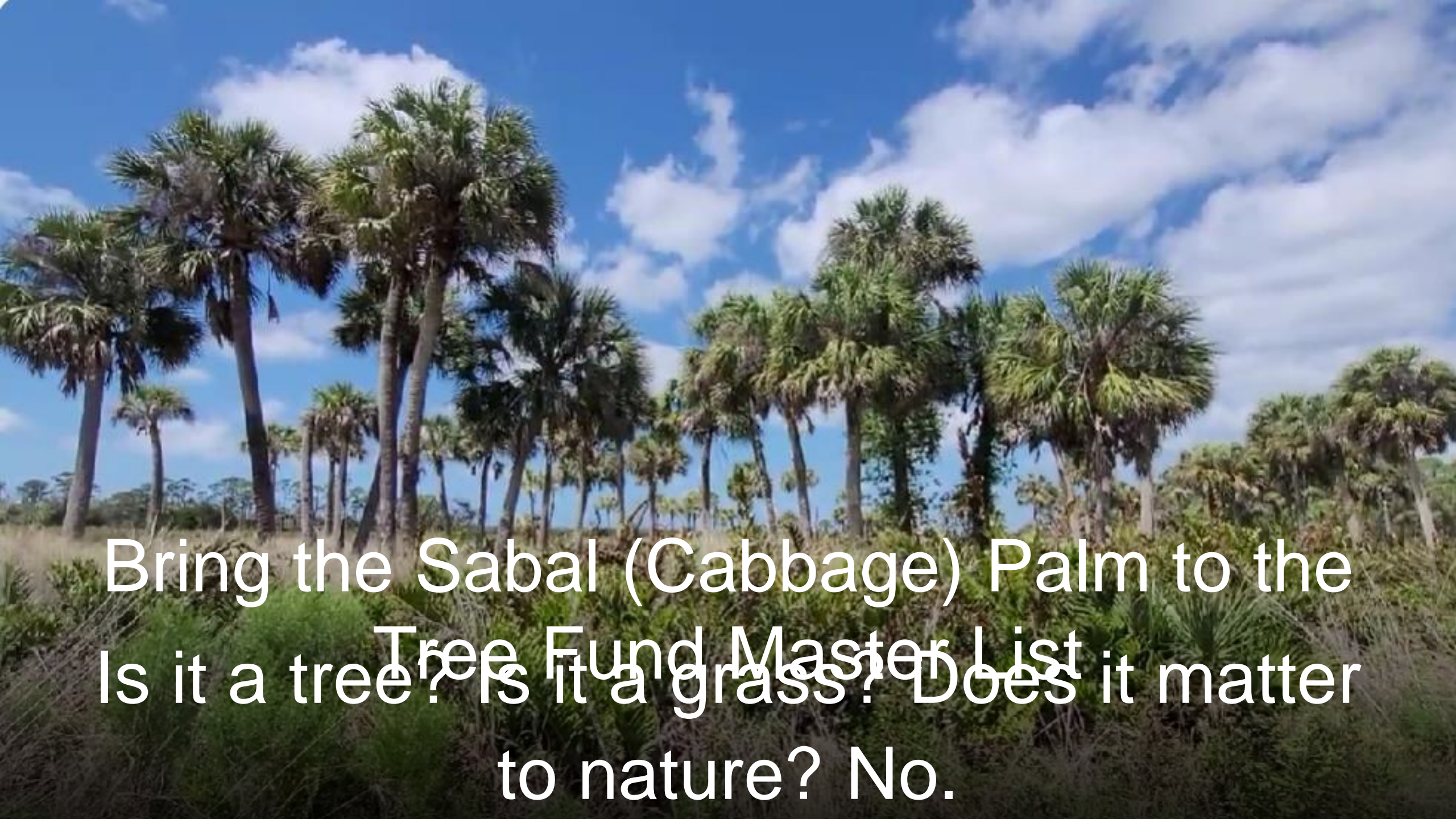


Group by The Environmental Conservancy of North Port And Surrounding Areas

Native Plant Growers/Rescuers Club

+ Invite





Bring the Sabal (Cabbage) Palm to the
Tree Fund Master List
Is it a tree? Is it a grass? Does it matter
to nature? No.

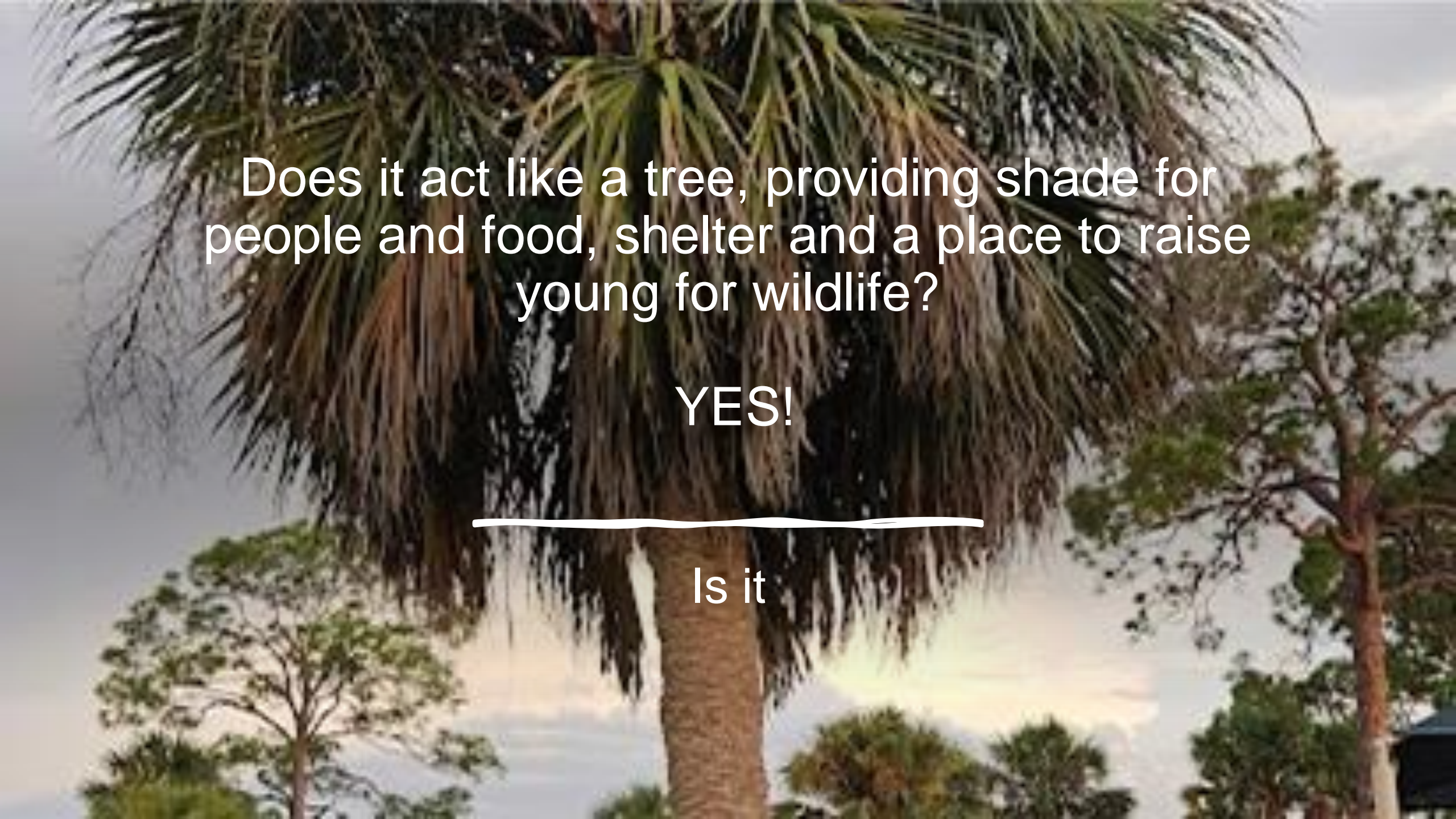


Is it being discarded by developers?
Is it
YES.



Is it being erased by developers? YES.

Sabal Palms can be moved and replanted relatively easily. Instead, developers remove them and then pay to replace them later!



Does it act like a tree, providing shade for people and food, shelter and a place to raise young for wildlife?

YES!

Is it

FROM FLORIDA NATIVE NURSERIES.ORG, the US Forest Service and UF/IFAS:

The Sabal Palm is:

- **Exceedingly drought tolerant**
- **Salt tolerant**
- **Cold hardy**
- **Thrives on available rainfall and meager nutrients found in Florida's sandy soils**
- **Able to endure fire, flood, freeze and hurricanes (our most wind tolerant native tree!)**
- **Able to recover remarkably well after being dug up in the wild**
- **Able to thrive in harsh urban landscapes**
- **Well-suited as a street planting, framing, clustered or specimen tree**
- **Designated as our Florida State Tree in 1953**

The Seminole and Miccosukee tribes referred to



ecosystem:

- **Its small, fragrant white flowers attract bees and other pollinators.**
- **It's the host plant for the palmetto and monk skipper butterfly caterpillars.**
- **The pulpy fruit is a nutritious meal for many wildlife species, including raccoons, foxes, birds, and bears.**
- **The big, full head of the tree is a favorite roosting spot for native bats and is a nesting site for birds.**
- **Its ample hiding spots attract palmetto bugs (cockroaches) which are a favorite food source for the Eastern screech owl.**
- **It hosts other plants in its "boots"**





Sabal Palms (and other native trees) in **City Parks** lost to Hurricane Ian or other reasons should be replanted.

Sabal Palms can continue to thrive even if they are leaning over a little, or a lot!



Could the Sabal Palm be moved and replanted instead of bulldozed or mulched? Yes! (Perhaps a task for Public Works with their new tree-fund-purchased equipment)

ABOUT SABAL PALMS, THE STATE TREE OF FLORIDA

DO NOT DO THIS!

Except when transplanting*

GREEN FRONDS are the palm's source of nutrients! Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Harsh pruning takes away food and shelter from native and migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, honey bees, treefrogs, bats, anoles, squirrels, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms may develop weakened trunks, which will eventually cause them to break off and die. Work boots with climbing spikes incur wounds in the trunk, leaving the palm prone to disease.

Palm fronds, berries, and boots: Brown fronds provide unique habitat for tree frogs and bats (chemical-free mosquito control). In nature, there is no waste. Recycle fallen palm fronds as mulch or a brush pile for wildlife. Palm berries are critical sources of highly nutritious food for many birds and other wildlife. Plant palms where berries and sprouts won't be a problem. Palm "boots" (the leafbases) are important habitat for other plants, including many beautiful rare and endangered ferns. Perhaps a better understanding of the palm's use by other creatures will enable us to see black fruits, brown fronds, and boots on the trunks as things of great value, if not beauty.

THIS is a healthy Sabal palm.



THIS is NOT!



ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY:

Prune hanging brown and yellow fronds. Not the boots! Pole pruners work best. Prune stems away from the trunk.



**THIS IS
BAD
FOR
THE
TREE!**

JUST SAY NO

to landscapers who want to prune green fronds, spring flowers and berries. Exclude annual harsh-pruning from your landscape contract.

THIS TREE

has had its food supply severely restricted. Furthermore, its flowering branches have been removed, eliminating a vital source of nectar for insects + berries for birds.

HELP



HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® IS
A GRASSROOTS CALL-TO-ACTION
TO REGENERATE BIODIVERSITY
AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION BY
PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS AND
CREATING NEW ECOLOGICAL
NETWORKS.

THE MISSION: TO REGENERATE
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM
FUNCTION because every human
being on this planet needs diverse
highly productive ecosystems to
survive.

CALL TO ACTION: Catalyzing a

Another Collaboration
Opportunity with tree
fund revisions:

The City could Join Doug
Tallamy's Homegrown
National Park program





Under average conditions it will take 10-15 years from seed to the first sign of a palm trunk at ground level.

This means a palm with 20 feet of trunk is at least 15 years old!
Source: FANN

They can live to be 200 (Jono Miller) so there are some still in the City older than any of us in this room today. A great reason to respect our elders!

This is a portion of the Red Trail at Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park, PRE-Hurricane Ian.

Sadly, it does not look anywhere close to this anymore thanks to both Ian and over-zealous cutting down of those still standing by hired "clean up" crews.

To Learn More:

Read Jono Miller's book "The Palmetto"
<https://upf.com/book.asp?id=978081306>

Watch Jono's educational video on our Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2eXPhjwDv>

Join the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Society:

<https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/>

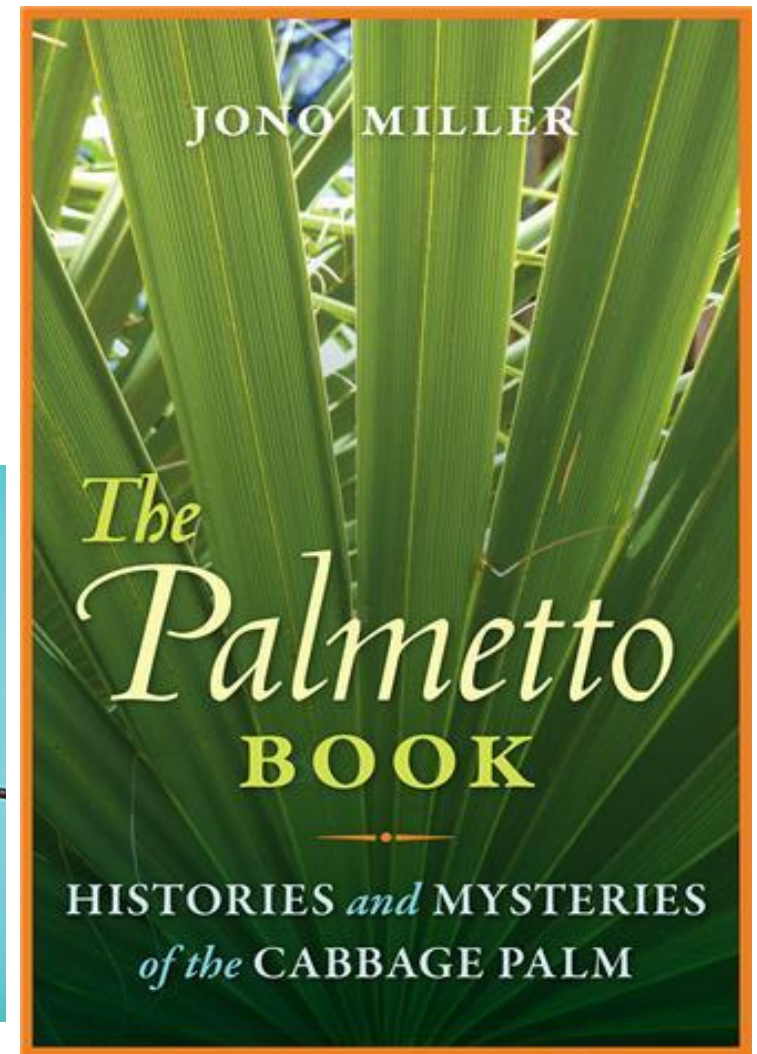
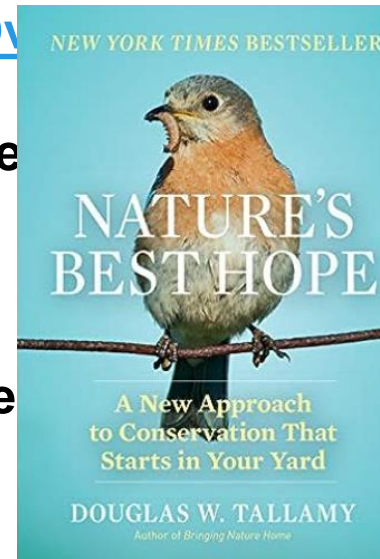
Read Doug Tallamy's book "Nature's Best Hope"

<https://www.amazon.com/Natures-Best-Hope-Approach-Conservation/dp/1604699000>

Take the "Uplands" Class Module of the University of Florida's Master Naturalist Program

<https://masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Follow UF/IFAS Sarasota County on Facebook and Instagram



BOTTOM LINE:

If you want to be able to bulldoze cabbage palms with impunity, and leave them unprotected, side with the taxonomists who don't want to consider them trees.


If you recognize their unique functions for shade, oxygen, pollinators and other wildlife and accept that, along with oaks and slash pines, cabbage palms represent the third crucial component in North Port's native canopy, then side with the ecologists and field botanists who view them as trees.

- Jono Miller

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A photograph of a row of Sabal Palms (Sabal palmetto) in front of City Hall. The palm trees are tall with fan-shaped fronds, some showing yellowish-brown seed pods. They are set against a cloudy sky. In the foreground, there is a dense, low-lying green hedge. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Visit the Sabal Palms
in front of City Hall
before you go home
today!

Sit under them, look,
listen and notice their
beauty.



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Conclusion: Amend the Tree Fund uses to include expenditure on replanting native plants and Sabal Palms for complete habitat / environmental restoration.

Questions?