

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

The Environmental Advisory Board would like to propose that the Commission strongly consider utilizing monies collected through the new tree ordinance to hire an outside contractor to complete a tree canopy study. This should be considered a priority for the following reasons:

1. A formal tree canopy study has not been completed since the early 1990's for the City of North Port.
2. The City can utilize the data collected from the study to set an initial baseline of where we stand today with canopy tree coverage, help plan future urban tree canopy goals, monitor and track progress of those goals.

Benefits of a tree canopy study:

- A tree canopy assessment can help determine where to plant trees most effectively for sustainability.
- Help to mitigate and identify Urban Heat Islands, which can lead to conserving energy
- Help plan areas of tree planting to reduce air pollution
- Help plan areas of tree planting to more efficiently manage storm runoff and minimize erosion
- Identify how much space certain areas have for planting in terms of location and zoning
- Identify locations lacking planting of trees to promote equality of planting throughout the entire city not just select areas.

- Provide recommendations of planting to improve wildlife habitat preservation and increase pollination areas.

In addition to the above request for a formal tree study, the newly revised city tree ordinance states that up to 50% of the tree fund may be used to support the Arborist and tree crew. It is the hope of the Environmental Advisory Board that enough monies will be collected that a large portion of said funds be utilized for tree planting, conservation methods and habitat preservation.

Thank you for your time and consideration to the above matters,

Erin Hall

City of North Port Environmental Advisory Board Member